

INTRODUCTION

1. 2C 5:21 Review. Legalities of God's court: v10-11a. Sin, wrath, jdgmnt = context of Christ's cross & resurrection. Focus: *made & might become*.
2. We cannot confuse what God *for us* in Christ & *in us* by Holy Spirit.

1st: Paul is not Describing a Change in Us as Persons

1. Christ did not become a sinner: *He knew no sin*, but was *made to be sin*. His person did not change. He assumed our position, *on our behalf*, in our place.
2. So too, our change in v21b parallels that of v21a. Change of legal position not us personally.
 - i. Our personal transformation - v17 Regeneration & sanctification
 - ii. v18-19 - position, legal, relational change accomplished by Christ - v21
 - iii. Legal change for us in Christ & personal moral change in us by Spirit.
3. v21 we *bec/ the righteousness of God*, not in ourselves but *in Him*. Legal standing: either in sin [Jn 8 :21] or *in Him*.

2nd: Paul is Describing a Change in Our Legal Position.

1. *made & might become* = v19: *counting* - legal accountability to law. Phile 1:18-19 take financial responsibility for someone else's debt
 - i. OT: legal status *credited* w/ atoning benefit of sac - Lev 7:18; legal judgments - 2 Sam 19:19 *not consider; impute iniquity*
 - ii. Judicial pardon - Ps 32:1,2,5 - v2 *not impute iniquity*
 - iii. God reconciles believing sinners - crediting them w/ new legal standing.
 - a. 2C 5:19 seen negatively: not crediting sin against sinner's account.
 - b. v21 seen positively: 'double imputation:' our sin imputed to Christ & His righteousness imputed to us
2. Get *into Christ*. Importance of differentiating between justification [change in legal status] & sanctification [change in person]. Jesus' work for us defines but is different than the Spirit's work in us. Ferguson: problems when we lose sight of justification.
3. We stand before the Judge united to the Judge Himself who is our Savior. He cannot condemn us without condemning Himself!