

Adam and Christ: Comparison and Contrasts
A Diagram of Romans 5:12, 15-19

**If this is true
of all who are in Adam...**



**...Then this is “much more” true
of all who are in Christ!**

Comparison Begun (5:12)

“Adam... was a type of the one who was to come” (5:14b ESV)

Vs. 12	As and so	Adam → sin entered world → death entered world all sin → all die	...	[unfinished thought]
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Contrasts Clarified (5:15-17)

“The free gift is not like the trespass” (5:15a ESV)

Vs. 15	If	one man's trespass → <u>death</u> → many	then much more	one man Christ → <u>grace and its gift</u> → many
Vs. 16		<u>one</u> trespass → <u>judgment</u> → <u>condemnation</u>	but	<u>many</u> trespasses → <u>free gift</u> → <u>justification</u>
Vs. 17	If	Adam's trespass → <u>death reigned</u>	then much more	Christ → grace and its gift of righteousness → <u>we reign in life</u>

Comparison Concluded (5:18-19)

Vs. 18	As	one man's trespass → condemnation → <u>all men</u>	so	one man's righteousness → justification and life → <u>all men</u>
Vs. 19	As	one man's disobedience → <u>many</u> made sinners	so	one man's obedience → <u>many</u> made righteous

Observations:

- Paul's purpose in this passage is to convince the Roman Christians that they have absolutely no reason to fear wrath to come (see 5:9-11).
- Paul knows the effect of Adam's sin is blatantly obvious, undeniable, and comprehensive. He says Christ's work produced an equally certain and comprehensive effect. (Can you believe it? Think of specific effects of Adam's sin in your life and then imagine how Christ will change those aspects of your life. Invite Christ to begin that work now. “Exult in God” [5:11] because Christ will fully save you [5:10].)
- As Adam most certainly brought death, so Christ most certainly brings eternal life. Therefore, the Romans have no need to fear coming wrath.
- The comparison between Adam and Christ is the primary point (Christ's effect is *equally certain and comprehensive*). The contrasts are secondary, to avoid misunderstanding and to emphasize the glory of Christ's gracious work (Christ's effect is *different*).

