

GOSPEL DEFINED

Substitutionary Atonement

Essential to the message of the cross is the teaching of Substitutionary Atonement. In essence, it is the voluntary work of God in Christ's life, death, and resurrection accomplished in our place to secure our pardon and salvation. God must and will punish all wrong-doing, and the captivating truth of the gospel is that Jesus died for our wrong-doing — a shameful death, bearing our curse, enduring our pain, suffering the wrath of his own Father in our place. So, the answer to the questions "How can God love sinners without destroying justice?" and "How can the unrighteous be found righteous?" are found right here. Every other aspect of the gospel hinges on this point.

JESUS BEARS YOUR PENALTY

Because God is holy, every _____ faces a penalty.

Because Jesus is perfect, He is able to bear _____ penalty.

JESUS TAKES YOUR PLACE.

Jesus substitutes Himself "on _____ of us" before God.

He offers His life-long obedience on behalf of our daily disobedience.

Jesus substitutes Himself "in _____ of us" before God.

He suffers God's wrath innocently in place of our deserved guilt.

JESUS BRINGS YOU TO GOD.

The penalty of sin _____ us from God.

The _____ of Jesus brings us back to God.

The cross of Christ makes His death and His life _____.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

Substitutionary Atonement is a hotly debated aspect of the teaching of the gospel. What did Jesus really die for? Many try to explain the work of Christ simply as an example for us to follow or as a way to soften men's hearts to repentance. Why do you think that is? What is it about this teaching that is so offensive?

What areas of unbiblical thinking and living has God revealed in your own life in light of understanding God's work in Jesus substituting Himself in our place?

What does Leviticus 17:11 teach about blood and atonement?

Read through Isaiah 53. Jeremias said of Isaiah's words: 'No other passage from the Old Testament was as important to the Church as Isaiah 53'. Why is this? Look at Mark 10:45 and 14:24. What light do these verses shed on Jesus' own understanding of the significance of his death?

On the basis of your understanding of Substitutionary Atonement, what might you say to someone who said that they were doing their best to get to heaven and that they hoped God would overlook their minor failings?

How should the truth that God in Christ voluntarily substituted Himself in your place on your behalf affect your life this week? List 3 ideas of application.