

# Sermon Outline

HEADS OF STATES:  
A STUDY OF ROMANS 5:12-21

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## THROUGH CHRIST

*Romans 5:12-21*

### I. From Failed State to Great State

### II. Christ the New Head (Rom 5:14)

- A. *King Jesus is the successor of Adam. He is the new federal head/representative king for those who believe.*
- B. In verse 14, we read that Adam “was a type of the one who was to come.”
- C. But for all the damage that Adam could do, he was only a type. He was not the main event. And that’s a good thing!
- D. If Adam was only a type, it is possible that someone greater than he, his Successor/Antitype, can undo all the damage that he caused.
- E. It is on this principle that the Gospel rests. Federal headship is the soil out of which the flower of the Gospel blossoms.
  - 1. Like Adam, the Lord Jesus is a federal Head.
  - 2. Like Adam, the actions of the Lord Jesus decide the future of his people—which means that he can undo the failures of Adam once and for all.
- F. That is the very first way that God works through Christ: By making our Lord Jesus the Fulfilment of Adam; and therefore a new federal Head or representative king of the human race.

### III. Through Christ, Grace (Rom 5:15)

- A. First: *King Jesus brings the gift of God’s grace to the human race.*
  - Rom 5:15: “But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.”
- B. The gift our new king gives is the grace of God.  
—The grace of God as opposed to the condemnation and anger of God.

- C. As Israel's Messiah, Jesus is the conduit, the Gateway, or the channel, by whom God sends his grace to the entire human race. What Adam took away by his sin, the Messiah Jesus restores by his mercy.
- D. And grace is a gift of God's generosity, not a reward for our works: "...the free gift by the grace."

#### IV. Through Christ, Justification (Rom 5:16, 17, 19)

- A. What exactly is the nature of this grace that is given to the people of the new king?
  - Rom 5:16: "And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification."
  - Rom 5:17: "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."
  - Rom 5:19: "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."
- B. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord God of the universe justifies the ungodly. Secondly: *King Jesus brings the gift of heaven's justification to the human race.*

#### V. Through Christ, Dignity (Rom 5:17)

- A. There's more. After Adam sinned, God placed this curse on him (Gen 3:19):
  - Genesis 3:19: By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
- B. Shame and loss of dignity were the result of rebellion against the Law of heaven.
- C. Just as God gives righteousness to us through Christ, he also gives us dignity through Christ.
  - Rom 5:17: "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."
- D. Through the new king, Messiah Jesus, God himself cancels the curse that he uttered upon us in Genesis 3.

- E. What is the result of cancelling the curse? Resurrection: "...those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."
- F. If you believe in the Lord Jesus, you are no longer poor and shameful. As God's appointed servant of the Gospel, I announce to you: Your sins are forgiven. You are free. And you are God's child.
- G. Shame is one of the deep ruling powers of human society.
  1. Shame is often a response to the Law. Its purpose is to lead us to Christ for forgiveness and freedom.
  2. But too often, shame ends up becoming a tool of control and manipulation. When that happens, it becomes demonic, a tool of the accuser.
  3. But if you have trusted in Christ, God himself removes shame from you: He causes us to "reign in life."
- H. Third: *King Jesus brings the gift of royal dignity to the human race.*

## VI. Through Christ, Life (Rom 5:18)

- A. Fourth: *King Jesus give us the gift of eternal life.*
  - Rom 5:18: "Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men."
  - Rom 5:21: "so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- B. Eternal life is the ultimate prize.
- C. For the Judaic tradition, eternal life gained by keeping the Law. —That is certainly a viable means to gaining eternal life—if you are sinless, that is.
- D. But now, King Jesus brings eternal life for all who would give up on themselves and trust in him alone for salvation.
- E. As our federal head, Jesus has kept the Law on our behalf. He has fulfilled the legal requirements for our salvation.
- F. Now that we have eternal life, we can truly begin to live for eternal things—for God, his kingdom, his Law, and his beloved people.

## VII. Christ Our Life

Now that we have received eternal life, dignity, righteousness, and grace through our King Jesus, let us live from him. Let us live as those who have come to share in the eternal life, dignity, righteousness, and grace of Christ himself. Each human being lives out of deeper powers that lie beneath the surface of his or her existence. For us who believe, this deeper Power that feeds us, empowers us, and lives through us is none other than Jesus Christ our Lord. “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” says Paul in Galatians 2:20. Let us trust in Christ and live from him. For those who are not yet believers, know that the Lord Jesus has come to set you free from all your sin, guilt, and shame. Though your shame may be great, and your sins may be dark, understand that God’s mercy is infinitely greater. Where sin increases, his grace super-abounds. Come to Jesus. Receive his grace. Receive his life. And live!

### Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. What are the gifts that God bestows on us through King Jesus?
4. How does King Jesus’ gift of grace apply to you at this point in your life?
5. How does King Jesus’ gift of justification apply to you at this point in your life?
6. How does King Jesus’ gift of royal dignity apply to you at this point in your life?
7. How does King Jesus’ gift of eternal life apply to you at this point in your life?
8. What does it mean to live from Christ?
9. Pray that God would grow in you the awareness and assurance of his grace. Pray that this knowledge would be experienced daily, increasingly in you and others.