

Romans 5: 12-21

A change of headship
Overabounding grace

for clarification

- to sin

literally means to 'to miss the mark' -
the mark being perfect righteousness

- to transgress

means to disobey a command, to break a law

- an offence (or a trespass)

is a sin

but an emphasis is that someone has been
offended -

in these verses it is God

From Romans 5:1-11:

we have peace towards God

we boast in hope of the glory of God

the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts

we shall be saved by him from wrath

we have been reconciled to God

but ...

we notice that we have wrong thoughts & desires

there is something evil within us from which

these proceed

is there any solution?

but first: what is the origin of the problem?

we need to go back to
the beginning of the
human race

... to the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6-7, 17, 19 (NJKV)

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying,

"... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ...

the woman ... took of its fruit and ate.

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ...

Then to Adam He [God] said ... "... dust you are, and to dust you shall return"

God gave a command
Death was to be the
result of
disobedience

Adam disobeyed

The result was
death:

spiritual

physical

Adam disobeyed an instruction from God

so, he 'transgressed'
a command of God

therefore, he sinned

this induced a condition
that permeated his
whole being

his whole spiritual
condition was changed

**BUT IT DOESN'T
STOP THERE**

sin became part
of his nature

later: Adam ... begot a son in his own
likeness, after his image [Gen 5:3]

it was not only Adam
who was affected

but all his descendants

characteristics passed on

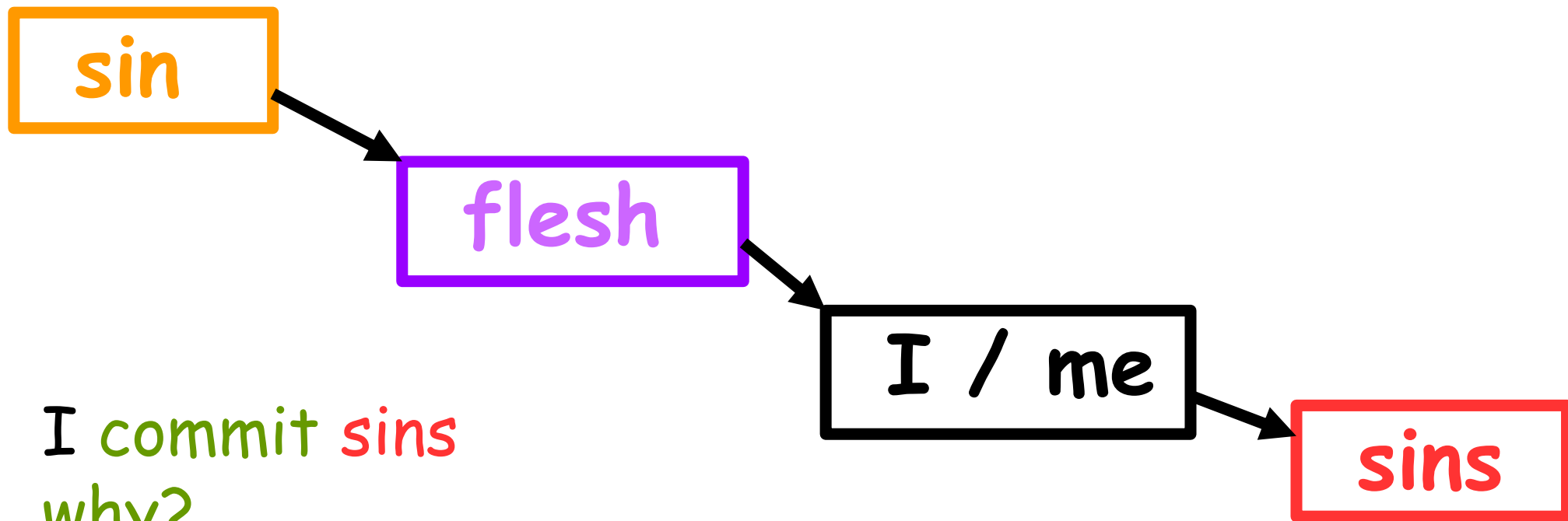
Romans 5:12 (JND)

"... even as by one man sin entered into the world, and by sin death; and thus death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ..."

whether we like it or not, we get characteristics from our parents ...

when Adam sinned sin became part of his nature

all his descendants have inherited this characteristic and we all sin



I commit sins
why?

