

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 5 PART 4

*“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

*Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:12–21 NKJV).*

All human beings are born with a sinful and fallen nature. We are born “[spiritually] *dead in trespasses and in sins*” (Ephesians 2:1 NKJV). The sinful nature and the associated spiritual death we suffer have been passed down to us through Adam. This “passing down” of sin came by way of a God-mandated accountability as well as by genetic inheritance.

When God created Adam, He made him without sin. Sin came into the world as the result of disobedience. Therefore, through the “Law of Federal Headship,” sin was “passed down” through Adam to all men, by divine mandate, “...and thus death spread to all men...” (Romans 5:12 NKJV). Moreover, through the “Law of Natural (seminal) Headship,” men inherited a sinful nature, and thus all men are consequently sinners by both Natural and Federal Headship.

Some will argue that we may be born with a sinful nature but that we are not sinners until we act upon that nature and make the choice to sin. However, this is not what the Bible teaches. We do sin because we are born sinners and because we have a natural propensity for sin; but, through the Law of Federal Headship, we are equated with the sinful history of man and therefore held in contempt for the sins of our forefather(s). Therefore, whether we like it or not, we are declared sinners through the Law of Federal Headship by the sovereign declaration of God.

When Paul wrote, “...just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12 NKJV), he used the past tense of the word for sin. Thus Paul communicated that the action occurred in the past. The Greek word Paul used for sin is “harmatano.” It is in the “aorist tense” and the “indicative mood.” This means that Paul summarized the action as having occurred in the past. He did not say “all sin” in this passage. He said “all sinned.” Therefore, we see that Paul taught that God held the descendants of Adam in contempt for the sin committed in Adam. Paul also communicated this fact to the Corinthians when he said “...in Adam all die...” (1 Corinthians 15:22 NKJV).

Therefore, when Paul tells the Ephesians that believers are “...made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 1:1 NKJV), there is no inconsistency in the expression or meaning. We were dead, and God, by His grace, has given the believer life from the death we suffered.

The good news is that inasmuch “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22 NKJV). Therefore, the Law of Federal Headship carries a positive effect for those who have trusted Christ for salvation. Believers become the sons and daughters of God. Therefore, through spiritual rebirth (being born again), we have “passed from death unto life” (1 John 3:14 NKJV) and have been accounted as righteous through the perfect life of Jesus.

It is for this reason that Jesus was born of a virgin—and not of a natural father. If Jesus had been born of man, not by virgin birth through the supernatural impregnation of Mary by the Holy Spirit, He would have been born with a sinful nature and therefore would have been a sinner Himself (through the Laws of Federal and Natural Headship.)

If Jesus were born of a natural father, He would have been incapable of dying for the sins of the world, and would have died only for His own sin. However, Jesus was not born of man; He was born without sin, never personally sinned, and was without a sinful or fallen nature. Therefore, it cannot be said that Jesus was born under the rule of Natural Headship. However, it can be said that Jesus was born under the rule of Federal Headship as it relates to His righteousness. He was born of God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him...” (Hebrews 7:25a NKJV).

Therefore, when Paul said, “...you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1a NKJV), we rejoice. We were dead, separated from God, and without hope in this world. “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” (Ephesians 2:4–5 NKJV). This He did according to the good pleasure of His will (see Ephesians 1). “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1a NKJV). “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:13 NKJV).

I love you all, Pastor Paul