

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-64734-3 - Forgiveness and Suffering: A Study of Christian Belief

Douglas White

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## SYNOPSIS OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

## THE PRESENT POSITION

Divine forgiveness a permanent concept of religion (p. 1); Sin lowers man and alienates God (2); religious experience needs intelligible explanation (3); fear of disturbing traditional opinions (4); lack of definite theory to-day (5); understanding does not lessen reverence (6); largeness of grasp the secret of progress (7); a sane optimism (8).

pp. 1—8

## CHAPTER II

## LANDMARKS OF EARLIER THOUGHT

No fixed theory in first two centuries (9). Belief in a personal Devil (11); ORIGEN's theory of compact with Satan; its philosophic and ethical defects; its prolonged influence (12—14). ANSELM breaks down current doctrine; his new hypothesis of satisfaction paid by man to God (14); his great influence on subsequent thought (17). Questions raised by Schoolmen (19); REFORMERS' drastic views; punishment must precede pardon; SOCINUS denies this; GROTIUS attempts compromise (19—21). LUTHER's view prevails. Penal substitution; its difficulties, (1) Philosophic, guilt and penalty; (2) Historical, life of Jesus; (3) Theological, implied ditheism (22—28).

pp. 9—28

## CHAPTER III

## MODERN TENDENCIES

Summary of foregoing theories (29). Judicial equivalence or *acceptatio* (30). Analogy of debt breaks down (31). All these theories transactional, not ethical (32); latter begin to preponderate, former to disappear (33); great advance, yet not wholly satisfactory (35); why the need of suffering? (36); Pantheistic tendency; immanence and transcendence complementary (37).

pp. 29—37

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-64734-3 - Forgiveness and Suffering: A Study of Christian Belief

Douglas White

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

x

*Synopsis*

## CHAPTER IV

## NATURAL AND MORAL LAW

Ambiguity of word "Law": natural law a statement of fact, moral law a principle of ethics (38—40); concepts different yet not independent (41); ordinances based on facts, both in physical and moral spheres (42); instinct of self-defence in both (44). Consequences wrongly interpreted as penalties; death the natural result of sin (46); pain restorative, not penal (48); moral tendency of social relations (50); eternal punishment, how misunderstood (51); God's justice automatic; his Love personal (52). pp. 38—52

## CHAPTER V

## FORGIVENESS A PERSONAL RELATION

God's personal antagonism to evil (53); moral evil inseparable from persons (54); God's attitude one of antagonism, not hatred (55); antagonism not subversive of love (56); our concepts necessarily anthropomorphic; argument from human to divine (57); forgiveness independent of arbitrary punishment (59); repentance and pardon a psychological exchange (60). No need for expiation, guarantees, or vicarious penitence (63—67); Jesus does not face God, but expresses Him (68); to forgive the repentant is just (69). Forgiveness does not contravene natural law, but presupposes it (70); it is free but not automatic (72); forgiveness intensifies love (74). pp. 53—74

## CHAPTER VI

## THE NEED OF SUFFERING

Jesus reveals God in love, forgiveness, suffering (75, 76); cost of forgiveness always borne by injured person (77); value of pardon measured by suffering (80); without blood no remission; thought implicit in ancient ritual (81). The passion of God (82); impassibility defined (83). Love and suffering inseparable (84); passibility not opposed to omnipotence (85); love and self-expression (86); passibility

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-64734-3 - Forgiveness and Suffering: A Study of Christian Belief

Douglas White

Table of Contents

[More information](#)*Synopsis*

xi

of God a necessary outcome of Christian thought (88); no real philosophic difficulty (91); self-limitation of God a necessity (91). Self-sacrifice a joy; but contact with sin painful (92); forgiveness not painful, yet reached through pain (93); God also is made perfect through suffering (94). pp. 75—94

## CHAPTER VII

## FORGIVENESS VITAL NOT FORMAL

Transactions eliminated (95); God's attitude unaltered (96); the "finished work" explained in accord with general sense of N.T. (98); two objections met (100); "dereliction" discussed (101—4). Recapitulation (105); self-revelation God's purpose in Jesus (106); love, suffering, forgiveness—a sequence (107). Older and newer views contrasted (110); Crucifixion represents an eternal truth (113); forgiveness the beginning, not the end; brings newness of life (114); sacrifice and ensample (115); taking of manhood into God; only one way of forgiveness (116). pp. 95—116

## CHAPTER VIII

## REFLECTIONS AND HOPES

A living picture (117). Death of Christ not to be considered in isolation (118); represents God's passion. Potency of Christ's passion not less real, though symbolical (119); value of this view to different shades of belief (120); universal value of Passion, though in time (121); importance of revised doctrine (122), as Christianising world (123) and unifying Church (124). Meaning of authority (126); recent revolution of thought (127). pp. 117—128

## EPILOGUE

The City of God; its houses and citizens; a comparison.

pp. 129—133