I have a nature [the flesh] which makes me
commit sins

why does it make me commit sins?

my nature is controlled by the sin principle
but

this doesn't mean I can blame Adam or my
parents

I am responsible for what I do

in Romans 5:12-21 we have a series of contrasts between:

- a) Adam's offence, the resulting sinful nature that we all have & their effects
- b) what Christ has done for us & the blessings we've received

v12 why sin & death are universal

(v13-14) how does the Law fit in?

(v15-17) some contrasts to emphasise our situation & what Christ has done for us

v18-19 the basis of our blessings

v20-21 grace reigns

how does the Law fit in?

breaking a law is transgression of that law & if it's God's Law then that is, of course, a sin

but

we can commit sin even when there is no law to transgress

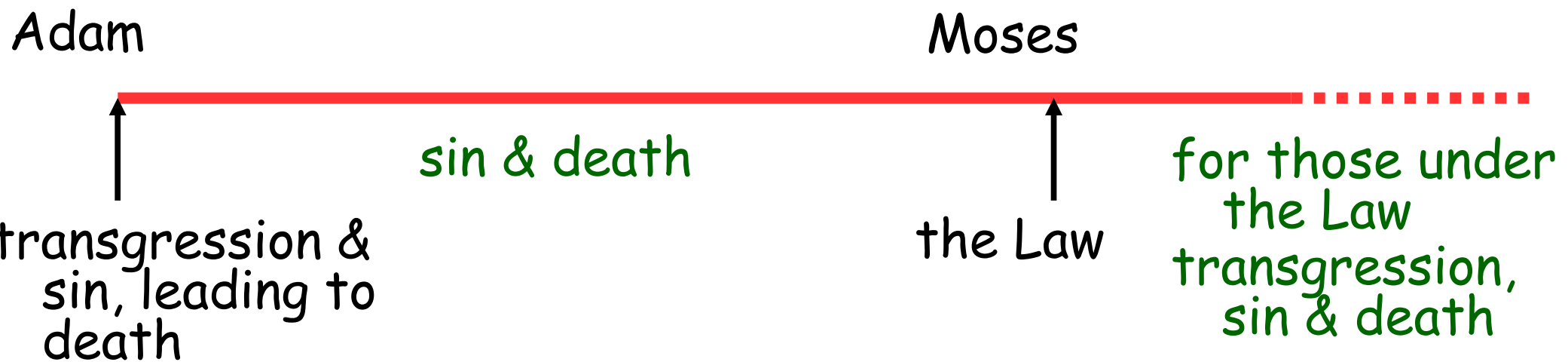
“sin is lawlessness” [1 John 3:4]

we sin when we live as though there are no restraints

when we do our own will

Romans 5:13-14 (JND)

(for until law sin was in [the] world;
but sin is not put to account when there is no law;
but death reigned from Adam until Moses,
even upon those who had not sinned
in the likeness of Adam's transgression,
who is [the] figure of him to come. ...



Romans 5:14b (JND)

... Adam ... who is [the] figure of him to come.

Adam is a figure (or type) of Christ
so, there is similarity
between Adam & Christ

but there are also many contrasts
& these too are emphasised in this
passage

so, in what way is Adam
a type of Christ?

all who are descended from Adam
have inherited his sinful nature

all who are born again
have a new nature from Christ

Adam & Christ are family heads

the old nature & the new nature

we have a nature (sometimes called the old nature or the flesh) which is dominated by sin

God does not reform this old nature

but gives a new nature to those He has justified

for solutions to our sinning problem - this is fundamental

those with the new nature have new desires for God's ways

but

we still have the old nature

which opposes God & what He wants

In verses 15-17 we have contrasts between:

