

- I. Session 45: Righteousness of God Part 3: Forensic Justification and our pursuit of righteousness
- a. Review: Last session we covered what is the doctrine of forensic justification followed by three reasons why we need the forensic justification of God and also explore some implications.
 - b. Purpose: In this session we shall explore the relationship of forensic justification and Christian pursuit of transformative righteousness.
 - c. What we mean by transformative righteousness?
 - i. By transformative righteousness, we are talking about God's work within the believers' lives of pursuing what is morally good.
 - ii. Transformative righteousness is practical righteousness.
 - iii. Again, just like the previous session, it sometimes help to understand transformative righteousness in contrast to forensic righteousness.
 1. Transformative righteousness has the idea of God MAKING someone right by transforming them.
 2. Forensic righteousness has the idea of God DECLARING someone right.
 - d. Relationship #1: Both Forensic justification and the call for Christian to pursue practical righteousness are clearly taught in Scripture
 - i. In the last session we have already established the truth of forensic righteousness.
 - ii. God also calls Christian to pursue practical righteousness.
 1. *"Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."* (2 Timothy 2:22)
 - a. Note we are called to *"pursue righteousness"*
 - b. This righteousness is a practical and transformative righteousness in the believers' lives that is manifested with the believers' action:
 - i. Note the contrast involves our action: *"flee from youthful lusts"*
 - ii. The other virtues Paul is commanding believers to pursue are also virtues that are practical virtues of believers: *"faith, love and peace,"*
 - iii. This is a pursuit involving others also pursuing the same thing: *"with those who call on the Lord"*
 2. *"For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but [a]in sanctification."* (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
 - a. Note what Paul denied: *"For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity"* (with impurity being the opposite of righteousness)
 - b. Note what Paul affirmed is our calling: *"in sanctification."* (with sanctification being set apart morally, as the rest of the context focuses on)
 - e. Relationship #2: Forensic justification does not mean we don't pursue practical righteousness

- i. *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be!” (Romans 6:1-2a)*
 - 1. Right before these verses Paul was talking about justification in **Romans 5:15-21**.
 - 2. Paul acknowledged that people could improperly deduce a license from forensic justification hence this denial in **Romans 6:1-2a**.
 - 3. So Paul strongly denies that forensic justification should mean a license to sin with the strong Greek idiom *“May it never be!”* that in the Greek is a double negative.
- ii. Similar statement: *“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!” (Romans 6:15)*
 - 1. Again Paul acknowledge that people could improperly deduce a license from forensic justification hence this denial here.
 - 2. So Paul strongly denies that forensic justification should mean a license to sin with the strong Greek idiom *“May it never be!”* that in the Greek is a double negative.
- f. Relationship #3: Forensic justification comes before pursuing practical holiness.
 - i. Remember from the previous session that we can do earn the righteousness of God by our works or the works of the Law.
 - 1. Right before these verses Paul was talking about justification in **Romans 5:15-21**.
 - 2. *“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works [b]of the Law” (Romans 3:28)*
 - ii. Only after we are justified are we then called to pursued sanctificatoin
- g. Relationship #3: Forensic justification is the motivation for pursuing practical righteousness (**Romans 6:2-7**).
- h. Implications