

Forgiveness & Justification

ACTS 29:
the next chapter

Are forgiveness and justification
the same?

Isn't this a discussion reserved to
theologians tucked away in dusty
back rooms of seminaries?

Does it even matter?

1 Kings 8:46 for there is no one who does not sin

Rom 3:10-12,23 %There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. ¹²They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.+õ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Job 25:4 How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman?

Acts 13:14-15 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, %Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.+

16-37 Paul does a masterful job of preaching the Gospel beginning with Moses and going through to the resurrection of Jesus

38-39 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the **forgiveness of sins**; ³⁹and by Him everyone who believes is **justified** from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Salvation is comprised of three levels or phases:

- “ Justification
- “ Sanctification
- “ Glorification

All three are included at each person's conversion.

The only variable is sanctification . the degree to which a believer is sanctified depends upon them to a great degree.

1. Forgiveness = Pardon

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,

Dan 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

2. Justification = Position

Our relationship with Christ, has a **positional** and a **conditional** dimension.

- “ **Positional stand:** how God sees the believer . not just sinless, but as if they have never sinned = justified
- “ **Conditional stand:** how well the believer is surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit as He transforms our earthly life to what Jesus would have it be.

What is required for a person to be justified?

- “ **One must humble himself:**

Lk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.+

- “ **The blood of Jesus had to be shed and one must have that sacrifice applied personally**

Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

“ Jesus had to be resurrected from the dead and one must embrace that reality:

Rom 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

“ God must extend His grace and one must humbly receive it:

Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved ò

“ One must place their faith (trust) in God’s redeeming love and provision:

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,

Forgiveness + Justification = Perfection

Rom 5:24-25 but also for us. It shall be **imputed** to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

2 Cor 5:21 For He [the Father] made Him {Jesus} who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Through the death of Christ we can be justified. Jesus died *for* us and *as* us, and when by faith we accept Him as substitute and Savior, the remarkable transaction is completed. He takes my vileness in the sin offering aspect of Calvary and we take His virtue in the burnt offering aspect of Calvary. We can stand, now, where He stood, be seen as He is seen, and be accepted in the beloved [Eph 1:6]. God sees no sin in us, just the beauties of Jesus. The law could not do that; the Lord does.+

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