

## Romans 5:1-21

1. This chapter in the KJV starts with the word “therefore” it has been said that when the word therefore is used one should ask why it is there for.

Paul had painstakingly emphasised that righteousness is imparted to the recipient through faith and not works. By virtue of the by-product or fruit of faith, justification (just as if you had never sinned) is imparted to you the believer.

Because of this faith that takes a hold of justification we have every reason to be at peace with God. In our inconsistent and topsy-turvy world fellowship with God produces peace. This peace is not something we make or create; it is simply the result of a right relationship with God. God wants us to enjoy peace. This can only happen when we are in fellowship with Him.

Too many Christians lose fellowship with God and therefore lose their peace of mind. Have faith in God as an ongoing trust in Him and you are guaranteed peace.

What is peace? The cessation of war. Conflict of interest will rob you of peace. Faith lays claim to justification and justification produces fellowship with God followed by peace. Who gives us access to fellowship with God? The Lord Jesus Christ - Philippians 4:6-7.

- 2 This Grace or favour of God towards us is made possible through Christ Jesus. We must remain standing in this position of fellowship wherein lies our hope.

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**3-4** As believers we glory not only in fellowship with God but our hope is realised despite hardships and trials. We rejoice not only in grace and favour with God but difficulties and hardships forges our faith to overcome setbacks because trials produce hope. What is hope? An expectation. God assures us that the chain reaction of experiences can produce hope. Too often hope is not produced because we fail to glory or appreciate the value of trials.

5 A believer's hope is centred on the promises of God – hope should not bring shame or disappointment. Disappointments come as a result of failed promises.

6 As Christians we should be absolutely convinced that God's love is made available through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. This confirms that even while we were unbelievers, Christ's atoning sacrifice was made available to us. God has given us evidence of His love by sending Jesus our Lord to die for us.

**7-8** A person willing to die for a cause or for another person who is noble or good is the highest expression of human love. God's love contrasts with human love in both nature and degree, because God keeps on showing His love despite our rebellion and rejection. Although a few people will be prepared to die so that a good person can live, Christ went beyond that and died in the place of powerless and feeble sinners including His enemies.



**9-11** The participle translated have been justified - links these verses to the argument at the beginning of the chapter. The immediate connection is that God gave proof of His love by having Christ die for humans trapped in trespasses and sins. Because of the sinners' response to Christ by faith, God declares the believer righteous. Be assured that God has rescued the believer from wrath or judgement and condemnation. The same truth of justification by faith is now repeated producing reconciliation.

We were once enemies of God; now, through Christ, we are made family of God. Faith leads to justification, righteousness and reconciliation.

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These 3 achievements occur together at the same time, the very moment that we become persuaded and convinced of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

12 Jewish writers believed that a grain of evil seed was sown in Adam's heart when he sinned and that the consequence of his sin was passed on to the whole human race. Paul the apostle under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, borrows from these writers and the Old Testament record that death is the direct consequence of sin. The Jewish idea of solidarity meant that Jews did not see themselves as individuals but always as part of a clan. In some cultures when you ask people for their name, they give you their clan name. Paul portrays Adam not as an individual but as the source of humanity. If the source of the river is toxic, the river is toxic.

**13-14** Although sin existed before the Mosaic Law (law given to Moses) one can't condemn a person who breaks such a law but the consequences or effect of sin results in death even before the law was given.

**15-19** Paul now turns this negative solidarity concept into a positive consequence - if sin produces death, then Christ can produce life. If we become sinners through our connection with Adam, we can become saints and victors through Christ.

By the sin of Adam all human beings become sinners and were alienated from God. By the merits of Christ, all human beings may now be declared righteous and restored to fellowship with God. Paul states this more clearly in **1 Corinthians 15:21**.

Our connection with Adam is not optional anymore than our choice of parents but our union with Christ can either be accepted or rejected.

### 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

King James Version Bible

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ...

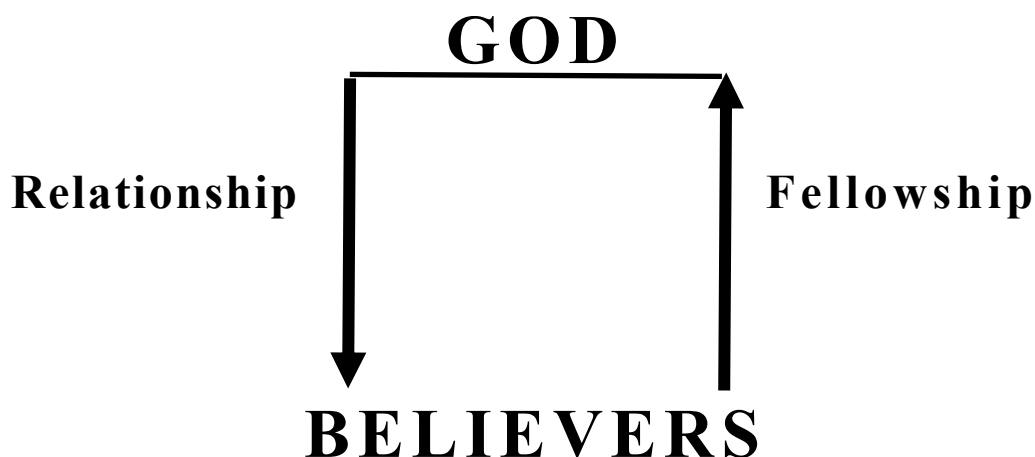
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**20-21** The Mosaic Law increased the guilt and made people more aware of their transgression and sinfulness. Wilful sin becomes wilful trespass. But where the law increased, so grace responded equally to the challenge and offered pardon and forgiveness.

### CONTRASTS BETWEEN ADAM AND CHRIST in ROMANS 5:15-21

<u>One Man (Adam)</u>	<u>One Man (Christ)</u>
v.15 <i>One man's trespass</i> → <i>Many</i> died	<i>One Man's</i> grace → <i>gift</i> of grace (righteousness) to many
v.16 <i>One</i> (Adam) → judgement and condemnation	<i>Many trespasses</i> → gift → justification
v.17 Through <i>one</i> man's <i>trespass</i> → death reigned	Through <i>one</i> Man Jesus Christ → believers reign in life
v.18 <i>One trespass</i> → condemnation for <i>all</i> men	<i>One</i> act of righteousness → Justification offered to <i>all</i> men
v.19 Disobedience of <i>one</i> → <i>many</i> constituted Sinners	Obedience of <i>One</i> → <i>many</i> constituted righteous
v.21 Sin reigned in death	Grace reigns to bring eternal life



Our **Relationship** is an act that God performs.

**Fellowship** is the responsibility of the Believer.