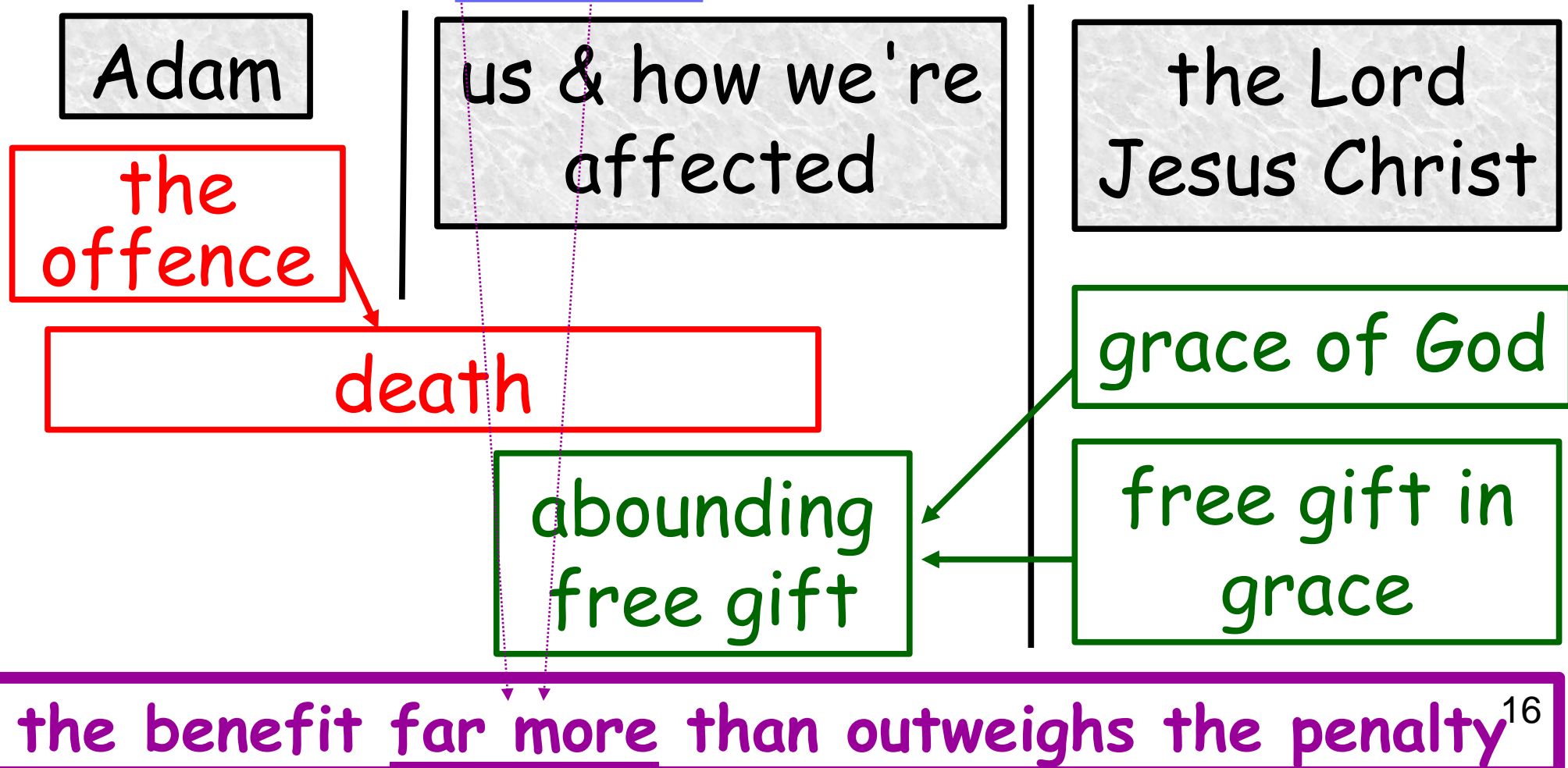
what Adam did
the result of what
Adam did
the effect on us of
what Adam did

what Christ did
the result of what
Christ did
the effect on us of
what Christ did

and one of the main truths that we
repeatedly see in these verses is that
what we have from Christ far more than
cancels what was lost through Adam

Romans 5:15 (JND)

But [shall] not the act of favour [be] as the offence?
For if by the offence of the one the many have died,
much rather has the grace of God,
and the free gift in grace,
which [is] by the one man Jesus Christ,
abounded unto the many.

