

Guilt vs. Grace!

Key Scriptures

Rom. 5:12-21 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What are some of your favorite songs you can think of that take you to memories in your past? Do you have vivid memories?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What are some of the things Paul says that refutes the notion that a person receives salvation by faith, but then must preserve it by good works? What evidences does he give that salvation is unconditional (you may also want to look back to vv 1-12).
- John MacArthur noted "Jesus Christ broke the power of sin and death, but the converse is not true. Sin and death cannot break the power of *Jesus Christ. The condemnation of Adam's sin is reversible, the redemption of Jesus Christ is not.*" Where do you see this in our text?
- A doctor once told a hurting patient, "Don't worry. I've got way more medicine than you've got pain." How does this illustrate the truth expressed in 5:20? What is significant about this concept?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Kyle mentioned John Acuff's book "Soundtracks" to illustrate the kinds of thoughts we have, and how they influence us. In what ways can you find help in this passage to play new and fresh "soundtracks" in your thoughts?
- What soundtracks have you been playing in your mind that you need to retire?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Which thoughts do you need to dismiss and retire? What true and positive thoughts will you use to replace them with? Make sure you place the gospel in the center of these new thoughts.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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