

# Our Position in Christ



***Soteriology: God's Rescue Program***

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

**Do we teach about our  
position in Christ today?**

**Not much.**

**Instead, we emphasize...**



**Self Esteem**

# THE LADDER OF SELF ESTEEM

**YES, I DID IT!**



I WILL DO IT

I CAN DO IT



I'LL TRY TO DO IT

HOW DO I DO IT?

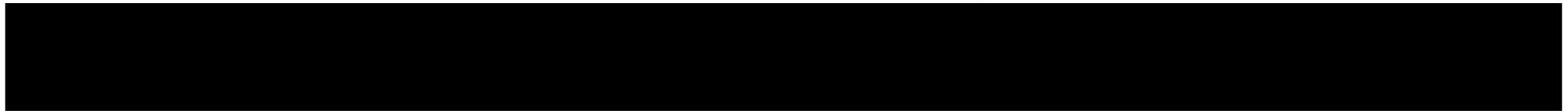


I WANT TO DO IT

I CAN'T DO IT



I WON'T DO IT



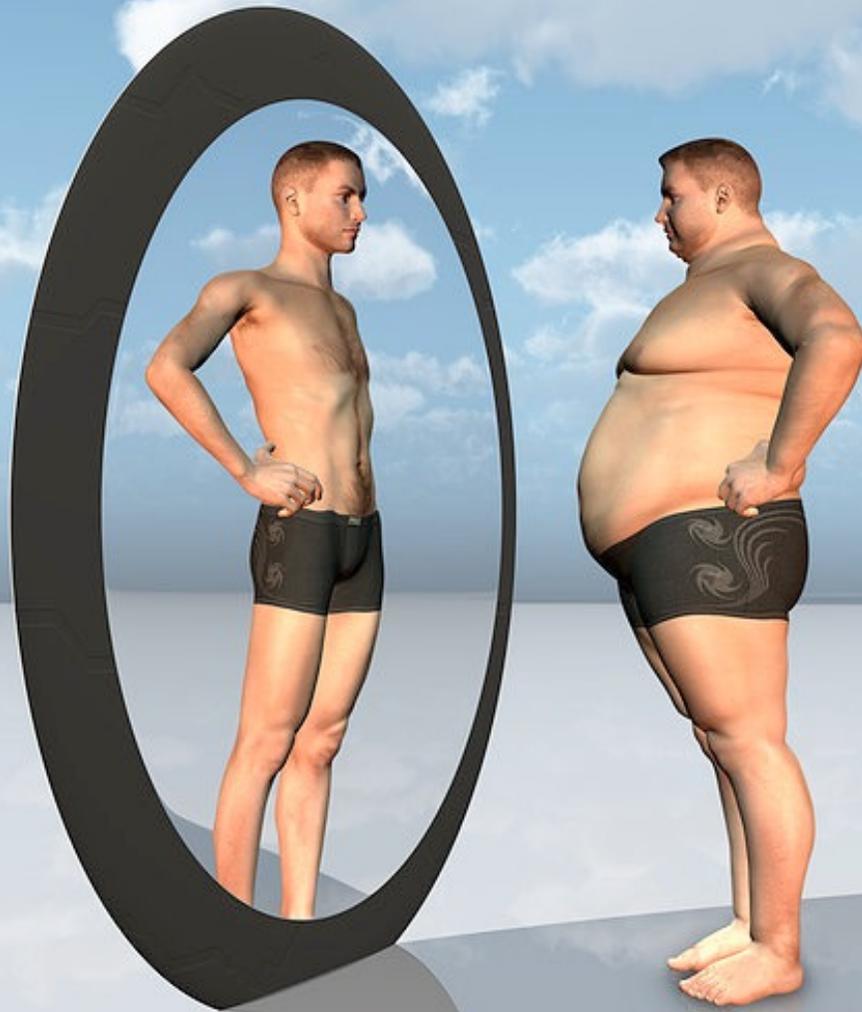
# Self Esteem



# Self Esteem



# High Self Esteem



# Low Self Esteem



**“Everyone gets a trophy.”**



# Believe in Yourself



**Believe in  
yourself**



# Believe in Yourself



# Your Identity in Christ



# Your Identity in Christ



# Your Identity in Christ

## Who Am I?

Identity in Christ

Jerry Bridges

Cruciform Press



# **Our Identity in Christ**



**The Riches of Grace  
in Christ Jesus  
(33 Divine Accomplishments in  
and for the Sinner  
upon Believing on the Lord  
Jesus Christ)**

**by Lewis S. Chafer**

# **Our Identity in Christ**



- 1. In the Eternal Plan of God**
- 2. Reconciled**
- 3. Redeemed**
- 4. Related to God Through a Propitiation (the satisfaction of God's holiness)**
- 5. All Sins Covered by Atoning Blood**
- 6. Vitally Joined together with Christ for Judgment of the "Old Man" Unto a New Walk**
- 7. Free from the Law**
- 8. Children of God**
- 9. Adopted (placed as adult sons)**
- 10. Acceptable to God by Jesus Christ**

