

The Headship of Jesus

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read Romans 5:12-21 and study the comments related to this passage in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: How did sin and death enter the world? How did death spread to all men? Why did all men die from Adam to Moses? What does the verb "to impute" mean? How did Jesus Christ, the Last Adam, reverse the curse of the first Adam?

Assignment Two

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 and study the comments related to this passage in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What is the importance of Jesus coming as a human being? Who is identified as those whom Jesus will give life to? Is it for everyone?

Assignment Three

Read Galatians 3:10-14 and study the comments related to this passage in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: In your own words, what are the two ways of justifying ourselves before God? What is the exchange that is offered by Jesus?

Scripture to Memorize

"Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men." Romans 5:18

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit - by the end of this session, disciples will understand the significance of the headship of Adam and Jesus and how this relates to their own lives.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

The principle of representation is a fundamental one in human society. The father is the legal head of his children when they are young. What he does, binds the whole family. A business is held responsible for the transactions of its agents. The heads of a state are given authority so that the treaties they make are binding upon the whole nation. Can you think of other scenarios where one person is the representative of a whole group of people?

Read Romans 5:12-21 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 12. sin came into the world through one man. *Sin* is “missing the mark” of God’s holy standard. Adam sinned by disobeying the direct command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **death through sin.** God warned Adam that his sin would bring death. **so death spread to all men because all sinned.** The consequences of Adam’s sin were passed down to all his descendants, including us.

Verse 13. sin is not counted where there is no law. The law reveals sin, but sin is not put on one’s account when there is no direct violation of that law. This does not mean there is not sin, but that it is not recorded against that person.

Verse 14. death reigned from Adam to Moses. Although the law did not come until Moses, people still died from Adam to Moses. Why? They died because Adam’s sin nature had been imputed to them and they rejected the general revelation they had been given in creation. To *impute* means “to credit one’s account.” **type of the One who was to come.** The first Adam was to be compared to Christ, the last Adam.

Verses 15–17. In these three verses, Paul compared the “free gift” of the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, to the “condemnation” of the one who sinned, Adam. Notice the comparisons highlight that Jesus reversed the curse of the first Adam.

Verse 18. As one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. Adam’s sin condemns us all, while Christ’s obedience on the cross results in the salvation of all who choose to make Him their representative. “All men” does not mean everyone will be saved, but only those who receive the gift of righteousness being offered (v.17).

Verses 19-21. Righteousness. In order to obtain “*eternal life*” with God, one must be found meeting His standard of perfection. These verses make it clear that this righteousness can not be found in ourselves, but rather in what Jesus did for us. He met God’s standard and stood in our place to be punished for our sin, not His.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on the questions regarding Romans 5:12-21.

Discussion Question

How does Romans 5:12-21 reveal what Jesus did in order to save us from our sins?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Adam was not only the common parent of mankind, but he was also their representative. The whole human race was placed on trial in Eden. Adam acted not only for himself alone, but for all who were to come from him.

When Adam stood before God in Eden, he stood there as the legal representative of the whole human race. When Adam sinned, all for whom he was standing are accounted as having sinned; when he fell, all whom he represented fell; when he died, they died. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now report on the questions regarding 1 Corinthians 15:20-24.

Discussion Questions

Why do you think that understanding the way Adam represented all people is so important? What is the need for another representative or head?

On Your Own

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and in the space below jot down some answers the following questions: What does everyone deserve? Why did God send Jesus? What role do we have in our salvation? What role does God have in salvation?

Read Galatians 3:10-14 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 10. rely on works of the law are under a curse. When we choose to try to be good enough to earn our relationship with God, we actually put ourselves under a curse. We must be as good as God (perfectly live according to His laws) to get to where God is. **curse.** Remember that God promised the curse that would come by not obeying Him was death. Each one of us deserves this death because of what Adam did, as our head, and our choices to sin and not listen to God.

Verses 11-12. righteous shall live by faith. . . the law is not of faith. Trying to earn our relationship with God by being good enough shows that we do not take God at His Word. It proves that we think we can earn our salvation on our own instead of trusting what He says about the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

Verse 13-14. becoming a curse for us. . . so that we might receive. Jesus offers us an exchange: We can have our sin imputed on Him (put on His account) in exchange for becoming a part of His family and having real life that will last for all of eternity. I do nothing other than receive the free gift that He offers me by making Him my head, my representative, instead of Adam. I must admit that, in Adam, I deserve to be cursed but choose to receive, instead, the gift of life offered by Jesus' becoming my curse. What an exchange!

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now report on the questions regarding Galatians 3:10-14.

Discussion Question

Why is your understanding of the concept of the headship of Adam and Jesus so important?

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share that with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue, I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

In Romans 5:12-21, Paul revealed that through Adam's one act of disobedience, sin and death entered the world. Adam's sin did not simply affect himself. It was imputed (or passed down) to "all men." We know this because Paul said all men died from Adam on. Why? Because Adam was a representative of the whole human race. His sin nature had been imputed to them and they rejected the light they received in creation.

This imputation (or the crediting of one's account) was the reason Jesus came as the last Adam. Paul compared the work of the first Adam to that of the last Adam, Jesus Christ. Instead of bringing death and condemnation, Jesus merited life and justification for those who would receive the gift of His righteousness. This helps us understand the gospel: (1) Adam's sin was imputed to us; (2) our sin was imputed to Jesus; and (3) the righteousness Jesus earned was imputed to us.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-24, we come to understand that both Adam and Jesus are representative figures. One (Adam) involves the race in guilt and ruin, and the other, (Jesus) by His obedience unto death, secured the justification and salvation of all who believe in Him. The condition of the human race throughout history confirms the same. This is the only adequate explanation of the universal prevalence of sin.

Galatians 3:10-14 tells us that Jesus was "made a curse for us": as the substitute for His people, He was judicially placed under the condemnation of the law. Our guilt was legally transferred to Him: the sins we committed, He was regarded as responsible for; what we deserved, He endured. In the same way, Adam's offspring were "made sinners" by their head's disobedience: the legal consequences of their representative's transgression were charged to their account. They were judicially declared guilty because the guilt of Adam's sin was charged to them. We enter this world not only having been given a corrupt nature, but "under condemnation."

Follow Up Question

How does an understanding of the headship of Adam and Jesus help you understand the gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.