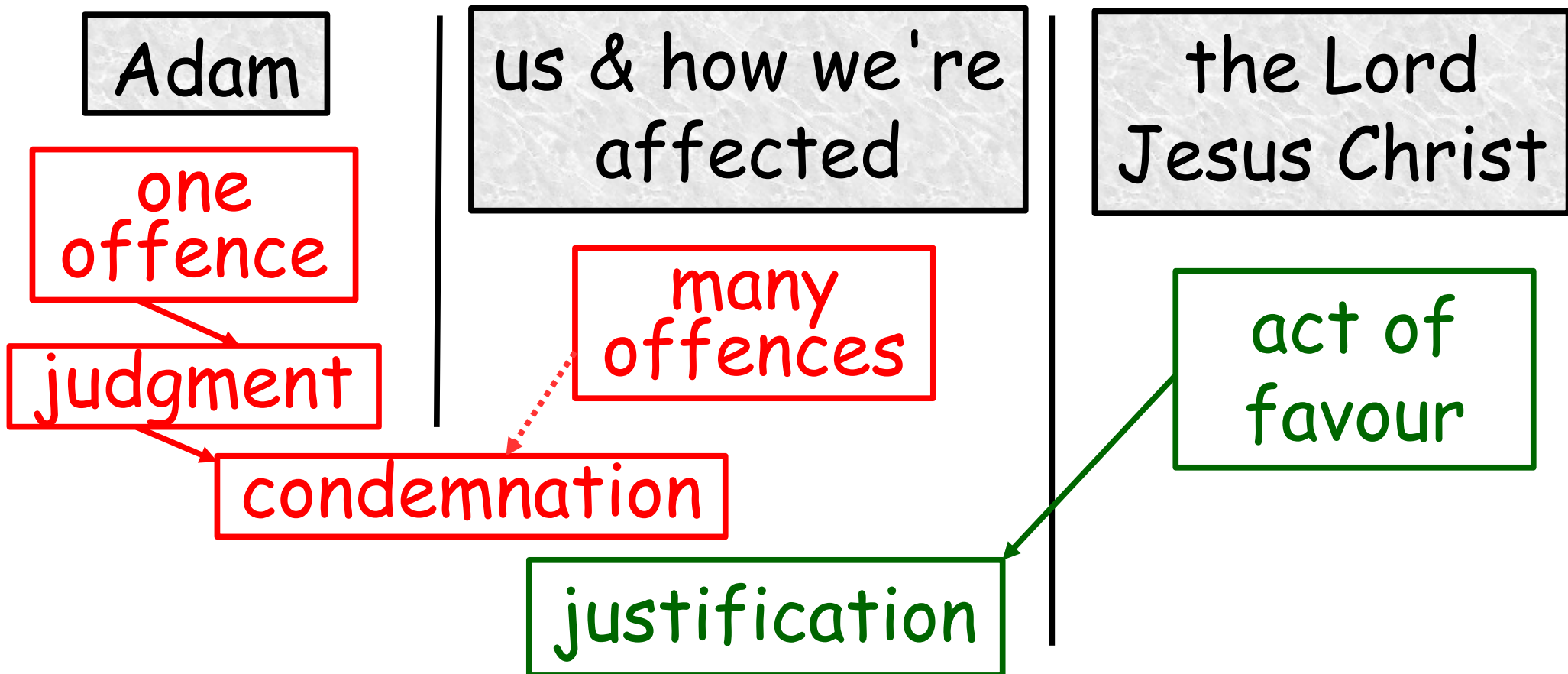


the benefit far more than outweighs the penalty¹⁶

Romans 5:16 (JND)

