

**Shayla:** In what way do we not sin like Adam?

**Extended question:** I understand the first and last phrases, but the middle section I don't understand. I have looked it up in a couple of commentaries but didn't find much help.

- [Romans 5:14 HCSB](#) Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression. He is a prototype of the Coming One.
- [Romans 5:14 ESV](#) Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

**Midrash:**

Welcome to my life! I often struggle with the same problem. The commentaries all talk about the same passages, or the same words and regularly skip all the controversial or befuddling parts!

In the context, Paul is making clear our former position and relation to God, bound up in our sins, subject to the yetzer hara and thus enemies of God (vv. 10-12). He just laid the blame for that condition firmly in Adam's lap (v.12).

Adam sinned. We have sinned. There is one crucial difference between our sin and his, however. When Adam sinned, he did it completely of his own will, uninfluenced by the yetzer hara, which did not exist among humans yet.

Though we are still fully responsible and accountable for our sin, the Lord does distinguish between our struggles with our predisposition (Ephesians 2:3) and Adam's willful sin. We are born with this tendency (Psalm 51:5) and scarcely know anything else. Though there is a yetzer hatov within us too, it seems that most of us yield to our baser selves. God is gracious and though He will not excuse sin, He is just and takes into account this mitigating factor.

Adam, on the other hand, I wouldn't want to be him! "To whom much is given, much is required" and to have brought all mankind this terrible gift while being in the Garden of Eden, without a sin nature and daily walking with the Son of God...what a tragedy.