# **Our Identity in Christ**



- 11. Justified**
- 12. Forgiven All Trespass**
- 13. Made Nigh (Drawn Near)**
- 14. Delivered from the Powers of Darkness**
- 15. Translated into the Kingdom**
- 16. On the Rock Christ Jesus**
- 17. A Gift from God the Father to Christ**
- 18. Circumcised in Christ**
- 19. Partakers of the Holy and Royal Priesthood**
- 20. A Chosen Generation and a Peculiar People**
- 21. Having Access to God**
- 22. Within the "Much More" Care of God**



# **Our Identity in Christ**

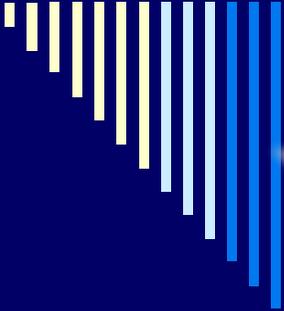
- 23. His Inheritance**
- 24. Our Inheritance**
- 25. A Heavenly Association**
- 26. Heavenly Citizens**
- 27. Of the Family and Household of God**
- 28. Light in the Lord**
- 29. Vitally United to the Father, Son, and Spirit**
- 30. Blessed with the "First-Fruits" and the "Earnest"  
of the Spirit**
- 31. Glorified**
- 32. Complete in Him**
- 33. Possessing Every Spiritual Blessing**

# Romans 5

***Righteousness through  
imputation gives assurance***

# RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ROMANS

Theme	Needed	Provided	Imparted	Proved	Applied	Disseminated
Intro 1:1-17	Condemnation 1:18– 3:20	Justification 3:21– 5:21	Sanctification 6–8	Election 9–11	Transformation 12:1– 15:13	Propagation 15:14– 16:27
Start	Sin	Salvation	Set Apart	Sovereignty	Service	Send



