

Comparisons and Contrasts of Immense Consequences

Romans 5:12-21

In Romans chapters 1-3 we learn about man's **condemnation** before a holy God. In chapters 3-4 we learn about **justification** (man being declared righteous by God based on the crosswork of Christ, according to the riches of God's grace). In Romans 5:12-21 we have condemnation and justification compared and contrasted. Notice the words of comparison: "as . . . (even) so . . ." (*Rom. 5:18,19,21*). Notice the words of contrast: "not as" (*Rom. 5:15,16*) and "much more" (*Rom. 5:15,17,20*).

I have a good friend named "Adam," and at one time I wondered why his parents would name him after the man who plunged our race into sin. Then I realized that "Adam" is also a wonderful name of Jesus Christ, "the last Adam" (*1 Cor. 15:45*).

The first Adam brought our race into ruin; the last Adam makes redemption and righteousness available to all.

Notice also the two acts of immense consequence: Adam's act of disobedience when he ate the forbidden fruit (*Gen. 3:6*) and Christ's act of obedience when He died on the cross (*Phil. 2:8*).

Notice the awesome outcomes of Adam's disobedience and Christ's obedience (*Rom. 5:17-19*).

We also have **two results**: Because of what Adam did there is death, judgment, and condemnation. Because of what Christ did there is life and righteousness and grace. We are connected to Adam by natural birth; we become connected to Christ by the new birth. Grace is provided for all (*Tit. 2:11*) but must be personally received as a gift (*Rom. 5:17*). The main point of this section is the triumph of God's grace over sin (see *Rom. 5:20-21*). The key phrase is "**much more**" (*Rom. 5:15,17,20*). If you think what Adam did was significant (and it was!), **how much more** significant and consequential was what Christ accomplished. What Christ did far outweighed ("much more") and surpassed what Adam did!

~*George Zeller*: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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