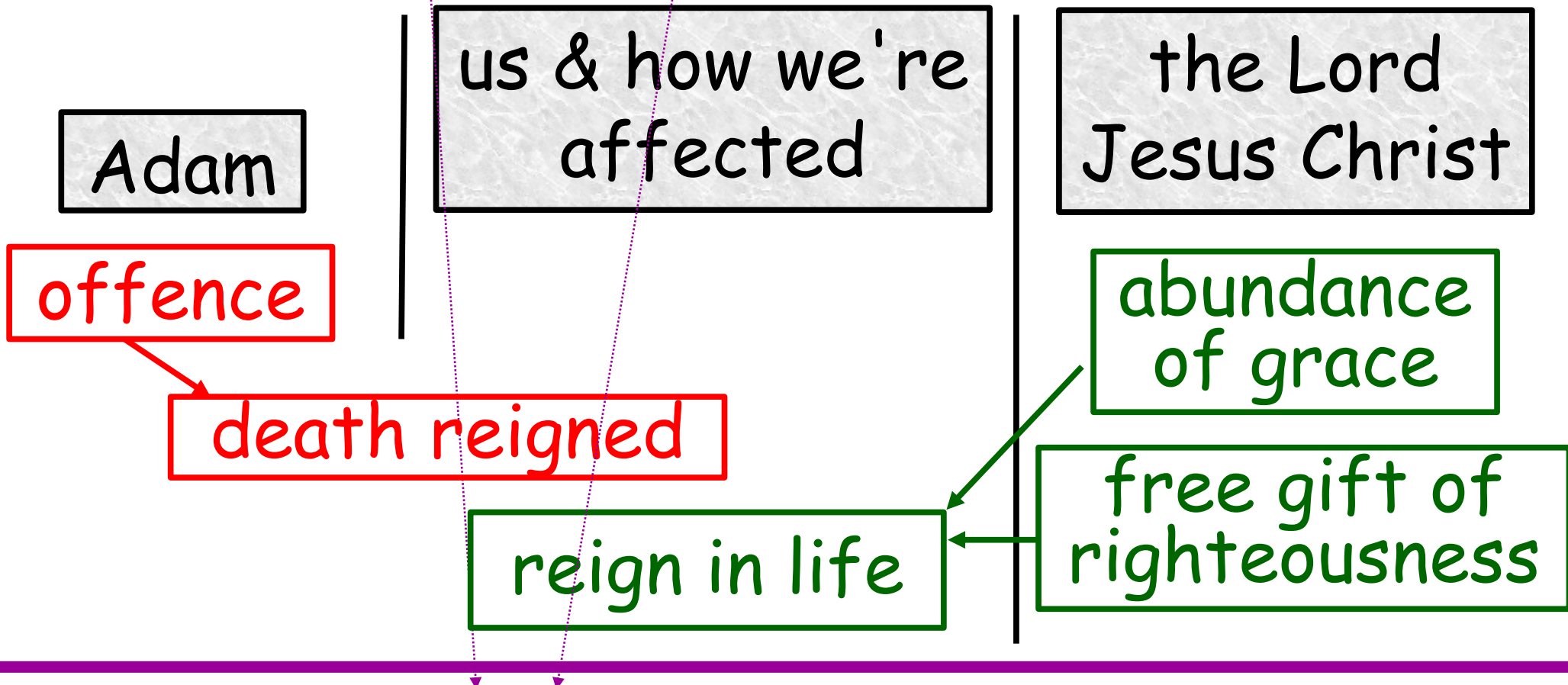
And [shall] not as by one that has sinned
[be] the gift?

For the judgment [was] of one to condemnation,
but the act of favour,
of many offences unto justification.



Romans 5:17 (JND)

For if by the offence of the one death reigned by the one, much rather shall those who receive the abundance of grace, and of the free gift of righteousness, reign in life by the one Jesus Christ:)



the benefit far more than overcomes death's rule¹⁸

so, what did we learn from considering verses 13-17?