# A VERSE TO REMEMBER

**"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us"**

**Romans 5:1**

**When did death come into  
the world?**

**Small Group**

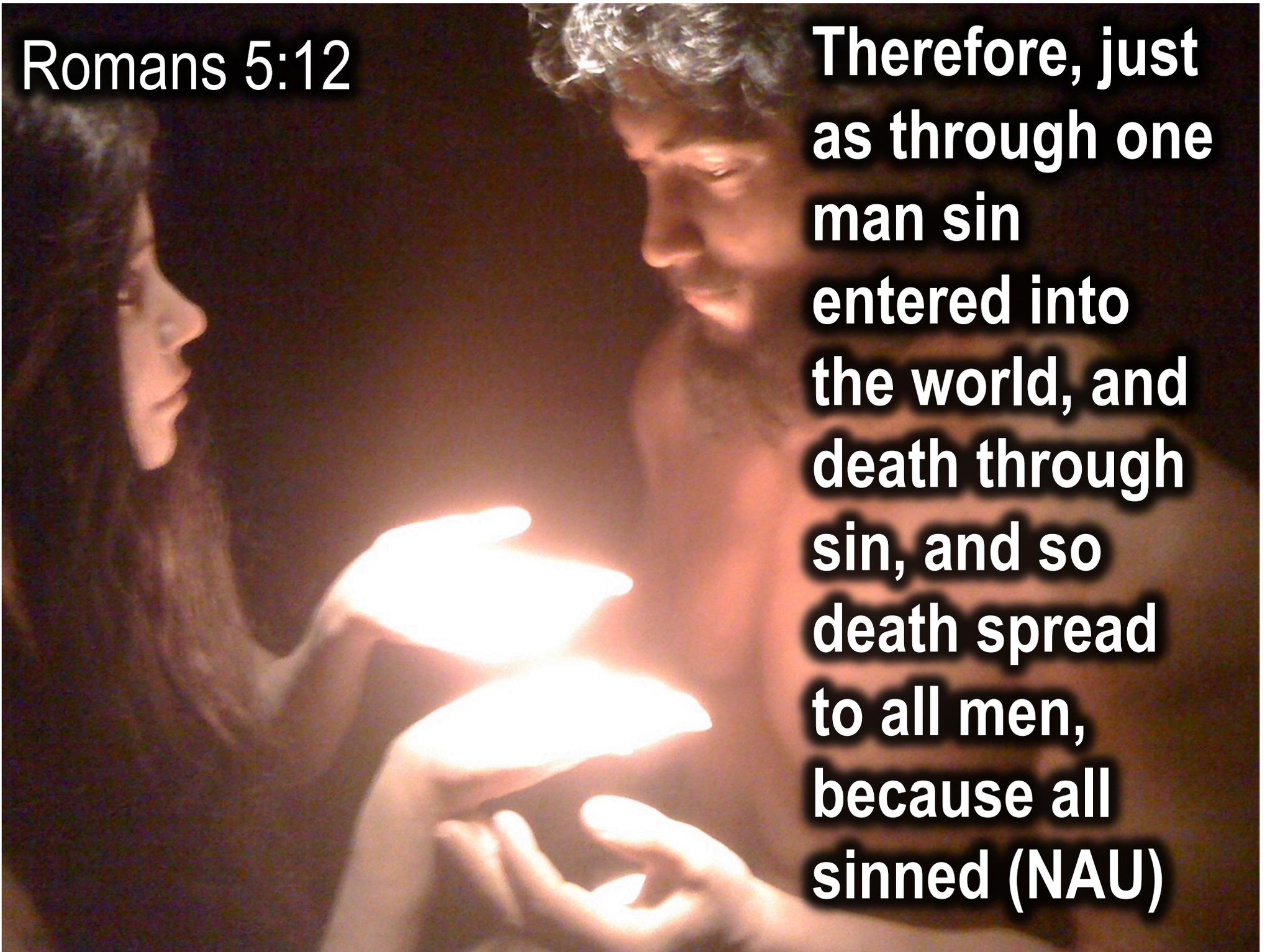
**Question:**

**Did death exist  
before the Fall?**



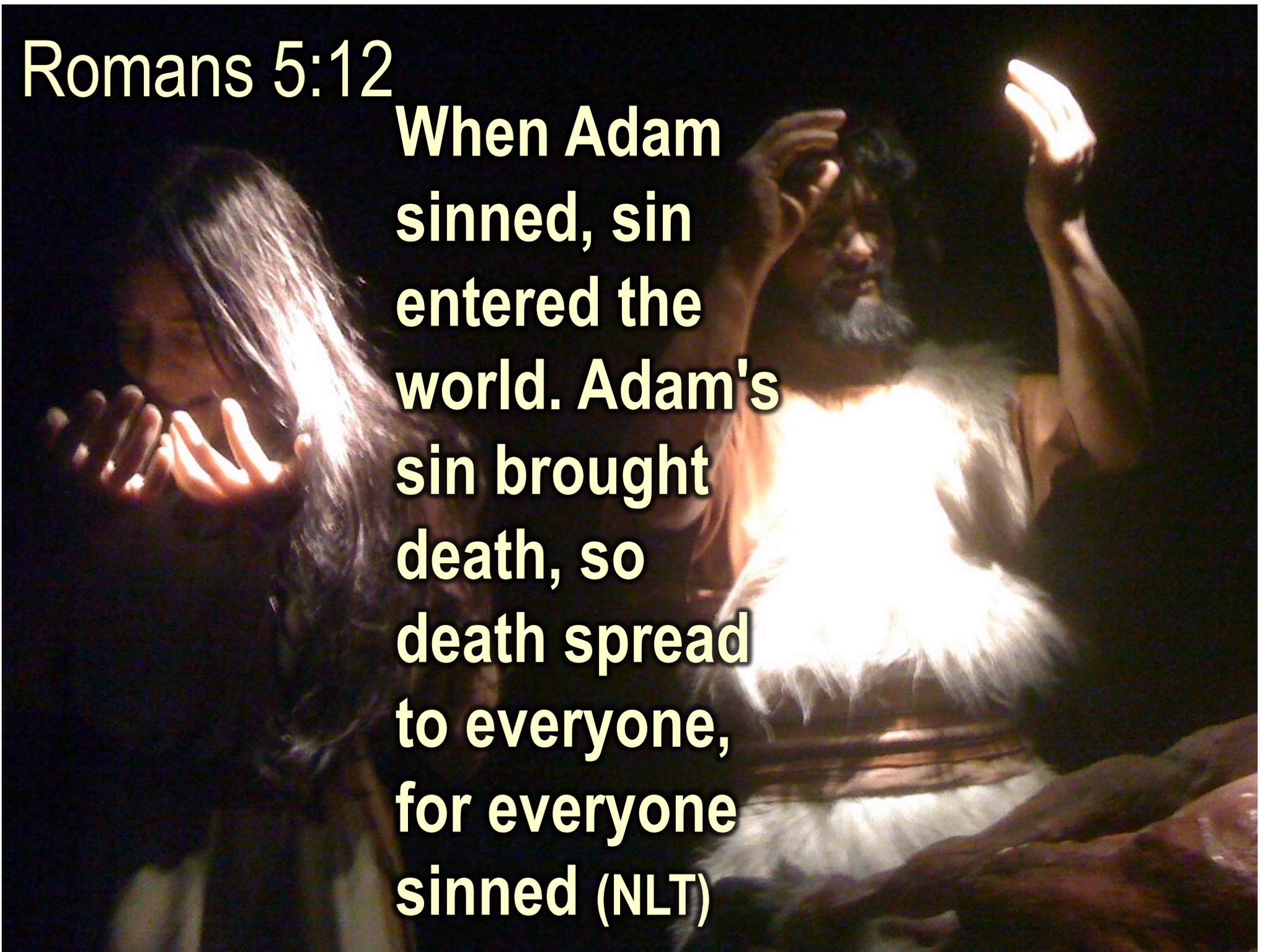
Romans 5:12

**Therefore, just  
as through one  
man sin  
entered into  
the world, and  
death through  
sin, and so  
death spread  
to all men,  
because all  
sinned (NAU)**



