

THERE IS ONE MOST CRITICAL ERROR BEING MADE IN EVANGELISM TODAY

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We are teaching our children and our peers a faulty definition of God's forgiveness. From what we preach some hearers are thinking that God excuses us from the consequence of our sin by punishing Jesus in our place. This is not true concerning God the Father and God the Son. For some hearers, this amounts to believing in a false Jesus and missing eternal life. For some church leaders, this leads to personal, moral failure in life and ministry.

The true definition of God's forgiveness involves taking the believer out of bondage to sin. The hearer should be learning that salvation is all about sin removal and experiencing the righteous actions of Christ lived out in the believer. We are being saved (sanctification) by the life of the resurrected Christ being lived in us. Jesus saves us by His life. Romans 5:10

A person who thinks he is born again but lives continuously without repentance and in self-centeredness has likely misunderstood the true purpose of the death and resurrection of Christ. Without repentance toward God in cooperation with Holy Spirit conviction, there is no regeneration, sanctification, or glorification. Some hearers only desire forgiveness (acquittal from guilt) without a change in lifestyle. Unbiblical phrases such as "God punished Jesus in your place", and "Jesus paid your penalty for your sin" can lead to false conversions. This wrong mindset about the work of Jesus often leads to more sin and personal failure. The following unbiblical statements lead some people to put their faith in a false Jesus.

God's justice demands that sin be punished upon Jesus in your place.

God cannot freely forgive sin without Jesus paying for your sin.

Jesus became sin and bore God's punishment for your sin.

Jesus paid your sin debt so you don't have to pay it.

God appeased His wrath against you by pouring out His wrath on Jesus in your place.

Jesus willingly took upon Himself the guilt of sinners.

Belief in a false Christ with the objective of feeling excused of the consequences of sin and being enabled to live under the dictates of my own heart, results in personal failure.

The real Jesus has no need to change God and reconcile God to man. The real Jesus changes the believer and reconciles the believer to God.

Free from the Law of sin and death Romans 8:2

Controlled by the Spirit Romans 8:9

Count yourself alive to God in Christ Romans 6:11-14

Released from the law we serve in the new way of the Spirit Romans 7:6

Salvation is all about God changing us, making us a "new creation" in Christ.

1 Peter 1:23

Praying a prayer of acquittal from guilt and release from punishment for sin in the name of a Jesus who was punished in your place is not the way to eternal life. You must be born again.

To be born again you must cooperate with the Spirit and be convicted of sin and desire that your sin be removed. Saving faith is a conviction concerning sin in which you are determined by the power of God to be changed, removed from

sin, and become a doer of righteous actions initiated by the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit. Saving faith believes in the Jesus who died to take away our sin and arose to live in us and give us a life of righteousness.

Repentance from sin and saving faith in Jesus to remove our sin and replace sin with righteous actions is the foundation for new birth in Christ. Christ calls us to follow Him and give up our sin. James 4:8-10

Christ calls us to be changed by the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:1,2

Add to your saving faith righteous actions initiated by the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit. 2 Peter 1:3-11

Repentance from sin is the conviction and the determination that Christ is willing and able to make you a new creation. You must be born again by the resurrected Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3

Repentance from sin is the conviction that sin's consequence is death and the determination to stop the rule of sin in my life by walking in the rule of the Spirit. Romans 8:1-17

There must be genuine repentance from the rule of sin in your life before the new birth is given. Be willing to produce fruit that is consistent with repentance.

Matthew 3:8 Be prepared to let your life prove your change of heart. Acts 3:19

Repentance is a prerequisite for new birth. Repentance is a continued requirement for living life in the power of the Spirit of God.

Revelation 3:19

Do not lose heart when God rebukes you and disciplines you. Endure, repent, and be disciplined by your Heavenly Father. Hebrews 12:6-11

The born again new creation in Christ will live by faith. This means we will strive to be obedient to the commands of Christ even under hardship and discipline. Romans 1:16-18 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 A correct understanding of what Christ did on our behalf through His death and resurrection will aid us in exercising real faith in Jesus for sin removal and righteous living.

Sinless Jesus chose to die an execution by sin (the Cross) so that sin could be condemned to the utmost. Sin is guilty of killing the innocent Jesus. Jesus arose with all power and authority to judge and remove sin from all creation. Jesus changes the believer into a new creature in Christ by His authority to remove sin. God is righteous in giving eternal life to the believer because He changes the believer. God has no need to change Himself, appease His wrath, or punish Jesus in our place. God's wrath toward sin is never appeased. The wrath of God is removed from the believer because God promises to complete the work He began in us. God changes us, not Himself. God is able to freely forgive sin without exacting a payment for sin. God commands us to freely forgive without exacting a payment. God tells us to forgive as He has forgiven.

Isaiah 53:4 We thought Jesus was being punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted, but He was being crushed for our sin so that sin could be condemned and sentenced to removal. All our sins were laid upon Him

(came against Him because Jesus is God). God allowed this and Jesus allowed this so that sin would be judged guilty and sentenced to removal for the physical execution of Jesus. Jesus shed His blood.

2 Corinthians 5:21 Jesus did not become sin. Jesus became the offering for sin.

Jesus was not just a victim of our sin. Jesus willingly laid down His life to condemn sin and defeat sin. Jesus chose to die to bring many souls to righteousness.

Isaiah 53:5b The chastisement that brought us peace was upon Him. This means that Jesus learned obedience by facing every temptation without sinning (Hebrews 5:8-9). Jesus was perfected through suffering sinless and His sinless death on the Cross condemned and defeated sin (Romans 8:3).

The penal substitutionary theory erroneously forced onto Scripture by John Calvin and Martin Luther is a Satanic Trojan Horse which destroys evangelism and contributes to the moral failure of many who preach it. The list of the fallen grows daily.

The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ is presented in Romans chapter 5. Jesus becomes Second Adam, humanity's God-given substitute for Adam. By faith in Jesus, believers have a replacement for Adam and live under the Headship of Jesus and die in Christ. Unbelievers die in Adam, await final judgment, and perish without receiving eternal life (John 3:16,36).

