

Special friends. THROUGH JESUS WE'VE BEEN RECONCILED WITH GOD HIMSELF AND WE'VE DIED TO SIN! EXULT IN HIM! **Read :2b, :3-5. :11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.** Now that we have been justified, saved from His wrath and by His life, and reconciled, we may forever exult. "Received" is aorist; it's complete. So, 3 reasons we exult (have triumphant joy, boast): (1) In the certainty of seeing and sharing God's glory (future :2), (2) in our pressures because God out of His love is using them to grow us (present :3), and (3) in God Himself because He's reconciled us (past :11).

**Read :11.** Exult/glory/boast in God; we've been reconciled with Him! Reconcile = to change or exchange. From condemnation to justification, from sinners to saints, and from being IN Adam and IN the flesh to being IN Christ and IN the Spirit. Everything has been done for us. Until we understand the reconciliation (The Great Exchange), we won't exult in God as we should. I look at **5:12-6:23** as an explanation of **5:11**.

**Read :12-14.** IT'S FROM ADAM THAT THE GREAT ISSUES OF SIN AND DEATH AROSE. **:12 Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin [singular] entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned** [Greek aorist, indicating that at one point in time all sinned.]—Through Adam sin entered into the world. His one sin brought death. Death spread to everyone [the whole human race], because all sinned [IN Adam]—

"For those who doubt the historicity of Adam and Eve, Adam was a historical figure mentioned in both the OT/NT." He's referred to by Jesus. Adam is the head/type/pattern, of the 'human' race. When created, Adam was sinless in nature and in practice; he could sin because that's part of free choice, but he wasn't a sinner by nature. Sin was not part of God's plan for mankind and neither was death. Mankind was created to live, not die. "Adam, having a nature unpolluted by sin, had the freedom to choose between obedience and disobedience, good and evil, [God or Satan]. But he was told that in the day you eat from the tree, you'll surely die (**Gen. 2:17**)." & that's what happened.

The universality of sin & the universality of death. How did sin & death get control of the human race? The apostle answers: through one man, Adam. His sinful nature is present in every person from the moment of conception.

When Adam was tempted, he knowingly, deliberately disobeyed God (suppressed His truth), and it has forever affected the human race. (By the way, when Adam sinned he expected to become like God. He didn't take God at His word: "Adam, you will die!"). Spiritually he died immediately; it took 100s of years before he died physically, but he died! And so did all the other OT/NT people. Someday we'll join them in physical death. We can't escape sin and death today. Every person is born IN Adam, a sinner by nature, spiritually dead. In Adam all die, Paul explained 1 Cor. 15:22 (read). This means "a person doesn't become a sinner by committing sins but rather he commits sins because he is by nature a sinner."

(By the way, it's not until **:18** that Paul finishes the thought he begins in **:12**.)

**Read :13-14. :13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed** [charged to the account] **when there is no law. :14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.** Not all people since that time sinned like Adam, knowingly, deliberately (Examples: babies, mentally impaired, ignorant sin), but all people sinned in Adam. What proves it? Death! Even before the written Law was given, sin was in the world. Yet sin wasn't charged to the account of those without law. However, they were still proven sinners because? They all died, clear from the first man Adam to Moses the Law-giver (**Gen. 3 to Ex. 18**). Even without the Law, death was universal, which means sin was universal.

Behavior isn't the issue in this section of Paul's argument; ancestry is. Our sinful thoughts and practices just prove our ancestor is Adam. One might say, "I'm not so bad," but that isn't even the issue in **:12-14**. There are bad sinners and there are good sinners, but every person of Adam's race is a sinner! It's not how bad or good you are, but the fact that you are IN Adam: sinners by nature, dead in our sins, children of wrath, sons of disobedience (**Eph. 2:1-3**), our hearts are deceitful, our spirits are dead. Hopeless/helpless/ungodly!

Not only what we DID was wrong, but WE were wrong. Unless one's nature is changed, there's no deliverance! Yet God gives Good News in **:14b**. Just as the first Adam was our representative (referred to as a type), so is Jesus! Jesus is the last Adam (**1 Cor. 15:21-22,45**)! He's now the Christian's 'type'. He has dealt with all our sin issues: (1) our sinful thoughts/practices, offering forgiveness; (2) our sinful natures, giving new hearts/natures, alive spirits; (3) our sinful type Adam, now Jesus is our new type. (4) Sin in our flesh was dealt with by Jesus on the cross and the indwelling Spirit! Reconciled! Exult!

There were two pivotal men in human history: Adam and Jesus. Still today, each one of us has one of these two types/heads/representatives. We've either got Adam as our type, meaning that we are sinners by nature and heredity and by our thoughts/practices. Or, by faith we've received the Lord Jesus as our type, meaning that we are now saints by nature, IN Christ, and forgiven of our sins. So, who are you IN—Adam or Jesus? **Read 1 Cor. 15:21-22.** Again, we're not looking at behavior but at nature/heart/spirit and heredity.