Romans 5:12

**When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned (NLT)**



# Results of Sin

- Shame: "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings"  
(Gen. 3:7; cf. 2:25 NAU)
- Separation from God: Adam hid in the Garden (Gen. 3:8)
- Death: "In the day you eat from it, you shall die" (Gen. 2:17 NAU)

# Born Innocent?

THE STRAITS TIMES THURSDAY / OCTOBER 29 2009

Many psychologists believe so!

MICA (P)191/1

MIND  
*your*  
BODY

Your Life. Live it well.

## Born innocent

Experiences, environment and society will shape a child's perception of what is right and wrong

pages 12-15



# Born Innocent?

BORN INNOCENT

MIND  
your  
BODY



Cover Story

## Good kid, Bad kid

Children are inherently innocent, psychiatrists and psychologists believe. However, when do children become aware that certain of their actions are deviant or even evil?

"Children are born innocent. Their experiences, environment and society will shape the way they interpret and understand their surroundings and what they think is right or wrong," said Ms Silvia Fontanella, a psychologist at VA Psychology Centre.

Because of this strongly accepted belief in the inherent innocence of children, the recent case of a nine-year-old boy described as "fixated on sex" caught the media and the public's attention.

Two weeks ago, The Straits Times reported the court case of a 37-year-old tutor convicted of allowing the boy to perform oral sex on him on five occasions.

The boy was described in court as "hyper-sexualised".

He is not alone in exhibiting behaviour that society would normally not associate with children. In a famous 1993 case, two-year-old toddler Jamie Bulger was found to have been

abducted and murdered by two 10-year-old boys in northern England.

Last year in Singapore, 1,892 children between the ages of seven and 15 were arrested for criminal acts ranging from theft to rioting.

People are often shocked to read or learn about children committing crimes. Referring to this, Ms Geraldine Tan, a child psychologist at the Centre for Effective Living, said: "That is because it is not pleasant to read about it."

"Every such report is a learning point for society, teachers and parents that something went wrong and that something needs to be done."

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Children are born innocent, but what makes some turn to criminal acts? Experts say kids learn what is right or wrong through their experiences, environment and societal influences



### Newborn to 3 years old

Adjunct Associate Professor John Wong, a senior consultant at the department of psychological medicine at National University Hospital, said that there are two important systems of values children must pick up - that of justice and that of care and concern for others.

He said: "For the majority of children under three years old, the value system of care will come first. The concept of justice comes later when the child is exposed to a group

milieu or a structured environment like the schooling system."

Ms Vanessa von Aue, clinic director of VA Psychology Centre, added that children under three years old understand basic messages like "mummy is mad" or "I should stop this behaviour". However, they do not possess higher order thinking skills like taking on another person's point of view or the ability to solve problems.

She said: "They tend to imitate parents, so role-modelling acceptable behaviours is of utmost importance during these years."

For kids under

3

years old, the value system of care comes first

□ The article itself contrasts children (not babies!)

# Born Innocent?

and kid

Children are born innocent, but what makes some turn to criminal acts? Experts say kids learn what is right or wrong through their experiences, environment and societal influences



## 7 to 9 years old

From the ages of seven to nine, children become more socially aware and understand the basic rights of others as well as social mores.

The Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, who was the first to make a systematic study of the acquisition of understanding in children, noted that children under 10 years old believe that rules are cast in stone and that since these are governed by adults, they cannot be changed.

But this begs the question: How are they to know these rules are right or wrong?

Ms von Auer said: "They learn what is right or wrong through testing

boundaries and experiencing consequences."

Dr Adrian Wang, a consultant psychiatrist at Dr Adrian Wang Psychiatric & Counselling Care, said: "Children can be taught what is right or wrong from a young age.

"You can teach them values like the need to share when they are as young as two. As they grow older, they will test the limits and you need to keep reminding them what the boundaries are."

He added that peers and the media will influence kids more and more so they need the right guidance. It is important that parents be consistent in their behaviour and language.

## 10 to 12 years old

Children aged 10 to 12 begin to develop a deeper understanding of right and wrong.

Ms von Auer said: "At this age, children can engage in higher order thinking and know right from wrong.

