

Christology: The Person and Work of Christ

Lesson 6: The Work of Christ – Atonement, Part 2

Statement of Belief: Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Second Person of the Trinity, lived a perfect life and died a substitutionary death for the redemption of God's people.

Often "atonement" is used only to refer to the work of Christ on the cross, dying and paying for our sins. For the sake of this class, like Wayne Grudem, we will use "atonement" to mean "the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation" (*Systematic Theology*, 568).

Question #1: Who inflicted the penalty of death?

The penalty was inflicted by God the Father, but the Son voluntarily took it upon himself (Isa. 53:6, 10)

Question #2: Did Jesus pay the full penalty?

- If we were to bear the penalty of sin ourselves, we would suffer for eternity because we have offended an eternal God. Our debt is too high for us to pay it.
- Jesus suffered not eternally, but temporarily and made a *complete* payment for sin.
- Jesus, because he was fully God and fully man, was able to pay our debt to completion. It is finished.
- John 19:30; Romans 8:1; Heb. 9:25-28

Question #3: What is the meaning of the blood of Christ?

When Jesus' blood was poured out, it was an outward evidence of the fact that he "poured out" his life for our redemption (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Other effects of the blood

- Our consciences are cleansed (Heb. 9:14)
- We gain bold access to God in worship and prayer (Heb. 10:19)
- We are progressively cleansed from remaining sin (1 John 1:7; cf. Rev. 1:5b)
- We are able to conquer the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10-11)
- We are rescued out of a sinful way of life (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

Question #4: How was Christ's death "penal substitution"?

Penal: Christ bore a penalty when he died.

Substitution: Christ died in our place.

Question #5: What are some NT terms describing different aspects of the atonement?

Sacrifice (Heb. 9:26)

Propitiation (1 Jn. 4:10)

Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19)

Redemption (Col. 1:13-14)