

## How We Got Here (5:12)

5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...*

### Genesis Foundation to Biblical Theology

- Death is not natural. According to Genesis, death is God’s punishment for sin.

### Original Sin and You

- By being children of Adam and Eve, all humanity has an unavoidable sin nature – to be a sinner is in all of our “spiritual DNA.”<sup>1</sup> Adam’s sin infected us all with a sin nature, so that we all freely choose to violate God’s Law.
- We’ve seen this already in Paul’s letter to the Romans: “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (3:23).

### The Consequences of Sin

#### Physical Death

- Adam’s punishment (and ours) for violating God’s will was that he would die (Genesis 3:19). This was the undoing of 2:7. We were given bodies to glorify God; when our bodies are not used for that purpose for which they were created, God claims right of repossession.

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<sup>1</sup> “Through the temptation of Satan man [Adam] transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity [us!] inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation” (Baptist Faith & Message 2000, III). The BF&M2000 teaches an “age of accountability” (see Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:15, and compare with Genesis 2:17). In other words, babies miscarried and infants/young children who die, though they have Adam’s sin nature, are preserved by the Lord. READ Genesis 5:1-3. In whose image was Adam made? In whose image was Seth begotten?

- The inevitability of physical death has a profound effect on many people, from sinning as much as possible in this life (Isaiah 22:13// 1 Corinthians 15:32) to obsessions over resisting aging to “mid-life” crises in which people make foolish financial/relationship decisions. This fear of death is enslavement, a tool of the devil. Jesus came to free us from this: READ Hebrews 2:14,15.
- In his letter to the Philippians, Paul makes the striking statement, “*for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*” (1:21). He says that “*to depart*” is “*to be with Christ,*” which “*is very much better*” (1:23). Christ, and the eternal life in Him, is infinitely better than all this present life has – may we continually grow in the faith that believes and confesses this!

### Spiritual Death

- In the garden in Eden, God forbid Adam and Eve from eating “*from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...for in the day [they ate] from it,*” it was promised that they would “*surely die*” (Genesis 2:17). Despite this, they didn’t drop dead after Genesis 3:6.
- Separation from a right relationship with God is a separation from the Source of true life.
- Hell (eternal separation from God in torment) is the reality of this spiritual death. READ Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 14:10,11.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Those who reject the Gospel “*will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*” (2 Thessalonians 1:9). “*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights*” (James 1:17). Being cut off from the Source of all good in hell means that even memories of this life will be stripped of their goodness, since He is the Source.

## **Objection: How Could We Know About Sin?!?!?!?**

### **The Law Tells Us What Sin Is (5:13)**

5:13...*for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

- The Law exists to clearly identify what God regards as sin (Romans 7:7; 1 John 3:4). Between the Fall of humanity (Genesis 3) and the giving of the Law (Exodus 20), however, it would seem that humanity couldn't know what God expected. How could He count people guilty, then? (This is like the modern question: how can God send people to Hell who have never heard the Gospel?)
- As a side note: human beings do not define sin – that is God's prerogative alone. All sin is ultimately against Him since He is the Lawgiver and alone is righteousness and holiness.

### **People Still Died Without the Law (5:14a)**

5:14a...*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses...*

- The great refrain of Genesis 5 is “*and he died*” (7 times).
- “*...the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). Though there was no written Law to condemn, humanity still suffered death (the wages of violating God's Law).

### **Not Adam's Sin, But Sinners Like Adam (5:14b)**

5:14b...*even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him Who was to come.*

- Adam had sinned in clear violation to God's commandment (Genesis 2:17; 3:6,17), and so those who sin without knowing the Law of God as contained in Scripture did not sin “*in the likeness of the offense of Adam.*” Nonetheless, people were still sinners and still paid the price for that sin – death.
- People were – and are – still guilty, even apart from the clear revelation of God's Word. Why? God has made Himself known in the creation (Romans 1:20,21) and the human conscience (which He created, Romans 2:12-16). They have enough knowledge of

God and His will for His creation that they are guilty before Him.

- “*...Adam...is a type of Him Who was to come.*” Adam, as head of the human family, affected us all with his sin.<sup>3</sup> Christ, as the second Adam and head of a new humanity, affects all in Him by faith with life.

*“...since by a man [Adam] came death,  
by a man [Jesus Christ] also came  
the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ all will be made alive.”*

1 Corinthians 15:21,22

*“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life;  
he who believes in Me will live  
even if he dies [physical death],  
and everyone who lives and believes in Me  
will never die [spiritual death]...”*

John 11:25,26

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<sup>3</sup> “Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them whereby death came upon all: all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. They being the root, and by God's appointment, standing in the room and stead of all mankind, the guilt of the sin was imputed, and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation [that's **us!**], being now conceived in sin, and by nature children of wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects of death, and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus set them free” (1689 Baptist Confession, 6.2,3).