"They have grown up with their parents' and peers' influences and values and may have adapted them accordingly.

"At the same time, they understand that rules are not sacred, which may make them disagree with or rebel against certain ones."

## Nature vs nurture

While a child's environment is important in shaping his moral compass, genes play a part too.

Ms von Auer said if children display deviant behaviour regularly or have the urge to commit violent or destructive acts, their pathology and motivations should be examined.

She said: "There is a high probability the child is suffering from some psychological disorder such as an impulse control disorder like kleptomania (the need to steal or hoard) or a personality disorder, thus making it a nature factor.

"Nature and nurture are, however, intertwined and one can alleviate or exacerbate a bad situation. For example, a child may steal because his family cannot afford to buy him the toys he wants, but this may have to do with his circumstances or him wanting to fit in with his peers."

Prof Wong said: "Children from stable families, where parents set clear rules and boundaries and show their love, have a greater sense of morals."

He agreed that both nature and nurture play a role, but he added: "As to how influential nature is, it is a can of worms. Scientists cannot really pinpoint how one's genes influence one's morality, but we know they do."

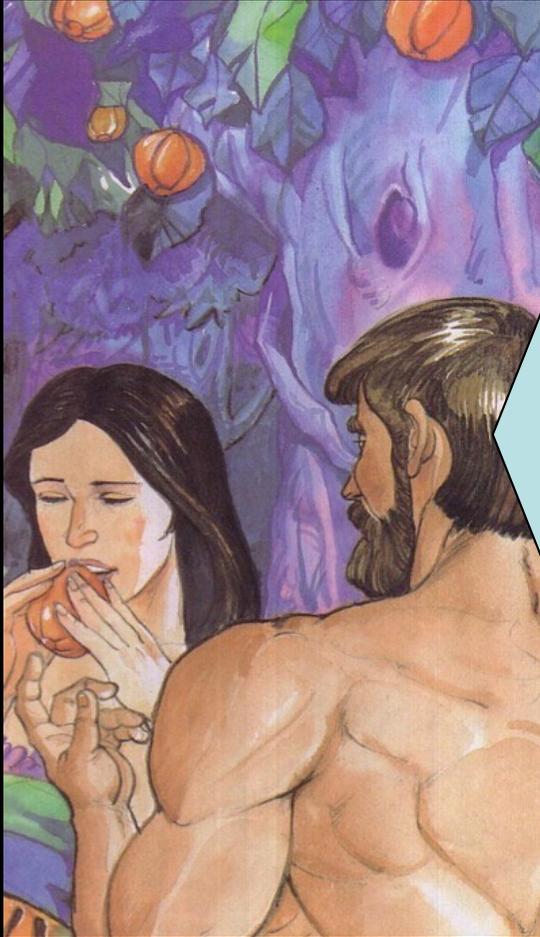
Although genetic make-up – and the propensity to be good – cannot be changed, psychiatrists and psychologists Mind Your Body spoke to emphasised the importance of a child's parents or guardians in shaping his moral compunctions by creating and reinforcing his moral framework.

Prof Wong said: "Children grow and learn by observing. It is important for parents to decide on their family values and to live by them.

"This is most difficult as parents may not always be consistent or cannot walk the talk. Yet, a values system is the bedrock of a family."

- The biblical view of original sin fits with what every parent knows.
- It also explains why we all must teach children to do right instead of wrong.

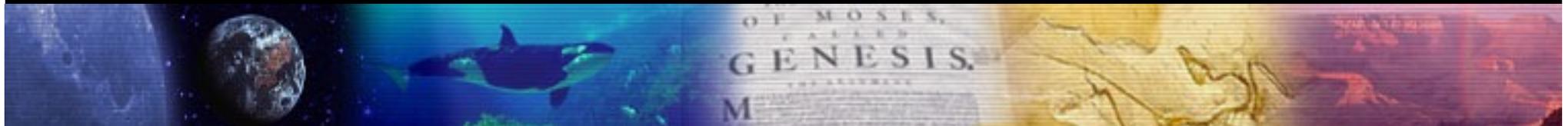
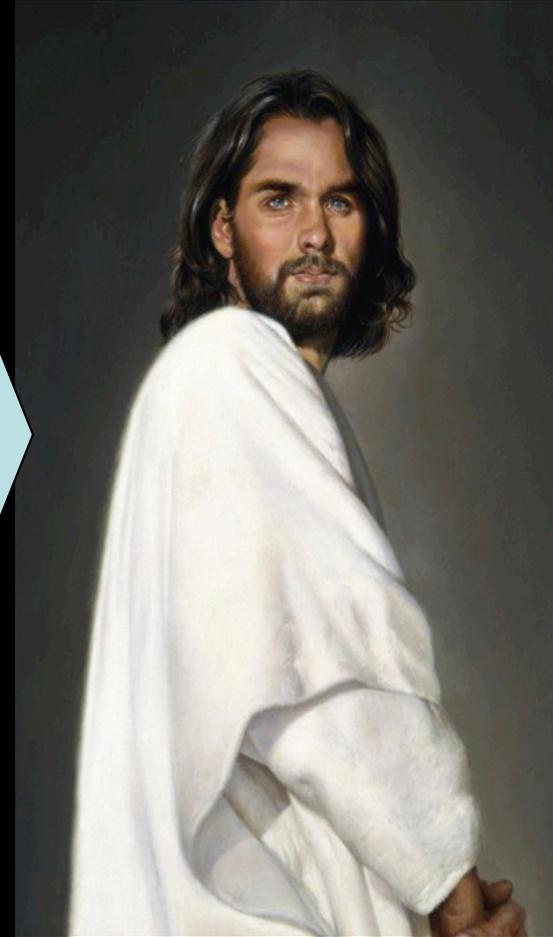
# Adam versus Christ



