

Greater Than: Adam

Romans 5; Ephesians 1:4-5; Ephesians 2:1-10; Ephesians 4:21-24; John 15:4-5

Jesus is the fulfillment of every role we need. From Adam to David, God revealed His plan through people who pointed forward to something greater. In Jesus, it all comes together—He is the true Man, the eternal Priest, the final Prophet, and the forever King. This series invites us to see how every promise finds its completion in Him.

Family Lines:

We are going to start at the beginning with Adam. He represents the old humanity that is marked by sin and death. Jesus represents a new humanity that is marked by righteousness, life, and restored relationship with God. Everyone ever born on earth belongs to one of two family lines: Adam's physical family or Christ's spiritual family.

In the beginning, God created man in His image. Adam (meaning man or human) was the first human and was the firstborn of Humanity. He was given freewill, able to choose for himself, encouraged to yield his will to God's will, and warned that defining what is right in his own eyes would lead to death (not his immediate physical death but the death of his soul).

This soul destroying death was passed on through Adam to the rest of humanity...his family line. Adam was not just the first human. He was the royal representative of humanity. Adam was created to co-create and co-rule with God. However, he chose to define good and evil for himself and that choice spread to every generation. Then Jesus entered the story.

The Story of Romans 5:



Once upon a time, humanity lived in opposition to God, not with force, but with distance, distrust, and disobedience. We may have never realized or thought about being God's enemy, but we lived like it. We ran our own lives, defined good and evil on our own terms, and slowly learned the cost of that choice.

Then something happened. Through Jesus, the division ended. Not because of anything that we did but because God met us where we were at. He came to us. He offered us grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. And for the first time, we found out who we were created to be.

Life didn't suddenly get easy though. In fact, some days got harder. But suffering wasn't meaningless anymore. Now it shaped us instead of breaking us. Pressure produced endurance, endurance formed character, and character grew into the kind of hope that can withstand

anything the world would throw at us. The hope wasn't wishful thinking. It was anchored in the love that God poured into us through His Spirit.

To understand how radical this love is, you have to know when it happened. It wasn't when we were strong, when we were good, or when we were trying. It *was* when we were powerless.

You might risk your life for someone you love, but God told a different story. Jesus gave His life for us while we were still broken and rebellious. He loved us how He found us, but His love was too good to leave us there. That's how God showed His love. Not with words but through sacrifice.

So if His death was enough to repair our brokenness, how much more confident can we be living in His life? We were once enemies but now we are part of His family. The relationship is restored. The shame is gone.

Jesus Greater Than Adam:

This story started long before Jesus. It began with a man named Adam when he chose to define good and evil on his own. Something fractured in the human story. Sin entered and death followed. That brokenness spread to everyone. Not just because people copied Adam but because he represented us. Adam set the pattern of human behavior, but he wasn't the final word.

Jesus stepped into the story as a new kind of human.

- What Adam broke - Jesus began to heal.
- Where Adam's rebellion brought condemnation - Jesus' obedience made a way for forgiveness.
- Adam's choice allowed death to rule - Jesus' choice allows grace to reign.
- The damage Adam caused was devastating - but the gift Jesus offers is greater.
- In Adam, humanity inherited sin and death - in Christ, humanity is offered righteousness and life.

This is the story we are living in now. The old humanity through Adam still echoes around us, but a new humanity through Jesus has already begun...and everyone is invited to be adopted into His family!

From Adam, we inherit sin, death, disobedience, judgment, separation from God, and ruin. We are all born into Adam's family line - death. If we do nothing, we remain in Adam. If we respond in faith, we are adopted into sonship into Christ's family.

Living as the New Humanity:

Ephesians teaches us a lot about living as part of the New Humanity as part of the Family of God. Read Ephesians 1:4-5. The Greek word for 'adoption to sonship' is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.

Paul was a Roman citizen and was well aware of the privilege that came with that position. He would not have written lightly about being able to gain the privilege of being a part of a family through adoption with the full rights to the family inheritance.

But with that privilege comes responsibility. The language of 'flesh and spirit' is used here to contrast between physical and spiritual life, or in the context of our study today, life in Adam and life in Christ.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Becoming part of the family of God means to do what Adam did not: put God's will above our own and yield to His Spirit - not our flesh.

Read Ephesians 4:21-24. Being part of the New Humanity is not just about being moral. To be a new human is to be who God created humanity to be. Adam failed and set a bad precedent for future generations. However, Jesus succeeded and gave us an example to model our lives after.

Becoming like Jesus means: reflecting God's image as humanity was meant to, living in partnership with God, participating in His rule over creation, and embodying His wisdom, love, and grace. That feels like a tall order. Jesus was perfect, sinless, and blameless. We are the natural sons and daughters of Adam. How can we overcome our flesh to live in God's Spirit?

Branches and Vines:

Read John 15:4-5. The Greek word for abide is *meno*. It means to remain, dwell, stay, or continue in a close relationship with Jesus. It signifies actively trusting and obeying His commands as well as relying on Him for spiritual life.

If we want to live as part of Jesus' new humanity, we have to constantly abide in Him.

- It's having an *Active Connection* like a branch remaining connected to the vine. We must stay connected to Jesus to produce spiritual fruit.
- It is *Remaining in His Word*. Abiding requires keeping Jesus' teaching and commandments active in your daily life.
- It's a *Continuous State*. Not a temporary, one-time action but a persistent, daily dwelling in His presence, love, and obedience.
- It is a *Sign of True Discipleship*. Abiding distinguishes true believers who are disciplined in mind, body, and spirit from those who have a superficial, temporary acquaintance with Jesus.
- It is *Love and Obedience*. It involves a reciprocal relationship where one stays in Christ's love and walks in obedience

Being a part of Jesus' New Humanity is a choice followed by action. We are all born into Adam's family, but we can choose to abide in Jesus and be adopted into the Family of God.

Reflection Questions:

- Are you living as if you are in Adam's physical family or in Jesus's spiritual family?
- Living as part of Jesus's New Humanity requires action. We must stay connected and abide with Him.
 - What are some ways you currently abide with Christ?
 - What steps can be taken to abide with Christ further than you do now?