**Sermon Title: The Adams Family Values, Part 1**

**Sermon Text: Romans 5:12-14a**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a greater appreciation and understanding of the need for justification by faith.**

**Sermon proposition: There are 3 characteristics of all descendants of the 1st Adam.**

**I. The universal problem of humanity is sin. V.12**

**II. The universal principle of humanity is death. V.13**

**III. The universal predicament of humanity is sin and death reign. V.14a**

**Introduction:** Paul’s primary objection in this chapter is to show how one man’s death provided salvation for many and to do so the apostle first shows the reasonableness of that truth since one man’s sin produced condemnation for many. The analogy of Adam and Christ is antithetical, an analogy of opposites. Because of Adam’s sin, all men are condemned, because of Christ obedience, many are pardoned (justified).

HeadshipHeadship

Adam (1st) Christ (2nd Adam)

Condemnation Justification

Death reigns Grace reigns

Sin reigns Believers shall reign

Disobedient Obedience

Unrighteousness Righteousness

Law Grace

Eternal death Eternal life

**I. The universal problem of humanity is sin. V.12**

A. **Sin** entered the world through one man. V.12a

***1 John 3:8*** *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

The origin of sin starts with Satan.

The inherent propensity to sin entered the human realm through Adam, humanity became sinners by nature.

***Psalm 51:5*** *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.* ***Ephesians 2:1*** *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,* ***2*** *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,* ***3*** *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

Adam passed on to all the humanity the inherent sinful nature he possessed because of his disobedience.

***Genesis 2:15*** *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.* ***16*** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;* ***17*** *"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

This nature is present from conception (Psalm 51:5) making it impossible for humanity to live in a way that pleases God. Mankind is a single entity, comprised of a divinely ordered solidarity. Adam represents as the federal headship the entire human race that is descended from him, no matter how many different sub groups may exist, and sin characterizes them all.

B. **Death** entered the world through sin. V.12b

Sin and death are almost personified here v.21 sin reigned in death. Death both physical and spiritual is the consequence of sin entering the world.

***Genesis 21:17*** *And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.*

“Death is the unfailing fruit of the poison that entered Adam’s heart and the heart of all his descendants. A person does not become a sinner because he sins, but sins because he is a sinner.

***Matthew 15:19*** *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

Death takes 3 phases: 1) Spiritual separation, 2) Physical separation, 3) Eternal separation.

***Revelation 21:8*** *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

C. Death spread to all men because all **sinned**. V.12c

Death as well as sin was transmitted to all of humanity. Only two men have ever escaped physical and eternal death. Enoch and Elijah, no other human being has escaped death. Sinned translates a Greek aorist tense, indicating that at one point in time all men sinned. This refers to the time that Adam first sinned. His sin became mankind’s or humanity’s sin, because all humanity were in his seed and under his headship.

***Psalm 58:3*** *The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.*

***Jeremiah 17:9*** *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*

***John 3:3*** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

***John 8:44*** *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

***1 Timothy 2:14*** *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

**II. The universal principle of humanity is death. V.13**

A. History proves sin reigned over all men in the **world**. V.13a

If the principle were not true that all sinned and all died in Adam, it would be impossible to make the point that all can be made righteous in Christ. (**1 Corinthians 15:22**)

***Habakkuk 1:2*** *O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.*

***Habakkuk 1:13*** *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?*

***Habakkuk 3:17*** *Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls--* ***18*** *Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.* ***19*** *The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.*

Habakkuk learned a lesson we all must learn, when we cannot understand the Lord’s ways, we must avoid the danger of human reason and stand on faith.

B. History proves that death reigns even without **law**. V.13b

Paul points out that before God gave the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai to Moses, sin and death were already in the world. But men’s failure to meet the standards of the Law were not credited against them because during that period they had no Law.

**III. The universal predicament of humanity is sin and death reign. V.14a**

Sin and death reigned from Adam to Moses, that means, death was a universal predicament even though there was no law, it is still clear humanity was and still is sinful. The Law and man’s inability to keep it, because they did not have it was not the problem, it was the principle of their sinful nature that all men reside under the penalty and consequence of sin.