**Romans 5:12-21**

**1 Cor. 15:22**

**1 Cor. 15:45-49**



# Romans 5:8-21

What we have as  
Adam's children

What we have as  
God's children



<b>Adam gave us...</b>	<b>Christ gives us...</b>
Ruin 5:9	Rescue 5:8
Sin 5:12, 15, 21	Righteousness 5:18
Death 5:12, 16, 21	Eternal life 5:17, 21
Separation from God 5:18	Relationship with God 5:11, 19
Disobedience 5:12, 19	Obedience 5:19
Judgment 5:18	Deliverance 5:10, 11
Law 5:20	Grace 5:20

# Romans 6

***Righteousness is imparted in  
sanctification through positional  
identification with Christ***

# RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ROMANS

Theme	Needed	Provided	Imparted	Proved	Applied	Disseminated
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Start	Sin	Salvation	Set Apart	Sovereignty	Service	Send

# Contrasts Between Justification and Sanctification

## JUSTIFICATION

1. "Not guilty"
2. Legal Standing
3. Once for all time
4. Entirely God's work
5. Perfect in this life
6. Same in all Christians

## SANCTIFICATION

1. "Set apart"
2. Internal condition
3. Continuous throughout life
4. We cooperate with God
5. Not perfect in this life
6. Different levels

