

ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

May 26 & 29, 2022
Week 14: Two Families

There are only two kinds of people in the world:

- The family of _____ by natural birth
- The family of _____ by spiritual rebirth

This is the Biblical doctrine of _____

"It means that we are so vitally connected with the first father of the human race that before we had committed a single individual sin, we were corporately sinners in Adam. The good news is that even though sin and death came through the Federal Headship of Adam....much more righteousness came through the Federal Headship of Christ. This gift of grace is in harmony with numerous Scriptures." (John Best, Th.D., Romans 5-8:16 Commentary and Study Notes, Research Edition, p. 43)

Romans 5:12

The Bible reveals the following about SIN:

- 1) There are _____ (lower-case "s" which are the individual acts of sin we commit)
- 2) There is _____ (capital "S" which is the condition we inherited from Adam)

Romans 5:13-14

- Sin entered the world by one human (Adam)
- Death entered the world through *the* Sin
- Death spread to all humanity because...
- All sinned when Adam sinned

Romans 5:15-17

Grace does not produce weak, uncommitted Christians. Grace produces people who _____ in life!

Romans 5:18-21

The Law was given to _____ the gravity and ugliness of sin
Where sin increased, _____ increased all the more!

Titus 2:11-13

Grace does not mean that God is a lenient pushover. It means that the full justice of God was absorbed by Christ on our behalf, and that this same grace begins to teach us how to live in freedom from our sin!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. What is something you may have received by heredity from your family of origin (your dad, mom, grandparents, etc.)? Could be a physical trait, a habit, a character trait, etc... Are you glad about this heredity or does it bother you? Explain...

Ponderings:

2. How does the doctrine of "Federal Headship" sit with you...the idea that in Adam all sinned, but that in Christ, all can be made righteous? What are some of the criticisms you have heard (if any) about this teaching from Scripture? (As a review, see the quote from Dr. John Best on your message notes).
3. Some Christians seem to believe that we become sinners when we commit our first sin, but the Bible teaches that we commit sin because we are born sinners. Have you ever wrestled with this reality? Explain...
4. Since Scripture tells us that we sinned "in Adam" and are born into the world as sinners, some suggest that there is no way of knowing whether a person is saved if they die as a baby or small child. Other argue for an "age of accountability" that God applies to each individual in terms of being mentally and spiritual "able" to respond to the Gospel. What is your opinion? Please share respectfully, and feel free to include Scripture if possible...
5. Romans 5:20 says that the law was given so that the "trespass might increase" (be magnified). Can you think of some specific ways in which this is the case in our world today?
 - The verse continues by affirming that "where sin increased, grace increased all the more." Does this reality make you feel uncomfortable in any way? Can you see why Paul would be accused of "antinomianism" (lawlessness) by his critics? Explain...

Promptings:

6. Titus 2:11-12 tells us that the grace of God teaches us to live upright, holy lives. What are some specific examples or ways in which the grace of God has been your teacher? (Remember, grace is more than a doctrine.... it's a Person).
7. Pray for yourself, your family, your life group and Valley Church to experience the transformation of God's grace is such a way that holy (set apart) living would increase and Jesus would be more famous in our community as a result.

(P.S. you might want to briefly discuss what you think "holy living" actually looks like in the real world. Is it separatism? Is it prudishness? What does it mean to be "in but not of" the world?)