

Romans Lesson 4

Reading: Romans 5

Memory Verse: Romans 5:1

Definitions:

Condemnation – a guilty verdict, judgment

Access – admittance

After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMSL5n1U5f-ci1HN_dejYDkW6sIHCsUdZxFallC1qX-SYdtw/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMSL5n1U5f-ci1HN_dejYDkW6sIHCsUdZxFallC1qX-SYdtw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

In the first four chapters of Romans, Paul describes the despicable problem of sin and the solution to that sin problem – justification by faith. He emphasized that righteousness did not come by the law, but rather is shown through what God has done. Paul understood that the people in Rome had a tendency to mix their works and their church rituals into the message of justification. He wanted to make sure they got things straight.

New Standing

Now Paul goes a step further. At the moment we believe in Christ as our savior, we are immediately placed in a new standing (new position) in him. Once we stood under condemnation. Now we are without condemnation (Romans 8:1a). Once we stood in our own righteousness. Now we are standing in the righteousness of God. Our position now is in the risen Christ. We have access and acceptance before the throne of God through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our standing or position will never change. Paul wrote in Romans 5:2: *Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

Romans Lesson 4

Our standing gives us peace with God (5:1)

Only through Christ could peace (reconciliation) be made between a holy God and us - hopeless, helpless sinners.

Our standing is in grace (5:2)

Grace is God's unbounded kindness toward us, which we don't deserve, but He freely gives. If we had to do anything to earn our standing, then Grace would no longer be grace.

Some people might think grace is a one-time gift given to us only at the moment of salvation. But it goes so much further than that. We now stand in grace.

- We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- We are taught by God's grace (Titus 2:11-12)
- We are disciplined in God's grace (also Titus 2:11-12)
- We are glorified in grace (Ephesians 2:7)

Our standing includes eternal salvation (6:23)

We are secure because Jesus Christ is living in glory, and He is our intercessor (go-between) to God the father.

The two Adams

Not only do we have a new standing when we are saved, but also a new headship [the one who is first in line, the forerunner, the originator]. Paul writes that it was Adam who was first in line in the human race. Adam disobeyed God, and the entire human race fell into sin. Now everyone is born a sinner by nature. We have inherited Adam's fallen

Romans Lesson 4

nature and are under the control of sin. Adam was our head, and, because of his actions, we were born into a sinful race.

But now there is a second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has acted for all mankind. He has become our new head. The consequences of Adam's sin have been reversed (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Now Satan is a defeated enemy, and our sinful nature is crucified on the cross. But just as we were born into the family of Adam, we must be born into the family of God by the new birth. There is no shortcut. Every truly justified Christian is in and under a new headship - Christ. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17a).*

Faith in what Christ accomplished for you on the cross makes you righteous and his work for you changes your heart and life.

Buckle it in

If you are a Christian, you are under the headship of Christ. Do you reflect that relationship in the way you live? For instance, when your high school plays its biggest rival in football, you let everyone know which team you represent. You sit with your own cheering section, you scream and you might even dress in your school colors. No one has any doubt which team you represent. If you know Christ as your Savior, then he is your head. You are his representative. Your life should reflect your relationship with Him.

Being honest, how would you reflect Christ in the following situations?

- You are driving down the highway, and someone cuts in front of you.
- Finally, after four hours of work, you have the poster done for the school play. Your little sister walks by, trips, and spills a glass of grape juice on it.

Romans Lesson 4

- You can't believe it! Jessica has agreed to go to the concert with you. Then the very day of the date, you wake up with (of all things) the chickenpox!
- You've worked as hard as you ever have worked on a biology project. But the teacher gives you an undeserved low grade.

Project

Before we believed in Christ as Savior, Adam was our head. Now as Christians, Christ is our head. Below is a list of characteristics that were true when Adam was our head. Look up the corresponding verse and write how that characteristic has changed under the headship of Christ. Feel free to use your own words. All the verses are found in Romans chapter 5.

- Many died (v. 15)
- Judgment brought condemnation (v. 16)
- Death reigned through that one man (v. 17)
- One trespass was condemnation (v. 18)
- Many were made sinners (v. 19)