# Righteousness Imparted in Sanctification (Rom. 6–8)

*How does the blood of Christ apply to us?*

*Chapter 6  
New Basis*

—

*Identification*

# Righteousness Imparted in Sanctification (Rom. 6–8)

*How does the blood of Christ apply to us?*

*Chapter 6  
New Basis*

—  
*Identification*

*Chapter 7  
New Relationship*

—  
*Freedom*

**"As a wife is no longer married to her husband when he dies, so a Christian is no longer under the Law"**

**(John A. Witmer, "Romans," in *BKC*, 2:465).**

# Righteousness Imparted in Sanctification (Rom. 6–8)

*How does the blood of Christ apply to us?*

*Chapter 6  
New Basis*

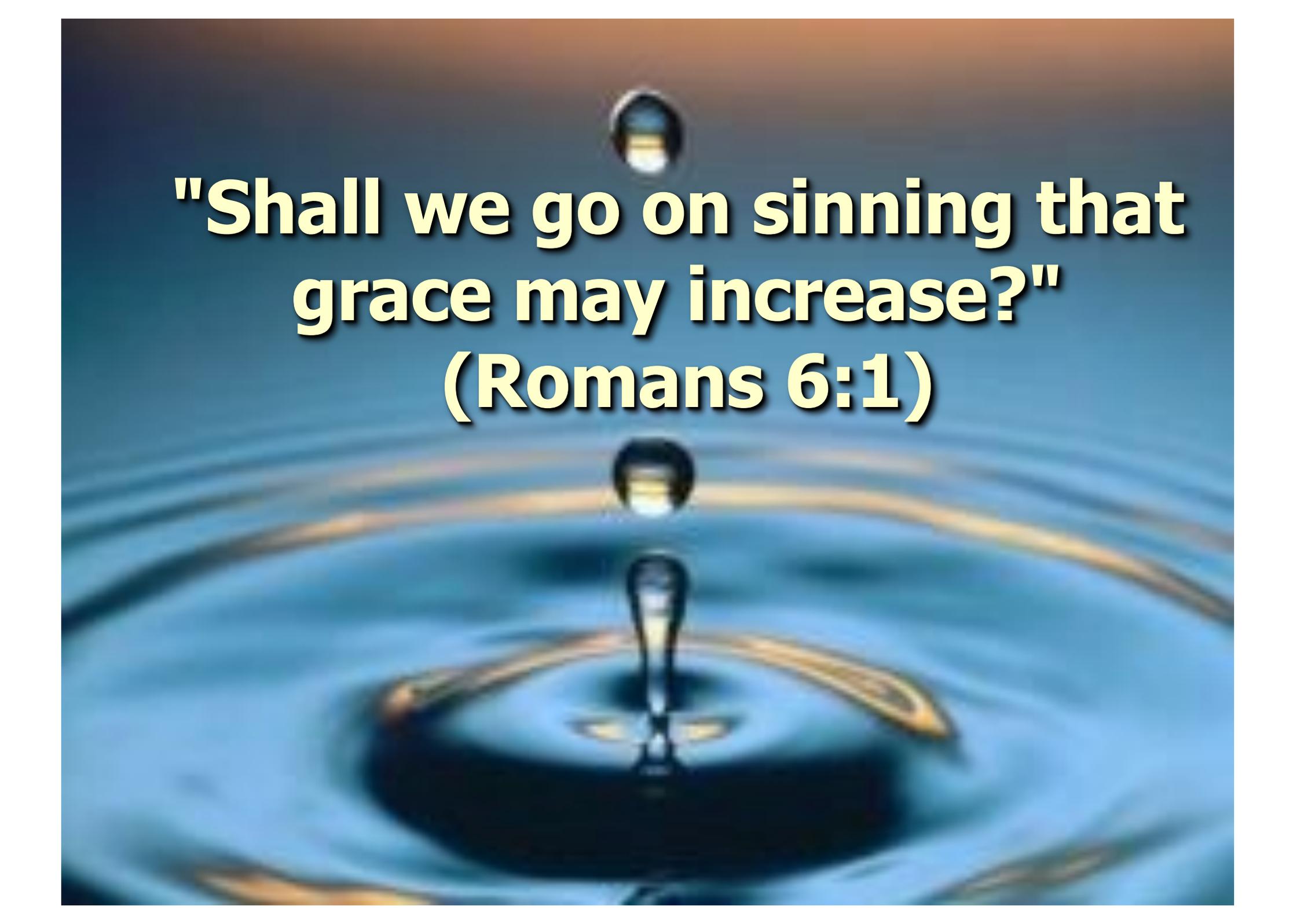
—  
*Identification*

*Chapter 7  
New Relationship*

—  
*Freedom*

*Chapter 8  
New Power*

—  
*Spirit*

A close-up photograph of a single water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is captured in mid-air, just above the surface, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards. The water is a deep blue color, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the droplet's shape and the texture of the ripples.

**"Shall we go on sinning that  
grace may increase?"  
(Romans 6:1)**

# Baptism identifies with His death



**For Believers Only  
By Immersion Only**

# Dying to Sin (6:2)

34

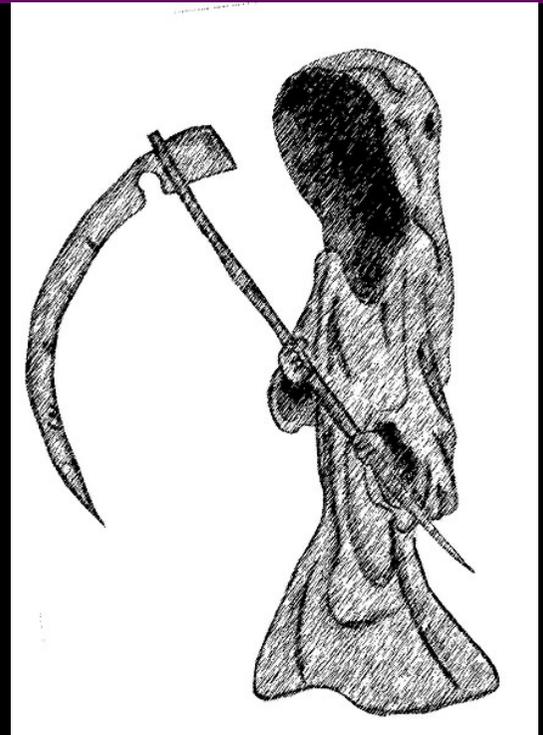


**"Well, I haven't exactly *DIED* to sin,  
but I did feel kind of *faint* once."**

*For your small group...*

**What does it mean that those in Christ have "died to sin" (6:2)?**

1. Christians will **never sin again**?
2. Believers **never have to sin** in a given situation?
3. A true Christian will **never have a pattern of sinning** in his life?
4. Something else? (state it)



*Support your answer from Romans 6–7*



# What Has God Done About Sin?

He gave us...		Principles	Importance
<b>New Life</b>	6:2, 3 6:4 6:6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Sin's power is broken.</li><li>•Sin-loving nature is buried.</li><li>•Sin no longer controls you.</li></ul>	Be certain that sin's power is broken.
<b>New Nature</b>	6:5 6:11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Now you share his new life.</li><li>•Look at your old self as dead and new self as alive to God.</li></ul>	Be unresponsive to the old power & alive to the new.
<b>New Freedom</b>	6:12 6:13 6:14 6:16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Do not let sin control you.</li><li>•Give yourselves fully to God.</li><li>•You are free.</li><li>•You can choose your master.</li></ul>	Commit yourself to obey Christ in perfect freedom.

