

Forgiven, because we have been given the perfect innocence of Jesus.

In legal terms “to impute liability” means to attach to a person *liability* for the acts of *someone else*, because of a particular relationship, such as parent to child, guardian to ward, employer to employee, or business relationship between partners.

This helps us to understand the concept in Christian teaching which says that the “innocence of Christ is imputed (or transferred) to believers”. It means ***we are treated as if we are not guilty on the basis of our relationship with God, as our Father in Jesus Christ.*** It is on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus freely given to us that God adopts sinners to become his children and finds them “not guilty” in spite of their debt caused by sin and their impurity!

2 Corinthians 5: 21 is about this transferred innocence we received. It says “*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*”

The Bible teaches that we are found not guilty by God on the grounds of the righteousness of Christ transferred to us, because we have *a faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ.* Christ's righteousness - his perfect innocence during his life on earth and his obedience to death - was transferred to us. It is as if I have been perfectly obedient and if I am as righteous as Christ himself - without sin, or shame.

Notice what God has done: He has satisfied both his justice and his mercy. Sin is punished in Christ and grace is shown to the sinner.

So, we learn about God's gracious holiness and his holy grace!

During our Lenten Journey that begins next Wednesday, we will see Christ punished for our sins. And we will find ourselves clothed with Christ's perfect obedience.