"So in :12-14, Paul focused on Adam and the reign of death that his sin engendered. Now in :15-21 he focuses on Jesus and the reign of life." It shows "one person's deeds can inevitably affect many other people."

**READ :15-21.** THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN WHO WE WERE IN ADAM AND WHAT WE RECEIVED FROM HIM, AND (IF WE'RE CHRISTIANS), WHO WE NOW ARE IN JESUS AND WHAT WE RECEIVE FROM HIM. Both men represented all of humanity. **:15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one [Adam] the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.** God's free gift (**3:24**) is not like the falling away, turning aside. For if by Adam's sin, the many died [the result of being a sinner by nature], MUCH MORE [**:9-10,17**] did

God's undeserved favor and the gift by the undeserved favor of Jesus overflow (abound) to the many. It's free—because Jesus died, for you and me!

**:16 The gift is not like that which came through the one [Adam] who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one [Adam's] transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions [it couldn't be the free gift of justification unless it blotted out the many transgressions] resulting in justification.** God's free gift isn't like the result of Adam's sin. Judgment arose from Adam's sin resulting in condemnation. But God's undeserved gift, following so many sins, issued in justification/righteousness (being right with Him, His justice satisfied). **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them (2 Cor. 5:19).** Incredible!!

**:17 For if by the transgression [deviating from a path] of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness [a gift, a grace-gift] will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.** For if by Adam's sin, death reigned, MUCH MORE those who by faith receive God's grace and gift of righteousness/justice will reign in life through Jesus. Instead of death reigning in our lives, WE reign in LIFE through Jesus Christ! Jesus' one act of righteousness had "immeasurably greater impact than Adam's one act of condemnation." How much more we have in Jesus than we ever had in Adam. Incredible!

**:18 Now Paul picks up where he left off in :12. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.** Consequently: through Adam's one act of sin there resulted condemnation to all, so then Jesus' one act of perfect justice allows all people to be made right/just with God and experience life, His kind of life, abundant, eternal life.

**:19 For as through the one man's [Adam's] disobedience the many were made (appointed) sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made (appointed) righteous.** Through Adam's disobedience the many were made sinners. Through Jesus' obedience the many will be made righteous. So... **From Adam**—sin, death (physical/spiritual), judgment, condemnation, death reigned, made sinners. **From Jesus**—those who trusted Jesus for salvation: free gift, grace, justification, reign in life, made righteous. Amazing grace!! Exult in God; He's reconciled us!

**Read :20-21. The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, :21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Why was the Law given? So sin would not decrease but *increase*, showing people their need of a deliverer. The 10 Commandments were given to show people how wrong they already are! But, where sin increased, grace abounded all the more! In the midst of increasing sin, **God's grace** superabounds and more! Free gift, much more, made righteous (**:19**), grace, abound, reign. The law's presence caused man's sin to increase (7:8-11). It served as a tutor to drive everyone to Christ (**Gal.**

**3:24). How can a good, all-powerful God tolerate the presence of evil? The answer is, Jesus and His work, and grace!**

**:21 Sin only reigned in death, but grace reigns to bring eternal life, thanks to the justice that comes through Jesus.** Grace rules, to make people right/just with God; the end result is eternal life through Jesus our Lord. "The work of Jesus was so complete that the grace of God more than exceeds the worst of sin. No one can outsin God's grace!" Get this! The increase of sin only multiplies the grace of our Lord Jesus. "Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within. Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!" It's only as we see the depth of sin and our ancestry IN Adam that we begin to appreciate the height of grace and our new life IN Jesus.

Exult in God! When we by faith received Jesus as Lord, we moved out of Adam's sinful, death-reigning, condemned family, and into Christ's justified, reigning, righteous family—Reconciled, The Great Exchange! That's why we exult in God (**:11**). IN Adam we receive everything that is of Adam. IN Jesus we receive everything that is of Him! There's no excuse; everything has been done, by God. All we have to do is by faith receive what God the Father has freely done through His Son Jesus. When we respond to God's gift by faith in the Person and work of Jesus, our natures will actually be changed, our 'type' will be changed, our sins will be forgiven, and even sin in the flesh is dealt with (**8:3**). Exult in God! Have a "Great Exchange" party!!

To make personal: I've accepted that I've been reconciled with God. I've become God's new creation. Instead of being IN Adam, I'm now IN Christ. And, such wonderful truth—I can't outsin God's grace! I exult in God (**5:11**)! Now that I'm IN the Lord Jesus Christ, my thinking, actions, speech, and choices should reveal my identity and these truths. Walking in victory over sin is possible and even expected because of who I am now IN Christ.

