

## Sin Imputation

Romans 5:12-19

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's -transgression-, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

The Amplified Bible says,

13 [To be sure] sin was in the world before ever the Law was given, but sin is not charged to men's account where there is no law [to transgress].

14 Yet death held sway from Adam to Moses [the Lawgiver], even over those who did not themselves -transgress- [a positive command] as Adam did. Adam was a type (prefigure) of the One Who was to come [in reverse, the former destructive, the Latter saving].

Hosea 6:7 ASV

But they like Adam have -transgressed- the covenant:

The emphasis of this message is in Romans 5:13, and expresses the principle that "sin is not imputed when there is no law". I have read many commentators, and virtually all of them say in one way or another, that the imputation of sin started with the Law Of Moses.

You know, my mentor Andrew Wommack says regularly, ain't nobody saying this but me. That is the same thing that Elijah said. Yet, in Andrew's case I've checked the records, and in Andrew's case I am convinced that it is true. At the time that he began saying certain things, there wasn't anybody else saying it but him. You know, that is a dangerous position to be in. When nobody else is saying something except you, most likely the reason why nobody else is saying it, is because it is wrong. If it is true, and nobody else is saying it as far as you know, then that is a rahma word from the Lord. After all, where did you get it from. What I am about to say about Romans 5:13, I am persuaded is a rahma word from the Lord.

This is a principle which started back in Adam's day. The bible says these things are written for our learning. We say the Old is in the New explained. The explanation of this principle is, this principle started back in Adam's day, continued through Mose's day when the law said the sins of the father is visited unto the children to the third and fourth generation, and ended with Jesus's righteousness being imputed to us.

As I have said, verse 13 states in part that "sin is not imputed when there is no law" to transgress. This verse is often interpreted by many commentators to mean that before the law of Moses, if a man committed a sin, up to and including killing another man, God did not hold it against the offender, because there was no law against the transgression of murder. I strongly disagree with this analysis.

First and foremost we know that there must therefore have been a law when Adam sinned before the law of Moses, because sin, (inherited sin), was then imputed when Adam transgressed the law and sinned. The KJV, AMP, and the ASV make it clear that Adam did transgress a law. Therefore the law that verse 13 is talking about is the law of God, (do not eat), and not the law of Moses. The text makes it clear that in order for imputation of sin to occur there has to be a law in place. The scripture makes it clear that imputation of sin first occurred during Adam's day. Sin, hereditary sin, was charged to men's account when Adam transgressed the law of God.

Therefore, it is the law to Adam that the text is referring to. Any logic that we advance, that negates this obvious truth, is a straight uphill climb with no relief. I strongly suggest that we exert our mental energies trying to think how might this obvious truth agree with all of scripture rather than the converse.

The text might very well read, for until the law {of Moses} sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no {law of God, law of Moses, or law written on our hearts}, that is no law anywhere. We know this usage of "law of God" is correct because, sin was imputed when Adam sinned. Therefore, there must have been a law at that time. Actually, the text is saying the opposite of what you might think the premise is saying. Let us state the premise in the positive instead of the negative, and change some things around which we seem to be having a problem with. The text might read. "In order for the imputation of sin to occur, there has to be a law in place. Nevertheless, sin was in the world before the law of Moses." We might ask how was sin in the world before the law of Moses, if there was no law of Moses. The answer is suddenly obvious. Before the law of Moses, there was a law of God, which was the cause of the imputation of sin.

To that end, these verses explain our righteousness as a result of what Jesus did. In discussing this topic, it contrasts our righteousness with Adam's sin. In discussing sin, verse 13 uses the concept of imputation of sin. It explains that the imputation of sin is parallel with the imputation of righteousness. Lets first look at the definition of imputation.

In the Bible Dictionary imputation is used to designate any action or word or thing as reckoned to a person. Thus in doctrinal language;

(1) the sin of Adam is imputed to all his descendants, i.e., it is reckoned as theirs, and they are dealt with therefore as guilty;

(2) the righteousness of Christ is imputed to them that believe in him, or so attributed to them as to be considered their own; and

(3) our sins are imputed to Christ, i.e., he assumed our place, answered the demands of justice for our sins. In all these cases the nature of imputation is the same.

The dictionary explains that in Romans 5 the nature of imputation is the same whether if the imputation of sin or the imputation of righteousness. Let's look a little further to see what natures of imputation are available.

To count something to somebody means to reckon something to a person, to put to his account, either in his favor or for what he must be answerable. When something is counted to somebody for something, it denotes that it is imputed to the person in a substitutionary manner.

Imputation is "to count, reckon", namely, unrighteousness (whether one's own or another's) to one's discredit; or righteousness (whether one's own or another's) to one's credit whether in man's account or in the judgment book of God.

