

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION**ROMANS 4:23-25**

Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from unrighteousness.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**DESCRIPTION**

We have confidence that by the cross we are forgiven of ALL our sins and thereby are unconditionally loved by the Father.

VERSES

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the apex of human history. As such the cross plays a central role in understanding this event. It is in this moment that we as Christians find our understanding of justification/forgiveness, which has a two-fold nature. There is a forensic aspect, which is the declarative statement by God that one's debt is paid by Christ's work on the cross (Col. 2:14). The second aspect is familial, or relational, in nature by which an individual in Jesus is fully accepted and embraced by God through Him. These dual concepts that exist within our understanding of justification/forgiveness is what this song is reflecting on. The verses of the song focus on reflecting on the transaction at the death and resurrection of Jesus (or what Jesus has done), and the chorus/bridge each reflect on the natures of this transaction.

CHORUS

Again, the terminology used in the chorus is demonstrating the twofold nature of justification. "Forgiven" speaks to the forensic reality, and "accepted" speaks to the familial/relational. Another way to look at this, as the song itself says, is at that place "where heavens' love and justice meet." Forgiveness could not be attained without the satisfaction of justice, but it is love which motivates the act of reconciliation.

BRIDGE

That concept, or intention, of love is what the bridge notes. We need go no further than perhaps the most famous verse in our Bible to see that love is the intention when we read, "for God so loved the world" (Jn. 3:16). The point is that when we reflect on the love of God in forgiveness of Christ we can often think only about the legal transaction (forensic) that takes place. If we do so, at the cost of God's love and desire to embrace us, we miss the point. We have not been reconciled solely as moral agents, but as children of God! Truly the love of God is great.