

Adam's Sin --- My Sin Romans 5:12-14

The main emphasis of this latter section of Romans 5 is to prove that God judges us all for Adam's sin. In other words, **Adam's sin was my sin** because in some mysterious way I was in union with Adam (federal representation). This truth of original sin is first introduced by Paul in v. 12. Verses 13-17 form an explanation to the phrase "*all sinned*" as if Paul expects objections to the doctrine that we are all condemned for Adam's sin.

I. The Primacy of the Doctrine of Original Sin (v. 12).

Adam's sin is my sin is both a primary, and highly opposed, doctrine of Christianity. It is vociferously opposed because a true understanding of the gospel comes from it. "*Adam's sin is as truly ours as it was his, but not sin in the same sense. It was his sin personally; it is our sin because we were **in him**,*" Robert Haldane. Until you know what it means to be "in Adam" it will be difficult to know it means to be "in Christ."

Let me illustrate. If I say, "**Through one man sin and death entered the world and death spread to everybody because *all sinned individually*,**" then the comparison with Christ would be, "**So also through one man, Jesus Christ, righteousness and life entered the world and life spread to all because *all individually did acts of righteousness*.**" In other words, justification would not be God's imputing Christ's righteousness to us, but our performing individual acts of righteousness with Christ's help and then being counted righteous on that basis. This is a denial of the gospel.

II. The Proof of the Doctrine of Original Sin (vs. 13-14).

In these two verses Paul gives very logical evidence for the doctrine of original sin.

- (1). Sin was in the world before the Mosaic Law; personal sin, not just Adam's sin.
- (2). But sin is not imputed (not counted, not punished) where there is no law (13b).
- (3). *Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses.*

Everyone died. It made no difference whether or not the Mosaic Law was in effect, or even if people (infants) personally sinned by violating one of God's commandments. **Everyone died because in Adam everyone sinned.**

"Instead of dying for their actual sins, death is to all men the penalty of the first sin" Robert Haldane.

III. The Power of the Doctrine of Original Sin (vs. 14b).

The little phrase "*Adam is the figure of him that was to come*" shows us its power. We are condemned by the sin of one, and we are justified by the obedience of one.

- (1). **This doctrine humbles** --- I don't do bad things, I am bad. I am a condemned sinner.
- (2). **This doctrine makes us grateful** --- If I am changed, I owe it all to God's grace.
- (3). **This doctrine helps us understand our world** --- it is universally evil --- except in those nations where the grace of God through Jesus Christ is prevalent.
- (4). **This doctrine helps us understand the function of government** -- C.S. Lewis says it is the basis of putting power in the hands of many -- nobody can be trusted.
- (5). **This doctrine helps us also have compassion for others** --- we are no better.
- (6). **This doctrine motivates us for evangelism** -- all are in need of a second Adam.