

Job 9:20 (KJV)

If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

One word we all use during our time in prayer, especially when we are confessing our sins is the word "Because."

"Well. What's wrong with using that word?" you may be thinking. Let me post a quote from Pastor, Dr. David Jeremiah:

"As long as we justify our sins, we will not consider ourselves in need of forgiveness."

I'm not sure if we ever think of that, yet how many times do we confess our sins and add the word "because" when we do? If you think about it, in a sense we are trying to justify why we sinned, or even blame someone else for the sin we committed. So, if you think about it, if we think that it's someone else's fault we sinned, then why would we need forgiveness?

Think way, way back over 6,000 years ago, where both Adam and Eve gave God a "because" excuse (in a sense) for why they sinned.

Adam blamed Eve "(Because) *The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.*"

† **Genesis 3:12** *Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

When you read that you realize that Adam was really blaming God (*The woman whom You gave*).

And Eve, well she blamed the serpent. "(Because) *the serpent deceived me, and I ate.*"

† **Genesis 3:13** *And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

But when we go on to read God's response to both of them, God did not say to Adam and Eve, "You know what, those are real good excuse, I'll go ahead and pardon you, because I never thought about it that way."

Even Jesus tells us to simply "**Repent**" not "Try and give me a good enough excuse, and if I buy it, then I'll pardon you." No, Jesus said:

† **Matthew 4:17** *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Yet isn't that how we think or hope that it will happen? If we say no, then why do we give God an excuse, or use the word "Because" with our confession?

Like when we say, "Lord I sinned because _____" we are now saying in a sense, "Lord I sinned but the reason I did was because _____ made me do it or caused me to do it, so I don't need to repent."

But the bible says:

† **Romans 3:19 (NLT2)** *Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.*

† **Micah 3:7 (MSG)** *Visionaries will be confused, experts will be all mixed up. They'll hide behind their reputations and make lame excuses to cover up their God-ignorance.*

Yet we do it with our kids and ask them why they did or didn't do something. We do because we are looking for their excuse. We also treat God like that, thinking He is asking us for an excuse. But He already knows why we sinned, just like we really know why our kids were disobedient, or even why we ourselves sinned; Therefore, God does not need an excuse from us. He only desires true repentance, not lame excuses.

† **Psalms 32:5** *I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*