

## **Communion Series**

# **“Understanding the Cross”**

**Developing a Biblical/Theological  
Understanding of the Death of Christ**

# The Accomplishment of the Cross

What did Jesus achieve by His death?

➤ **The salvation of sinners!**

- in His substitutionary death, *Jesus suffered the penalty for our sins*, and thereby rescued us from eternal death and judgment
- the Bible communicates this truth using a variety of images

# Images of the Atonement

## 1. Language of the Temple (sacrificial)

- key word: “*propitiation*”; emphasis – the wrath of God being turned away by a sacrifice

## 2. Language of the Market Place (economic)

- key word: “*redemption*”; emphasis – the great price paid to deliver the helpless sinner

## 3. Language of the Law-court (judicial)

- key word: “*justification*”; emphasis – the just demands of the law being satisfied on our behalf

# Images of the Atonement

## 4. Language of the Home (relational)

- key word: *“reconciliation”*
- Definition:
  - restore to a right (friendly) relationship after a break has occurred;
  - change from enmity to friendship

*Man's greatest need is to be reconciled to God!*

# Reconciliation

## The Need

1. **What is the relationship between God and man?**
  - “enemies” – hostility and alienation
  - the emphasis is on God’s disposition toward us (we are His enemies!)
2. **What is the source of this enmity?**
  - our sin – devastated our relationship with God
  - Sin has offended God and kindled His wrath against us

# Reconciliation

## The Accomplishment

### 1. Who is the initiator?

- Not the sinner
- God the Father – even though offended and full of wrath, He acts out of His love to accomplish our reconciliation

### 2. How did He accomplish this?

- The death of Christ – makes “peace”
- 2 Cor. 5:21 – God imputed our sin to Jesus and His righteousness to us

# Reconciliation

## The Result

- **“we have peace with God” – Rom. 5:1**
- **our eternal salvation is certain and secure!**