- sin happens even when there is no law
- Adam is a type of Christ in the sense that both are heads of families
 - in Adam's family by physical birth
 - in Christ's family by new birth
- there are many contrasts between Adam's offence & Christ's free gift:
 - a) **source** [by one man Adam / by One Man Christ]
 - b) **immediate effect** [condemnation / justification]
 - c) **ongoing & ultimate effect**
[the reign of death / we reign in life]

the basis of our blessings

we've seen emphasised
the universal effects of Adam's sin
& the 'how much more' of Christ's gift

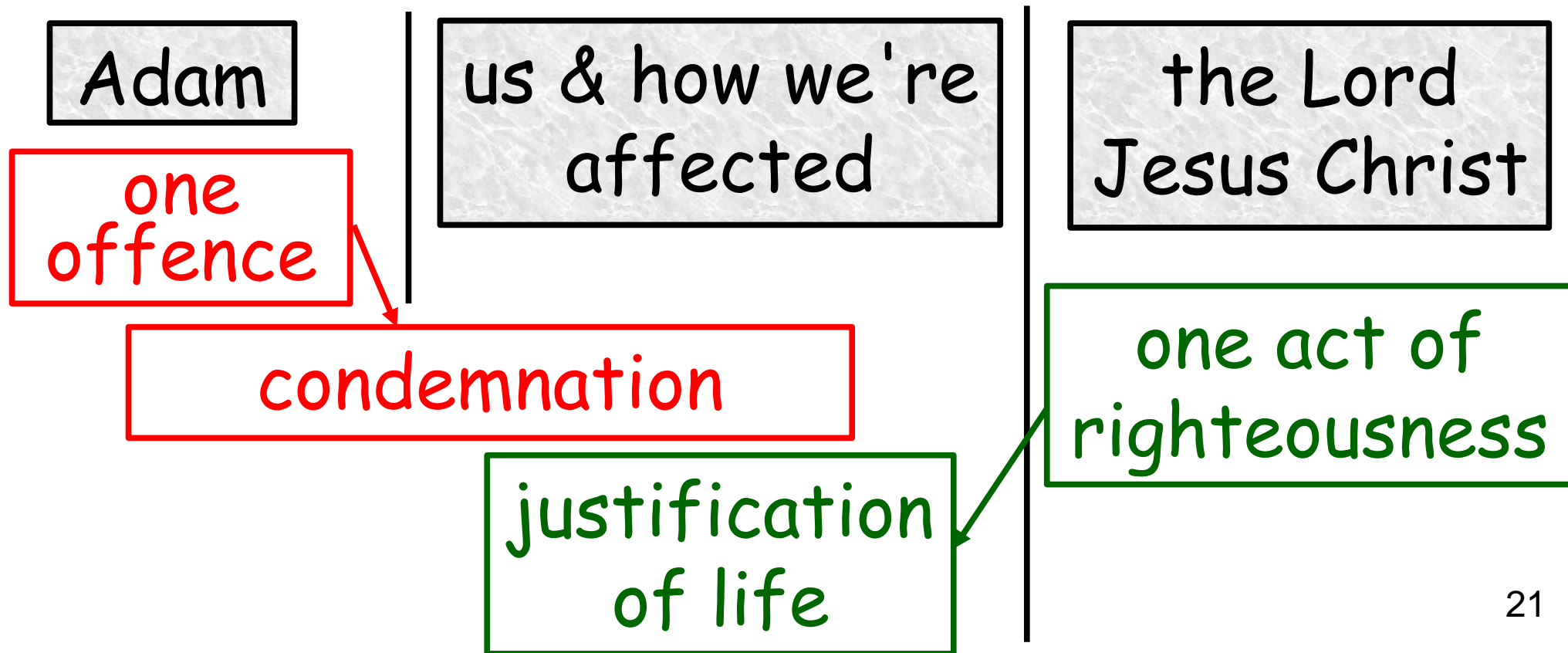
but how can God righteously give so
much?

there is an event in history ...

one righteous act

Romans 5:18 (JND)

