



## **SERMON SUMMARY**

This powerful exploration of Romans 5 challenges us to reconsider our understanding of representation and identity. We discover that we're all part of a team, whether we realize it or not. The central question isn't whether we're represented, but who represents us. Through Adam, sin entered the world and death spread to all humanity. We inherited a spiritual condition not of our own making, much like a child born into difficult circumstances bears consequences they didn't choose. But here's the transformative truth: while Adam's failure affects everyone, Christ's obedience offers us a new representative. This isn't about fairness in human terms, but about God's perfect provision. Adam was created specifically to represent humanity, without the burden of inherited sin. The law came later to show us our need for rescue, acting as a guardian until Christ arrived. Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. We're not walking a tightrope with God, hoping our good behavior keeps a fragile truce intact. Instead, through justification, we have genuine peace with God that cannot be revoked by our failures. This grace isn't a prize we earn but a gift we receive, transforming us from enemies into beloved children who worship God with our entire lives.

## **Key Takeaways**

- 1. We are all represented by someone - Either Adam (leading to death) or Christ (leading to life)**
- 2. Grace is a gift, not a prize - We cannot earn salvation through our actions**
- 3. The war with God is over - Justification means we are at peace with God permanently**
- 4. Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more - God's grace is greater than our sin**
- 5. Grace leads to worship, not obligation - We live righteously out of love, not fear**

- **“What’s one thing you heard yesterday that you’re still thinking about?”**
- **“When you think about your life story so far, what are some of the biggest influences that have shaped who you are today—family, culture, choices, experiences?”**

**INTO THE TEXT**

- **Read Romans 5:12–21 out loud.**
  - What words or phrases stand out to you right away?
  - Is there anything confusing or surprising at first glance?
- **“In Adam All Die”: The Seriousness of Sin**
  - Verse 12 says, “sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin.” How does this change the way you think about sin—more like a private mistake,
  - How does recognizing that bigger story help you make sense of the brokenness around you?
- **Condemnation vs. Justification**
  - Verse 18 contrasts “condemnation for all men” with “justification and life for all men.” How would you describe the difference between condemnation and justification in simple terms?
  - Where in your life do you still relate to God as if you’re condemned, even though this says you’ve been justified in Christ?
- **Law, Sin, and Grace Overflowing**
  - Verse 20 says, “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” How does that confront the fear that you might someday “out-sin” God’s grace?
  - When you become aware that something you’re doing is clearly against God’s commands, what is your first instinct—to excuse it, to fix yourself, or to bring it honestly to God for grace and help?

# TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT

- **What's one truth from Romans 5:12–21 that you most need to carry into your “normal” week? (Example: “I’m no longer in Adam; I’m in Christ,” or “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.”)**
- **Tightrope Faith vs. Secure Citizenship**
  - Where in your walk with God do you feel most like you're on a tightrope—afraid one failure will push Him away? What would it look like to “stand in grace” rather than negotiate with God?
  - What is one concrete step you could take this week to live more like a secure citizen of God's kingdom (resting, confessing honestly, praying with confidence, taking a risk in obedience, etc.)?
- **Relating to Non-Christians as Spiritually “Dead,” Not Just Misguided**
  - As you think about people in your life who don't know Jesus, what does Romans 5:12–21 reveal about what's really going on beneath the surface of their lives?
  - How can we become less focused on behavior change (morality, politics, lifestyle) & more focused on their need for Christ?
- **Worship as Response, Not Payment**
  - If your good works (serving, giving, obeying) are not payments to keep God happy, but thank-you offerings because you're already justified, which spiritual practice this week could you deliberately reframe as worship instead of “earning”?
  - Is there one specific area where you need to stop trying to “pay God back” and instead simply say, “Thank you,” and rest?