

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 12: A Humanitarian by Giving Us a Wonderful Status

Am I a sinner in God's eyes or am I a saint? Being able to understand what we were and what we are is so important for us to understand how much God loves us.

Without the proper teaching of the Bible, we can get lost in one status or the other. We need the proper teaching of the Bible so that we can understand what we were and what God has made us.

In this chapter we look at the wonderful status that God has given to us.

1. What did you learn from chapter 12?

2. Note the three ways the term "justify" is used in the Bible.

✦ **Psalm 51:4.** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are **proved right** when you speak and justified when you judge.

Proved right, declared right

✦ **Luke 10:29.** ²⁹ But he wanted to **justify himself**, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

He wanted to make himself right

✦ **Romans 8:33.** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

No one can bring charges

3. Justify or justification is a legal word: To be **declared** innocent. To be **declared** right, just, or saved.

Not that we are actually innocent, but that we are declared innocent.

4. Justified means that after our trial, the judge (God) swings the gavel and declares a verdict. What is that verdict? **Innocent, Not guilty**

5. Why is this verdict so amazing? (What is the evidence?) **We should be guilty because we are guilty of sin**

6. How many levels of sin are there in God's eyes? **Only one. The one that curses and damns us**

7. On the basis of the following passages, answer the question: How can God, who is just, forgive us and not punish us?

✦ **2 Corinthians 5:21.** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **He made someone else guilty of our sin**

✦ **Isaiah 53:5.** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **He made someone else be punished for our sins.**

✦ **1 John 2:2.** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
Jesus is the sacrifice that takes away the sins of the world

8. Agree or Disagree: Everyone in the entire world has been forgiven.
True. Jesus paid the price to forgive the whole world

9. What is the difference between universal justification (everyone being declared innocent) and universal salvation (everyone going to heaven)?
We are all forgiven, but not all are saved

10. Read Romans 3:28. How does the forgiveness of sins become our own?

✦ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law
By faith in Jesus

11. Why do we need to stress so repeatedly the biblical teaching of justification?

✦ Titus 1:2. a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

✦ Romans 8:38-39. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is God who does this for us and since he does, we are no longer under punishment, we are under grace.

Justification by Faith

Justification by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, is the living heart of Christianity, the central teaching which distinguishes the Christian religion from all false religions, and the one source of solid comfort for us sinners.

Only Christianity has a doctrine called the forgiveness of sins. Listen to an expert on this matter. Max Mueller, for 40 years professor of Sanskrit at Oxford, devoted nearly a lifetime to the study of so-called sacred books of the East: the Vedas of the Brahmans, the Pureness of Silva and Vishnu, the Koran of the Mohammedans, the Zend-Avesta of the Parsees, the Tripitika of the Buddhists. And what did he find to be their one and only keynote? There is, he wrote, "one refrain through all: salvation by works. They all say that salvation must be purchased, must be bought with a price, and that the sole price, the sole purchase money, must be our own works and deserving." In all these books not a word, not a whisper, about a God who forgives sins! Sin must be atoned for, must be worked off, by man's own efforts.

And then Max Mueller goes on to say: "Our own Holy Bible, our Sacred Book of the East, is from beginning to end a protest against this doctrine. Let us not shut our eyes to what is excellent and true and of good report in the other sacred books, but let us teach Hindus, Buddhists, Mohammedans, that there is only one Sacred Book of the East that can be their mainstay in that awful hour when they pass all alone into the unseen world. It is that sacred Book which contains that faithful saying, worthy to be received of all men, women, and children and not merely of us Christians, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Assignment: Please read Chapter 13 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*