

“IT’S NOT FAIR!”

Rom 5:12-21

“It’s not fair!” Children only see neg. side.

Parents remind our kids: **Life *isn’t* always fair!**

Sometimes we get what we deserve!

Sometimes we don’t get what we deserve!

Sometimes we’re *GLAD* life isn’t fair!

Lots of ways life seems not fair!

Nobody asked me!

* **Where I’d be born!**

Why was I born in U.S.? Jon in war-torn Nic.?

Friend Peter in war zone in Sudan

* **What I’d look like!** –Short (Deanna) or tall (Melinda) *

What my spiritual heritage would be!

Christian/muslim/religious /pagan

How do we receive benefits ours in Christ?

WE don’t *deserve* it! It isn’t *fair*! => Rom 5

Foundational principle of gospel: imputation

Accounting: charge or credit something

to someone else’s account.

Neg: Adam’s sin is charged to our account.

Pos: Christ’s righteousness credited to our account

We cry “*Not fair!*” when we think of neg. side

Nobody cries “*Not fair!*” over pos. side of imputation!

Paul assumes neg.’s true—“*all die*”—true since Adam!

George Bernard Shaw:

“statistics on death are impressive: 1 out of 1 dies!”

Paul uses that assumption to explain doc. of imputation.

It's not fair for Adam's sin be charged to us
Because we were in Adam, we acquired a sinful nature. **12-14** *"Just as sin entered the world through 1 man, & death through sin, & in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—¹³for before the law was given sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come."*

One person sinned => Sin passed to everyone

Penalty for sin is death. Therefore, all people die.

God tells us: Sin was in world before He gave the law.

That's why there was death when there was no law.

From Adam to Moses—after Adam's sin, before law—no basis to charge people for sin, but ***people still died!***

Gen. 5 lists people from Adam to Noah—before law—

People lived *much longer*— 100s of yrs—yet, each concludes:

"...& he died." All died (except Enoch)!

One man's sin brought sin into the world.

One man's sin brought death into the world

Everyone dies! In fact, not just PEOPLE die.

Gen. 1-2 depicts scene without death—NOTHING died!

Now ALL CREATION is affected by sin

Everything dies!

Since Adam's sin, everything is heading downhill.

Things are **NOT** "getting better and better!"

Environmentalists are right! ***It IS man's fault!***
God sees us "in Adam"—his sin affects us
We're all infected with death-causing disease
 Infected with the disease, we can't blame it all on Adam!
WE continue lifestyle that provoked Adam's judgment.

We eventually get what we deserve.

We eventually earn what we receive!

Congenital sin leads to malignant corruption in us all!
Pos.: principle of imputation is applied to **Christ's gift**

It's not fair that Jesus' righteousness
be credited to us!—just as unfair!

Because we're in Christ, we've acquired new life.

15-21

5:15-16 *"But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the 1 man, how much more did God's grace & the gift that came by the grace of the 1 man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Again, the gift of God isn't like the result of the 1 man's sin: The judg-ment followed 1 sin & brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses & brought justification."*

Same principle *BUT* gift isn't same as offense!

—follows same *pattern* as offense: *many* affected by *one*

One offended => many die

One showed grace => many receive grace

Grace extended to many—*enjoyed* by those who trust

The grace is *far greater* than the offense

Principle still true, but new application surpasses first:

Adam's sin passed to us; Jesus' righteousness passed
Extent of Christ's grace surpasses extent of our sin!
 Condemnation leading to judgment focuses on *1 person's 1*
 sin

Grace leading to justification focuses on *many* transgressions

Under Adam's sin,
SINNERS *continue* life that provoked Adam's judgment.
 Eventually we receive death **because of our own sin.**

We eventually earn what we receive!

Under Christ's grace,
People who receive God's gift are still sinful
 We **NEVER deserve** God's righteousness credited to our
 account => **We *never* earn what we receive!**

We're *declared* righteous; God sees us "in Christ."

Conclusion [Additional points of comparison:]

5:17 *"For if, by the trespass of 1 man, death reigned through that 1 man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace & of the gift of righteousness reign in life through 1 man, Jesus Christ!"*

Just as 1 man's sin caused DEATH of all people,
so 1 -man made it possible for all to receive LIFE

Because of 1 man's offense, **Death reigns!**

However, it isn't **life** that reigns. **CHRIST** reigns.

Those who receive grace reign through Him.

5:18 *“Just as the result of 1 **trespass** was **condemnation** for all men, so also the result of 1 act of **righteousness** was **justification** that brings life for all men”*

As 1 man’s sin brought condemnation on all people, so 1 man made it possible for all to be justified

5:19 *“Just as through the disobedience of the 1 man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the 1 man many will be made righteous”*

As 1 man’s disobedience caused all to be declared sinners, so one made it possible for all to be declared righteous

God gave law to make us aware of our sin

20-21 *“The law was added so that the trespass might in-crease.*

But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

As sin gets more severe, God’s grace increases

Thus **God's grace manifested in Jesus**

Is sufficient to cover all sin of all people.

No matter how great our sin, grace **abounds—in excess**

Ironside: Tombstone of 4 children:

“Bold infidelity, turn pale and die.

Beneath this stone four sleeping infants lie.

Say, are they lost or saved?

If death’s by sin, they sinned, for they are here.

If heaven’s by works, in heaven they can’t appear.

Reason, ah, how depraved!

Turn to the Bible's sacred page, the knot's untied:
They died, for Adam sinned–They live, for Jesus died.
It's NOT fair! But that IS God's grace!

In Adam, all die. In Christ, all are made alive!
We all deserve to die–identified with Adam by birth
By faith, God offers us new identity in Christ!
We're identified with Him.

When we stop trying to be good enough–to earn our way
When we trust Christ alone to remove our guilt
God sees *US* dressed in Christ's righteousness.
It's NOT fair! But, that's GRACE!!!
So what are YOU trusting?