

Romans 5:12-21

Dr. Aubrey de Grey, a British researcher on aging, seeks immortality. He claims he has drawn a roadmap to defeat biological aging. He provocatively proposes that the first human beings who will live to 1,000 years old have already been born. He may even be right.

Dr. de Grey challenges the most basic assumption underlying the human condition -- that aging is inevitable. He argues instead that aging is a disease – and one that can be cured. His plan calls for **identifying all the components that cause human tissue to age, and designing remedies for each of them** — forestalling disease and eventually pushing back death.

There are seven known biological reasons that our cells age, and this may very well be a complete list. The result is damage to the cells, disease and the eventual death of our bodies. Also, there are already known, scientifically valid weapons with which we can begin the attempt to defeat each of these seven components. We simply have not done so in a deliberate or systematic way. To do so would require a major shift in the way biological and medical research is done. Dr. de Grey strongly encourages researchers to begin making that shift as soon as possible.

He calls his approach [Strategies for Engineered Negligible Senescence \(SENS\)](#). The word *senescence* refers to the aging process.

[http://www.ted.com/speakers/aubrey\\_de\\_grey.html](http://www.ted.com/speakers/aubrey_de_grey.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aubrey\\_de\\_Grey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aubrey_de_Grey)

Scripture thoroughly addresses the topics of aging and death, but from a different angle. The Bible sees death as a spiritual problem going back to the fall of Adam, leading to physical results. In other words, the physical reasons for aging and death have causes outside the physical world in the realm of the spiritual. It provides an equally spiritual remedy. Today we will begin by asking the same fundamental question that Dr. de Grey asks, but whereas he asks it from the physical, biological side, we will approach it from the biblical, spiritual side. That question is: **Why do we die?**

Read **Romans 5:12-21**.

### I. Why do we die?

- A. We die because of Adam's sin.
- B. We die because of our own sin.

C. See **Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25; 3:1-13**

So the root problem behind death is actually sin. But if death is the result of sin, that brings us to a deeper question, not directly answered in the first chapters of Genesis:

### II. Why do we sin?

- A. We sin because we are descended from Adam. We have inherited his fallenness and his mortality. Fallen, mortal creatures are the only kind Adam was capable of producing as he multiplied himself. So, here we are, thousands of years later. a fallen, mortal race.

- i. **Romans 5:19** says that we were made sinners by Adam's disobedience.
- ii. **Ephesians 2:3** says that we were by nature “children of wrath.”
- iii. In **Psalm 51** David puts it like this:

*Psalm 51:5 (NKJV) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin my mother conceived me.*

- B. Therefore, and this is important, we sin because we are born with a predisposition or propensity, a natural leaning or tendency, to do so.
- C. Our sin doesn't make us sinners. Our sin reveals or confirms who we are. We are sinners from birth and, therefore, we sin.

### III. Is there a way to escape the inevitable? Is it possible to live on indefinitely?

- A. Perhaps so, at least for a long time, if Aubrey de Grey is right.
  - i. One of Dr. de Grey's organizations is called [The Methuselah Foundation](#)
    - a) Methuselah, according to **Gen 5:21-27** had the longest recorded lifespan of anyone.
    - b) Consider the long life spans of the antediluvians (pre-flood people).
    - c) Consider also the evil of the human race at that time. (**Genesis 6:5-8**)
- B. Perhaps so, since after the fall the Lord God cut Adam off from the tree of life.
  - i. God didn't want people living on indefinitely in their fallen, sinful state. (**Gen 3:22-24**)
- C. Since our problem is really spiritual, God's solution is spiritual: He desires to transform us, rather than have us live eternally in this fallen state. Therefore, He gave the world another man or “Adam”, Jesus Christ.
  - i. Read **Romans 5:15-21**
  - ii. Another passage worth considering is **1 Corinthians 15:42-58**. See below.

## Conclusions:

- From the earliest chapters of Genesis the Bible explains why we die.
  - It shows that aging and death were not part of God's original plan, but entered the world as the direct result of sin.
  - Prior to the Flood, however, lifespans were much longer than they are now, indicating that perhaps something might be done to make them longer again.
  - This, however, would involve extending the lifespan of this fallen, mortal body along with its tendency to sin.
- God's plan is to not allow us to live indefinitely as fallen sinners.
  - His plan is to change us from sinners into saints.
- We receive a new nature, we are born again, when we put our faith in Jesus.
- These bodies we have now cannot inherit the kingdom of God.
- We will receive new, immortal bodies at the resurrection of the dead.