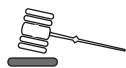


FORGIVENESS – JUDICIAL AND RELATIONAL

EVERLASTING FORGIVENESS

CATEGORY 1 – (Standing)

JUDICIAL FORGIVENESS



1

JUDICIAL

Conditions for this category of forgiveness: Faith alone in Christ alone.

This is the eternal forgiveness we receive when we believe on Christ by faith. This forgiveness of the Father toward those that believe is based on the all-sufficient death of Christ. This means the sinner is now justified (righteous) before God the Father. The believer now has a relationship with God as a child (sons and daughters). Nothing can break this eternal standing of a believer as a child with his heavenly Father. This is also known as salvation.

Salvation in Christ began in eternity past and extends into the eternal future. This truth can relieve much tension and helps us realize our security in Christ. Security in the Lord enables the believer to relax in the Lord's grace so we can move forward in spiritual growth.

Phase 1 (Past)

This is where we are saved from sin's penalty. It is past because it is based on the completed work of Christ on the cross. We are once for all delivered from sin's penalty and spiritual death (Lk.7:50; 1Co.1:18; 2Co.2:15; Ep.2:5,8; Ti.3:5; He.7:25; 2Tm.1:9). This complete work of God in Christ declares us permanently saved and safe forever (Jn.5:24; 10:28-29; Ro.8:1, 37-39; 1Pe.1:3-5).

Phase 2 (Present)

This has to do with believers present deliverance over the power of sin in our carnal nature (Ro.6:1-23; 8:2; 2Co.3:18; Ga.2:19-20; 5:1-26; Ph.1:19; 2:12-13; 2Th.2:13). This phase of salvation is accomplished through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is based on the work of Christ and the believer's union (co-identification) with Christ in that work.

Phase 3 (Future)

This is the future deliverance of all believers into full conformity to Jesus Christ through the resurrection (Ro.8:29; 13:11; 1Pe.1:5; 1Jn.3:2). Then we will have conformity to the character of Christ (1Jn.3:2).

CATEGORY 2 – (Fellowship)

RELATIONAL FORGIVENESS



2

PATERNAL FORGIVENESS

RELATIONAL

Conditions for this category of forgiveness:

- (1) Confession of sin (1Jn.1:9; Jn.13:4-10; Mt.6:12);
- (2) Forgiveness of Others (Lk.17:3)

This is restoration of fellowship with God the Father as a believer. This assumes broken fellowship by unconfessed sin in our life. This restores the believers' fellowship with the Father. It has nothing to do with our relationship as sons. That was taken care of by the judicial forgiveness through faith in Christ.



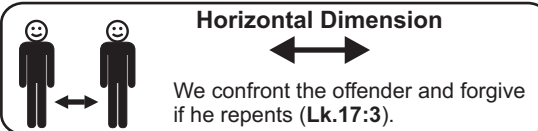
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

3

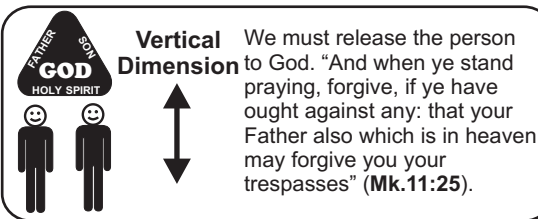
PERSONAL FORGIVENESS

RELATIONAL

This is restoration of fellowship with another human being.



FELLOWSHIP WITH FELLOW-MAN

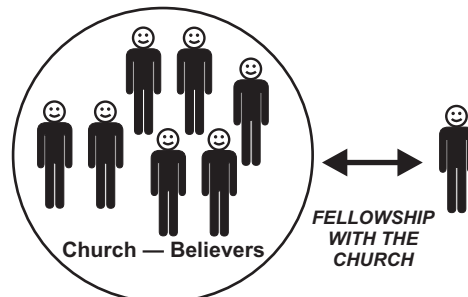


4

ECCLESIASTICAL FORGIVENESS

RELATIONAL

This is restoration of fellowship with the church (2Co.2:5-11; 2Th.3:14-15). This category of forgiveness involves a prior discipline by the church body, and evidence of a repentant heart by the one disciplined. The purpose of discipline is restoration.



SUMMARY THOUGHTS

1. After you forgive, you do not have to forget. You may forget, but forgiving can be sincere even if you still remember.
2. Forgiving someone is not the same as overlooking their faults. We should forgive them, even though we know their faults.
3. Forgiveness deals with our emotional response toward an offender.
4. Pardon deals with the consequences of another's offense. We must have authority to pardon an offense.
5. Forgiveness is a miracle of the will. It moves away the heavy burden toward fellowship.
6. Forgiveness offers an opportunity for reconciliation. It is a chance for a life together instead of separated.
7. Without forgiveness there can be hurt, bitterness, anger, resentment, and self-destruction.