



ROMANS PART 2 - A NEW HUMANITY: FROM ADAM TO JESUS

Romans 5:12-21

Two Representatives. Two Kingdoms.

Sin distorts our humanity, but Jesus restores what we were created to become.

Context: One Humanity, One Problem

Paul continues building his argument in Romans.
In chapters 1–4, Paul explains:

- Everyone is under sin
- No one can save themselves
- We are made right with God through faith in Jesus

Last week we saw:

Peace with God changes everything.

Now Paul goes deeper:

Why does humanity seem trapped in cycles of sin, selfishness, shame, and death?

Paul's answer:

Humanity lives under the power of sin introduced through Adam.

But Jesus comes as a new Adam.

A new beginning for humanity.

Romans 5 contrasts:

- Adam and Jesus
- Sin and grace
- Death and life
- Condemnation and righteousness

1. Sin Is More Than Bad Behaviour

Romans 5:12

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world...”

Paul describes sin as more than mistakes.

Sin is a power that enslaves humanity.

We see it everywhere

- Pride
- Greed
- Addiction
- Fear
- Violence
- Selfishness

Repeating patterns we cannot seem to break

Illustration: Missing the Mark

The Biblical word for sin means “to miss the target.”

Sin is not only doing wrong things.

It is failing to become who God created us to be.

We were made to:

- Reflect God's character
- Love others
- Trust God
- Bring life and flourishing

Sin distorts all of that.

2. Adam Represents Humanity

Romans 5:18-19

“Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone...”

This is difficult for modern culture because we value individualism.

But Scripture teaches that humanity is deeply connected.

One person’s actions affect many others.

Adam stands as humanity’s representative.

Illustration: Ripple Effects

One person’s choices can impact generations:

- A parent’s addiction
- A leader’s corruption
- A mentor’s faithfulness
- A friend’s betrayal

None of us live in isolation.

Adam introduced:

- Distrust
- Disorder
- Sin
- Death

And every human since has continued in the same pattern.

The hard truth:

We likely would have made the same choice.

3. Jesus Becomes the New Adam

Romans 5:19

“Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.”

Paul contrasts Adam and Jesus.

Adam brought:

- Sin
- Death
- Condemnation

Jesus brings:

- Grace
- Life
- Forgiveness
- Freedom

Adam reached for control.

Jesus surrendered Himself in obedience.

Illustration: Two Family Lines

In Adam:

Shame rules

Sin rules

Death rules

In Christ:

Grace rules

Mercy rules

Life rules

Jesus succeeds where humanity failed.

4. Grace Is Greater Than Sin

Romans 5:20

“As people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant.”

Paul is not minimizing sin.

He is magnifying grace.

No amount of sin is stronger than the grace of Jesus

Illustration: Light in Darkness

Darkness may feel overwhelming,
but even a small light pushes darkness back.
The cross was not barely enough.
It was overwhelmingly enough.

Grace means:

- Shame is not your identity
- Failure is not final
- Your past is not stronger than God's future

5. Jesus Creates a New Humanity

Paul is writing to Jews and Gentiles struggling to live together.

- Different cultures.
- Different backgrounds.
- Different traditions.

But Paul says:

What they share in Christ is greater than what divides them.
Everyone shares the same condition under Adam.
Everyone receives the same grace through Jesus.
The church becomes a new humanity shaped by:

- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Unity
- Grace

Pentecost Connection

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out to form a new people.

Humanity under Adam fractures.

Humanity under Jesus is restored.

Conclusion: Which Humanity Are You Living In?

In Adam:

- Distrust
- Shame
- Sin
- Death
- In Christ:
- Grace
- Forgiveness
- Freedom
- New life

Jesus did not simply come to make bad people nicer.
He came to restore humanity.

Because of Jesus:

Sin no longer has ultimate authority

Grace now rules

Death does not get the final word

Humanity can begin again

Study & Discussion

1. Where do you most often feel tension between trusting God and trusting yourself?
2. How do you see sin functioning as both personal choices and larger systems or patterns in society?
3. What does it practically look like to become "more fully human" in the way of Jesus?
4. How can the church better reflect the "new humanity" Paul describes in Romans 5?

Practice of the Week: Live as Part of the New Humanity

Step 1: Identify the Old Pattern

Ask:

Where do I resist trusting God?

What unhealthy patterns keep resurfacing?

Where do pride, fear, or selfishness show up in my life?

Step 2: Practice Trust

Choose one area this week where you will intentionally obey God instead of following your instincts.

Examples:

Forgive instead of holding bitterness

Be honest instead of self-protecting

Choose humility over pride

Choose generosity over selfishness

Step 3: Remember Grace

When you fail,
run toward God, not away from Him.

Pray:

“Jesus, thank you that Your grace is greater than my sin.”

Goal of the Week

Not simply to “try harder,”

but to live as part of the new humanity Jesus is creating —
a people marked by grace, trust, humility, and new life.