According to the dictionary the nature of imputation in Romans 5 is the same, whether we are talking about imputation of sin or imputation of righteousness. Furthermore, imputation can be the result of our own sin or righteousness, or someone else's sin or righteousness. Clearly, the nature of righteousness in the text, is someone else's righteousness. Therefore, far more likely than not, the text is talking about someone else's sin. That is Adam's sin, inherited sin. In Romans 4 and 5 the concept of imputation is mentioned maybe as many as 10 times. Clearly, every time except one time in Romans 5:13, we agree that the text is talking about counting to another person's account, either sin or righteousness. It is only in Romans 5:13 that the idea of counting to one's own account or personal sin. is interpreted by some. I submit to you that the idea of counting sin to another person's account is what Romans 5:13 is addressing. Otherwise the principle, where there is no law there is no imputation goes array. Now, let us examine how the text could make sense if the imputation of sin is someone else's sin in Romans 5:13.

For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Exodus 20:5; 34:7.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

This is an example of imputation of sin after the law of Moses. This sin is credited to someone else's account. The text is saying that this type of imputation would not have been just if there was no law to the father. Thus this would not have occurred before the law of Moses, because there was no law of Moses. Nevertheless, the imputation of sin, or inherited sin was visited upon men before the law of Moses due to Adam breaking the law of God (do not eat). If there had not been a law to Adam, there would not have been an imputation of sin to us as a result of the sins of Adam. This is the heart of the text, "sin is not imputed when there is no law".

Crediting or charging sin to someone else's account, is a unique definition of imputation. Does, imputation here in Romans 5:13, refer to sin being charged to the account of the person committing the sin, often called personal sins. Does it refer to sin being charged to someone else's account, often called inherited sin. Finally, does imputation here refer to both, the account of the person committing the sin as well as someone else's account, that is personal and inherited

sins. I submit that the context makes it clear that imputation here refers to if there was no law to Adam, there would not have been any inherited sin as a result of the law to Adam. It does not refer to personal sins, as a result of the Law Of Moses. It does not say that if there was no law to us by the law of Moses, there would not be any imputation of personal sins. The erroneous interpretation that if there was no Law Of Moses, personal sins would not be charged to men's account, comes from the reference of the Law Of Moses in verse 14. The usage of the word sin does not necessarily mean all sin, inherited and personal, known and unknown, high-handed and unknown. The meaning is derived from the text.

This concept that the sins of one man is charged to the account of another proceeds from the understanding that, of course it is just to charge sin to the account of the person committing the sin. We do not need to be told that that is true. However, the point that the text is making is that, it is unjust to charge sin to the account of someone that he represents if there is no law to the person committing the sin. It is unjust to charge sin to the account of the son if there is no law to the father, if there is no high-handed sin. This principle, proceeds in part from the principle that, when there is a law to transgress, violation or transgression of the law constitutes an, in your face, or high-handed sin attitude. This, in your face attitude, does not exist when the sin is unknown, uncertain, by accident or manslaughter. So the concept indicates a difference between high-handed sin and unknown sin. This difference was also brought out by the fact that there was no personal sin offering for high-handed sin in the Old Testament.

Furthermore, Romans 2:12-14 focuses on God dealing with our personal sins before the law of Moses or during the patriarchal dispensation. It makes it clear that personal sin was charged to our account before the law of Moses. It goes on to say that God is justified in charging our personal sins to our account, "you are without excuse old man", because we have the law written on our hearts. The undisputable evidence of the fact that the law is written on our hearts is; we accuse others when they steal, kill and rape us, then we try to excuse ourselves when we do the same thing to them, just because there is no law. This is often categorized as getting off on a technicality. Therefore, we are inexcusable and will be judged accordingly. Our personal sins will be charged to our account whether or not there is a written or spoken law. After all, God counted sin to men's account before the law of Moses.

While all in every generation have sinned, verse 14 shows that only the patriarchal dispensation is under consideration here. We know that during the time between Adam and Moses there were laws from God to which men were accountable, laws written on their hearts as well as direct positive commands. Others besides Adam, had positive laws during the patriarchal age. Where there is no law sin is not imputed. There must therefore have been a law during that period, because sin (inherited sin) was then imputed when Adam sinned. There must therefore have been a law during that period, because sin (personal sin) was then imputed when Cain slew Able. Cain was inexcusable even though he lacked a formal written law. Cain violated a moral law of God and killed Abel. God had warned him to deal with his feelings against Abel, for, as he said, "sin croucheth at the door". Cain also violated God's laws concerning worship and sacrifice, which

came directly from the mouth of God, just as God's law to Adam did. God destroyed Sodom because of the sins of men before the Law Of Moses. God destroyed the whole world because he charged our personal sins to our account, before the law of Moses. Any word spoken by God is law. God spoke to men directly and moral laws were written on our hearts. We are without excuse.

We have to be careful, how we build a doctrine around Romans 5:13. Which of us would say that God was unjust for charging sin to Cains's account and thus judging him. We would most assuredly be incorrect. After all in addition to punishing Cain with a punishment that was more than he could bear, God destroyed the whole world because of the personal sins of men before the law of Moses. Therefore, how can we say that "sin is not imputed when there is no law" means personal sins were not charged to men before the law of Moses.