

Romans 5:12-21
New Covenant Presbyterian Sunday School
January 15, 2023

WSC Question 66: What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

Answer: The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

I. The First Adam

- A. Sin came into the world through Adam
 - 1. Original sin
 - 2. Actual sin
- B. Verse 12 is one of the most controversial verses in Romans
 - 1. It falls into a chiasmic structure
 - a. *Sin entered the world through one man*
 - b. *Death came through sin*
 - b. *Death came to all people*
 - a. *Because all people sinned*
 - 2. There is debate about whether "death" is spiritual or physical
 - 3. Moo and Morris conclude that it mainly refers here to spiritual death that results in physical death
 - 4. Paul attributes the death of all people to two reasons
 - a) V. 12- All die because all sinned
 - b) V. 18,19- all die because Adam sinned
- C. Paul views Adam as a representative of all humanity
 - 1. When Adam sinned, we all sinned in him
 - 2. Corporate solidarity

DQ: Does this way of thinking seem strange? Does corporate solidarity fit within the western mindset?

- D. Paul's detour in v. 13-14
 - 1. Paul knew that the Jews believed the law is an important part of salvation history
 - 2. He wants to be clear that the law did not make their situation better but worse
- E. Adam is a "pattern" or "type" (v. 14)

II. Christ, the Second Adam

- A. Paul compares the two “adams”
 1. The Hebrew *adam* means “human being”
 2. The first brought death and the second brought life

DQ: What does this passage contribute to arguments about the historicity of Adam?

- B. Paul uses four “just as...so also” statements to make his point
 1. V. 12- **Just as** sin and death came through Adam
 2. V18- **Just as** Adam brought condemnation...**so also** Christ brought justification and life
 3. V 19- **Just as** Adam made many sinners...**so also** Christ made many righteous
 4. V 21- **Just as** sin reigned in death...**so also** grace reigns leading to life
- C. These comparisons emphasize the certainty of salvation in Christ

DQ: Do these comparisons suggest universal salvation? Why or why not?

“All those who are in Adam die; similarly all those who are in Christ live. But whereas we are in Adam simply by virtue of being born, we are in Christ only by being born again.”
-Moo

Douglas Moo, Encountering the Book of Romans (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002, 2014.)

Leon Morris, The Epistle to the Romans, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.)