

## I. How Can God Bring Us Close?

- A. Sin is the issue between us
- B. Can't God just forgive?
  - 1. He asks us to forgive
  - 2. How He is different
  - 3. We sense that there is a problem of justice involved in forgiveness

## II. Justification

- A. Legal term
  - 1. Roman Court
    - a. Justified
    - b. Condemned - judged
  - 2. American Court
    - a. Guilty
    - b. Not guilty
- B. In both cases the same thing is happening
  - 1. Someone makes a judgment on whether or not a person has broken a law
  - 2. The judgment does not change our condition
  - 3. The judgment tells us how we relate to the law
- C. How can God declare us not guilty when we are so obviously guilty?
  - 1. This is a serious issue for us since the penalty for being found guilty is eternal death

### **III. Plan for Justification**

- A. Arises out of the grace (unmerited favor) of God
  - 1. No one deserves it
  - 2. No one can do anything to bring this to pass
- B. The basis for justification is the work of Jesus on the cross
  - 1. Jesus makes an exchange – His life for mine
  - 2. Jesus then makes a full payment for the sins we have committed
  - 3. God makes the righteousness of Christ, worked out on the earth, available to people
- C. Faith is the means by which the value of Christ's atoning death becomes real for a person

### **IV. Note Again the Seriousness of the Situation**

- A. John 3:18
  - 1. He who believes is not judged
  - 2. He who does not believe is judged already
- B. The judgment will not be executed until a man dies (Hebrews 9:27)
- C. Today is the day of salvation