

## Venom: Forgiveness: Perfect Adjudication Is Administered by the Supreme Court of Heaven

We are not given the prerogative to adjudicate the issue since it is a matter for the Supreme Court of Heaven.

### Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "adjudicate":

*To settle judicially; to act as judge.*

Our grace orientation turns it over to the Lord for prosecution since all judgment has been delegated to Him:

**John 5:22** - For not even the Father judges anyone but He has given all judgment to the Son.

The "judgment" for the believer would be the administration of discipline in a fair and equitable manner.

In a family when brothers fight and quarrel and one is apprehended by the parents as the instigator, the victim is content to allow his father to administer justice. Once punishment is administered then no further punishment is required although an apology may be insisted upon. But the victim is not allowed to continue punishment after the fact or administer it in the beginning. He instead is humbled by the administration of justice on his behalf and reminded that the same awaits him if he should, in the future, become the culprit.

The father in his wisdom decides what form of punishment is appropriate and the intensity it is to be administered.

**Jeremiah 12:1** - Righteous are you O Lord, that I would plead my case with you; indeed I would discuss matters of justice with you: Why has the way of the wicked prospered?

Left to his own devices, the victim quite possibly would administer punishment which was inappropriate, too harsh for the crime committed, or motivated by self-righteousness and impulsive anger.

The abused brother is encouraged to forgive his sibling for several reasons: (1) punishment has been administered, (2) he must get rid of any lingering chronic sins which would destroy his ability to lead a normal life, and (3) family harmony and unity is more important than vengeance.

Seeing justice work in the household is a testimony to the justice of God in a person's everyday life. We must learn to turn wrongdoing by others over to the heavenly Father for adjudication. He in turn delegates the case to Christ who as Prosecutor, tries the case. If punishment is justified, He administers it.

If the culprit confesses his sins, he is forgiven, he is restored to fellowship, and the case is dropped. However, if restitution is to be made then it becomes the responsibility of the forgiven believer to follow through. But regardless of whether any of these things ever take place, the victim must forgive the offender.

How can we forgive anyone of anything since the wrongdoing was first and foremost against God? We are to forgive our fellow believer "*just as God by means of Christ forgave us.*"

An example of this is taught by our Lord in Matthew 18:21-Matthew 18:35. We shall note this passage through a reading from the New American Standard version and note points of application to our study along the way.