GOD FREELY FORGIVES SIN BOTH PROVISIONALLY AND JUDICIALLY

Written by Tom on April 2, 2026 for tomwhedbee.com

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them. This verse, 2 Corinthians 5:19, declares that God has always provisionally forgiven sin and the cross was a demonstration of His love toward us and all of creation. God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. God does not hold the sinner back from cooperating with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring him to repentance and new birth in Christ. Provisional forgiveness is God not holding the sinner back from receiving salvation.

God allowed the wickedness of human hands to do violence against Jesus at the cross. God was not killing Jesus. But God allowed His death in order to condemn sin to eventual extinction according to Romans 8:3. God was not punishing Jesus in our place in order for Him to forgive us either provisionally or judicially. God always freely forgives sin. Jesus is God and Jesus freely forgave sins without sacrifice or violence. Luke 7:48 God was not killing Jesus to satisfy justice. Justice for God giving eternal life is satisfied by changing the believing sinner into a new creation.

A sinner may cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction, repent, believe in Jesus, and receive Jesus. By receiving Jesus through His resurrected life, the believer is judicially forgiven of all sin. This means that when the believer sins, he is not rejected by his Heavenly Father. The believer pays the consequences of sin to some extent, but he is disciplined, comforted, and guided back to right living.
Jesus became humanity's God given substitute for Adam. Jesus succeeded in victory over sin and death. Jesus arose with the right to take away sin. The substitutionary work of Christ was <u>not</u> Jesus being punished for sin in our place. It was <u>not</u> to allow God to forgive sin. It was <u>not</u> to appease the wrath of God. God never changes. God's wrath against sin is never appeased. Scripture always calls for man to repent. Man must be changed, not God. God's mercy is seen in His willingness to change us.

To forgive, God needs no payment for sin. To forgive, God needs no appeasement of His wrath. Justice does not prohibit God's free forgiveness.

Forgiveness of sin means that God does not hold back His mercy and grace from any person. All are free to call upon Him and receive release from the power of sin. God is at work <u>taking away sin</u> from the life of the believer and replacing sin with the fruits of the Spirit.