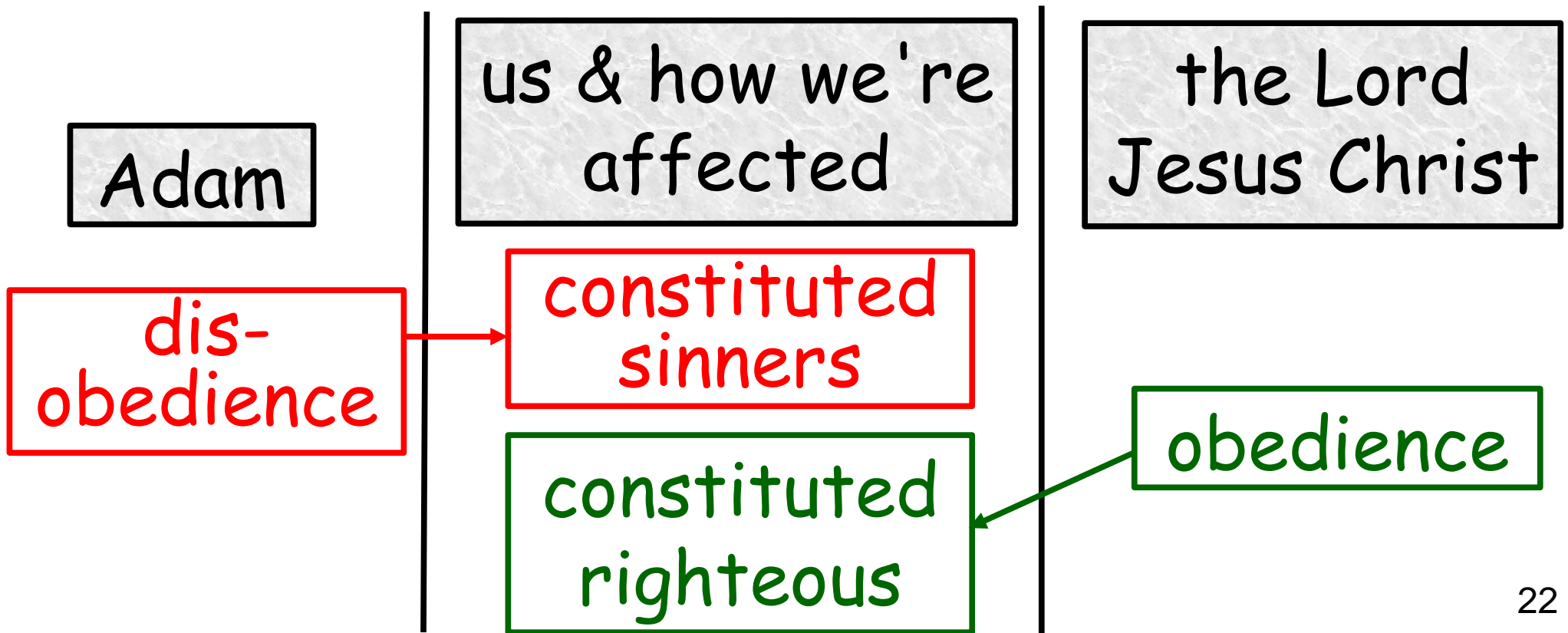
so then as [it was] by one offence
towards all men to condemnation,
so by one righteousness
towards all men for justification of life.



the obedience of the One

Romans 5:19 (JND)

For as indeed by the disobedience of the one man the many have been constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of the one the many will be constituted righteous.



the Law & grace

Romans 5:20 (JND)

But law came in,
in order that the offence might abound;
but where sin abounded
grace has overabounded

through the Law it became much clearer
that God had been offended

& the act of disobeying God added
extra horror to sin

but grace overabounds

grace reigns

Romans 5:21 (JND)

... in order that,

even as sin has reigned in [the power of] death,
so also grace might reign
through righteousness to eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

through Adam
sin has reigned
over mankind in
death

through Christ
grace reigns over His
people through
righteousness to
eternal life

we don't have to live under
the domination of sin

we have a **new nature** from Christ,
our family head

Christ has also taken us from under
the rule of death

so that we **reign in life**

He has given us **eternal life** - life
with a living relationship with God

in Adam

sin

condemnation

death

in Christ

righteousness

justification

life

Adam heads a family under
condemnation & death

Christ heads a new family
standing in righteousness & life

through Christ 'grace has overabounded'.
believers are no longer in Adam, but in Christ.
what we have in Christ is **much much more** than
what was lost through Adam.

Adam took the human family down from a world of perfection & innocence

grace triumphs

Christ takes us not back to Eden, but to the highest heights of glory

to a place of sin & degradation