**Rejoice!**



INSTRUMENTS  
*of Righteousness*

ROMANS 6:13

"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your members

as INSTRUMENTS OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS to God."

Romans 6:13



Everyone is a slave but a believer is...

# NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN



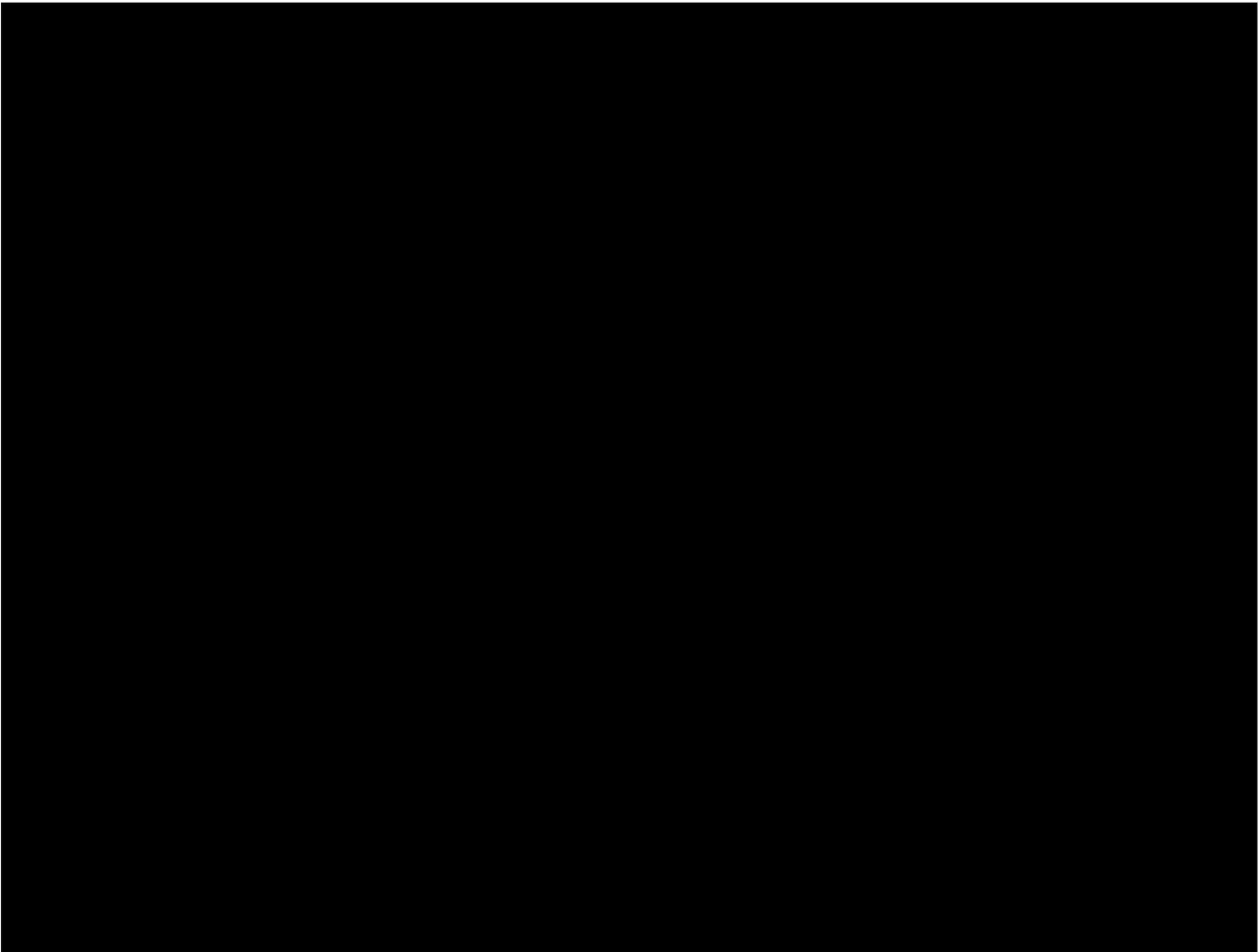
Romans 6:18

"You have been set free from sin  
and have become slaves to righteousness"

# *Small Group Exercise*

**What rituals or beliefs do Christians sometimes trust for sanctification instead of their vital experience with Christ (6:2)?**

- 1. Teaching loss of salvation**
- 2. Requiring worship styles**
- 3. Keeping salvation by attending church**
- 4. Allowing sin if confessed to a priest**
- 5. Baptism to maintain salvation**
- 6. The Lord's Supper to maintain salvation**



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