

Two Adams, Two Trees

Romans 5:12-21

Faith is the unexplainable meeting the undeniable.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

I. Adam of Eden

Death's Shadow

When Adam sinned, the entire world was affected. Sin entered human experience, and death was the result. And so death followed this sin, casting its shadow over all humanity, because all have sinned. Sin was in the world before Moses gave the written law, but it was not charged against them where no law existed. Yet death reigned as king from Adam to Moses even though they hadn't broken a command the way Adam had. The first man, Adam, was a picture of the Messiah, who was to come.

Romans 5:12-14

II. Adam of Heaven

Life's Triumph

In other words, just as condemnation came upon all people through one transgression, so through one righteous act of Jesus' sacrifice, the perfect righteousness that makes us right with God and leads us to a victorious life is now available to all. One man's disobedience opened the door for all humanity to become sinners. So also one man's obedience opened the door for many to be made perfectly right with God and acceptable to Him.

Romans 5:18-19

Two Adams, Two Trees

Romans 5:12-21

So then, the law was introduced into God's plan to bring the reality of human sinfulness out of hiding. And yet, wherever sin increased, there was more than enough of God's grace to triumph all the more! And just as sin reigned through death, so also this sin-conquering grace will reign as king through righteousness, imparting eternal life through Jesus, our Lord and Messiah!

Romans 5:20-21

Legalism	Gospel	Liberalism
God is holy	God is holy and love	God is love
Earn your own righteousness	Receive God's perfect righteousness	You don't need perfect righteousness
Matter is bad and we are fallen—be suspicious of or reject physical pleasure (asceticism)	Matter is good yet we are fallen—physical enjoyment is good, but live wisely	Matter is good and we aren't fallen—satisfy your physical appetites
Sin only affects individuals—just do evangelism	Sin affects both individuals and social systems—do both evangelism and social action	Naïve about depth of human sin—just do social action
People can't change / change is easy	People can change, but there are no quick fixes	People don't need to change
Go into guilt—work it off	Go through guilt—rest in Christ	Go away from guilt—convince yourself you're OK
Repent of sins	Repent of sins and self-righteousness	Repent of neither