**Read 6:1-2. IF JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN JESUS, WE'VE DIED TO SIN! :1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? :2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 6:1 Wrong thinking:** "If God's grace superabounds regardless of the amount or degree of sin, what does it matter if I live how I did before I became a Christian? In fact, am I not doing God a favor, giving Him more opportunities to display His grace?" The quick answer? No way!! That lifestyle is not who I now am, and, I'm dead to sin!! God's grace is never an excuse to sin. Sin is no longer the Christian's nature nor does it have power over us. We've died to sin!!

**:2 Paul replies to that thinking, "May it never be! What poor logic!" 6:2-10** are a key to understanding what God has done and who He's made us in His Son. We've died to sin! Why would we want to go back to that nature or lifestyle? Since we're new in Christ, living in sin is a contradiction to who He is and to who He's made us in Him (holy!). So the whole truth that answers the question, "Can we go on sinning?" is dealt with in just 2 verses: Lit. may it never be! Why? Paul answers in 4 words: **We died to sin** (aorist tense, once for all)! The rest of chapter 6 is an exposition of what he means by that.

When you became a Christian, your old man IN Adam was crucified with Christ and Jesus raised you a brand new man (a saint, a holy one). By nature you're either IN Adam or IN Christ. As someone wisely remarked, "There are two natures, but only one of them is yours!" If I'm still IN Adam—a sinner by nature, dead spiritually—then that is what is going to be revealed in my walk. However, if who I was IN Adam was crucified with Christ and I've been raised from the dead IN Christ to walk in newness of life, Jesus' life is what should be seen. We'll learn how to walk and how not to walk in light of the new persons we are in Christ in chapters 7-8.

The most important part of us is our spirit/heart/nature/identity. **Mk. 7:21-23**. When we become Christians, our spirits are filled with Jesus; in fact He is our Life. And the Holy Spirit comes to reside in our flesh. It is impossible that there would not be a change, because there was change in those Who dwelt within. It is impossible as time passes for your lifestyle to continue unchanged when you become a Christian. **Eph. 5:5, 1 Cor. 6:9-11**.

God not only declared us right/just with Himself, forgiving our sins, but He also made us right/just with Himself, changing our natures. All because we've been saved and reconciled by our faith in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Freedom in Christ means freedom from sin and freedom to love/serve—our Lord and others. It's not so much "Can we go back?" but "Why would we?" Can a Christian (one who is IN Christ) still sin? Of course. We still live in unredeemed bodies where sin still dwells (**chapter 7**). But, Paul's question is "Why?" What are possible reasons? (1) We don't understand the fullness of Jesus' work on the cross. (2) Mistaken identity (we think the flesh is who we are). (3) We don't know how to walk as the Christians we are. (4) Temporary spiritual insanity (ignoring the reality of what Jesus has done)! (5) We aren't Christians. What joy to find out that when Jesus died on that Cross, somehow we as sinners died with Him; that when Jesus was raised from the dead, we were raised as saints with Him, *the purpose being to walk in newness of life.* More in **6:3-10**. Remember **5:11**: Exult in God! We've been reconciled!

**Reflecting on Romans 5:11-6:2**: What is your response to these truths? What are two lessons that impacted you? What are two applications that will cause changes in your thinking, choices, actions, and words? Review the main points of **5:11, :12-14, :15-21, 6:1-2**. Make a T diagram, with 'IN Adam and what we received from him' on the top left, with 'IN Christ and what we receive from Him' on the right. Fill in the T diagram from **5:6-21**. If emailing or writing a letter to someone, what are the facts from this passage you will emphasize?

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God not only declared us right/just with Himself, forgiving our sins, but He also made us right/just with Himself, changing our natures. All because we've been saved and reconciled by our faith in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Freedom in Christ means freedom from sin and freedom to love/serve—our Lord and others. It's not so much "Can we go back?" but "Why would we?" Can a Christian (one who is IN Christ) still sin? Of course. We still live in unredeemed bodies where sin still dwells (**chapter 7**). But, Paul's question is "Why?" What are possible reasons? (1) We don't understand the fullness of Jesus' work on the cross. (2) Mistaken identity (we think the flesh is who we are). (3) We don't know how to walk as the Christians we are. (4) Temporary spiritual insanity (ignoring the reality of what Jesus has done)! (5) We aren't Christians. What joy to find out that when Jesus died on that Cross, somehow we as sinners died with Him; that when Jesus was raised from the dead, we were raised as saints with Him, *the purpose being to walk in newness of life.* More in **6:3-10**. Remember **5:11**: Exult in God! We've been reconciled!

**Reflecting on Romans 5:11-6:2**: What is your response to these truths? What are two lessons that impacted you? What are two applications that will cause changes in your thinking, choices, actions, and words? Review the main points of **5:11, :12-14, :15-21, 6:1-2**. Make a T diagram, with 'IN Adam and what we received from him' on the top left, with 'IN Christ and what we receive from Him' on the right. Fill in the T diagram from **5:6-21**. If emailing or writing a letter to someone, what are the facts from this passage you will emphasize?