

## Romans 5:12-21 Structure

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Take a few moments to notice the structure of Romans 5:12-21 (NIV).

...

<sup>12</sup> Therefore,

just as **sin** entered the world through one man,  
and **death** through sin,  
and in this way **death** came to all people,  
because all **sinned**—

<sup>13</sup> To be sure,

sin was in the world before the law was given,  
but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses,  
even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a  
pattern of the one to come.

...

**Significance of the structure of these verses:** *Sin and death have formed a closed loop in which all humanity is trapped, but now in v.15 there begins a breakthrough. The grace of God and the righteousness of Jesus breaks through the closed loop and opens up the new, abundant and eternal life for humanity.*

...

<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass.

For if the many died  
by the trespass of the one man,  
how much more did God's grace and the gift  
that came by the grace of the **one man, Jesus Christ**, overflow to  
the many!

<sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin:

The **judgment** followed one sin  
and brought **condemnation**,  
but the **gift** followed many trespasses  
and brought **justification**.

<sup>17</sup> For if, by the **trespass** of the one man,  
**death** reigned through that one man,

how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

<sup>18</sup> Consequently,

just as one **trespass** resulted  
in **condemnation** for all people,  
so also one **righteous act**  
resulted in **justification** and life for all people.

<sup>19</sup> For just as

through the **disobedience** of the one man  
the many were made **sinners**,  
so also through the **obedience** of the one man  
the many will be made **righteous**.

<sup>20</sup> The law was brought in

so that the trespass might increase.  
But where sin increased,  
grace increased all the more,

<sup>21</sup> so that,

just as sin **reigned** in death,  
so also grace might **reign**  
through righteousness to bring eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.