

# Representation

## Romans 5:12-21

- What is representation?

An activity that stands as an equivalent of something or results in an equivalent

OR

The act of representing; standing in for someone or some group and speaking with authority in their behalf

**Verse 12** – Paul begins his sentence but stops. He begins to make a comparison between Adam and Christ, but gets sidetracked. He makes the comparison in verses 18-19.

Paul is pointing out the result of Adam's sin and finding us guilty. We are guilty because Adam went to bat for us and struck out. All hope for remaining sinless went out the window before we were born. We may not like this method of representation, but it is also the means by which our precious Savior bought us.

Other places that reference representation are Isaiah 53:10-12, 1 Cor 15:21-22,45, Eph 1

**Verse 15** – [but the gift is not like the trespass.] Paul's main point is NOT to say that Adam represents mankind and brings them down, but Christ represents believers and brings them back up. It is to show Jesus as the wonderful representative that he is. In fact, Adam is just a springboard that Paul uses to get where he wants to go. It is not Paul intention to teach on Adam representing us. He merely uses Adam as a step upward to get to Jesus.

Another reason Jesus is greater comes from the "how much more."

He gives us more than we lost in Adam! Jesus is greater than Adam in His personhood. How much more wonderful is Christ than Adam since He is the very uncreated being who made Adam! And so is this true of His gift.

*To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly. God's power in creating is evident; because He needs no instruments to work with; He can work without tools; because He needs no matter to work upon; He creates matter, and then works upon it.*

Thomas Watson

(Jesus as Creator – John 1:3, Colossians 1:16)

**Verse 16** – Again Paul focuses on the contrast between Adam and Christ. The results of their "work" are drastically different. He contrasts what Adam's work gave us (condemnation/damnation) with what Jesus work gives us (forgiveness and a new heart). Notice that Paul has more than just Adam's sins in mind. He states that Jesus' gift of forgiveness followed many sins.

**Verse 17** – What does it mean to “reign in life” through Jesus?

**Verse 18** – Paul likens Adam’s eating the forbidden fruit to Jesus’ death. He makes a one to one correlation between the two. Therefore, while it was necessary for Jesus to live a perfect life as a qualification, it was solely his death on the cross that purchased forgiveness and righteousness for you.

**Verse 19** – This sums up what Paul is saying about representation in a general fashion. Adam’s disobedience caused many people (all, in fact) to be made sinners and likewise Jesus’ obedience caused many people (all believers, in fact) to be made righteous.

How should knowing that Adam represented you unto death, but Christ now represents you to life everlasting make you feel?

So what? In other words, what difference will this truth make in your life?

What effect will it have upon your marriage/friendships? When you are still and silent and the untended worries that gnaw at your conscience come, will Christ’s representation have any consequence upon them? Is Jesus’ representing you on the cross a motivator for following in his footsteps?