

What a Difference One Man Makes!

In 1868 President Andrew Johnson faced an impeachment trial before the United States Senate. Johnson retained his office, however, by a margin of only **one** vote. Down through history there have been other important decisions settled by only one vote.

You might wonder sometimes what impact one person can make in this big world. After all, there are more than eight billion people on earth; what difference can one person make?

In this lesson you will learn about two very important men, Adam and Jesus Christ. Each of those individuals had a profound impact upon the entire human race.

Rom. 5:12 What entered the world by one man?

What did sin bring with it?

How many people on earth have sinned?

In chapters 1 – 3 we learned that every human being is a sinner. What is the source of that sin? Why are humans so wicked?

The answer is found in this chapter. **Adam** was the first man (Gen. 2:7-8) and therefore the father of the human race. Theologians call Adam our **federal** head. The word “federal” refers to one who represents and acts on behalf of others, just as our federal government represents us and acts on our behalf. Since we are descendants of Adam, our problem is we are born with a sin nature.

Rom. 5:13 Sin was in the world (because of Adam’s sin) before God gave the Law through Moses.

Rom. 5:14 What reigned from Adam until the time of Moses?

Did humans have to commit the same sin as Adam to be just as guilty as Adam?

The phrase, “*who is the figure of Him that was to come*” means Adam, as our fleshly head, pointed to Jesus, who was coming to be our spiritual head. The rest of the chapter contrasts what Adam brought into the world with what Jesus brought into the world.

Verse	Adam	Jesus Christ
5:15b	“For if through the offence of _____ many be _____,”	“much more the _____ of God, and the _____ by grace, which is by _____ man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto _____.”

5:16	“And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by _____ to _____;”	“but the free gift is of many offences unto _____.”
5:17	“For if by one man’s offence _____ reigned by one;”	“much more they which receive abundance of _____ and of the _____ of righteousness shall reign in _____ by one, Jesus Christ.”
5:18	“Therefore as by the offence of one _____ came upon all men to _____;”	“even so by the righteousness of one the free _____ came upon all men unto _____ of life.”
5:19	“For as by one man’s _____ many were made _____;”	“so by the _____ of one shall many be made _____.”
5:20	“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin _____;”	“_____ did much more abound.”
5:21	“That as _____ hath reigned unto _____;”	“even so might _____ reign through righteousness unto eternal _____ by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Concluding Thoughts: Do you get the picture? How many times and how many ways does God have to say something for it to be clear to us?

Adam’s sin brought **death** upon the entire human race. **Christ’s death** made **salvation** available to all who want it.

Put another way, Adam is the father of all humans who **breathe**, but Jesus Christ is the Father of all humans who **believe**.

Everyone on earth is either “in Adam, or “in Christ.” There is not a third alternative. Those who are in Adam are sinners still under the condemnation and guilt of their sin, and still facing the penalty for their sin (death and hell). Those in Christ are sinners who have accepted Christ’s gift of grace. They are forgiven, justified, and recipients of eternal life. That’s God’s solution to our sin problem.

Which are you? Are you in Adam or in Christ?

If you are still in your sins, read the verses printed on the back of this book and ask Jesus Christ to save you. If you are in Christ, thank the Lord for graciously saving you.

Project: Memorize **1 Corinthians 15:22**. Do you know someone who is still in Adam and needs to learn about new life in Christ? Ask them if you can read this chapter to them and pray with them.