

# The Atonement

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## The Necessity and Nature of the Atonement (Part One)

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### Leviticus 17:11

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the life.”

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### Definition of “Atonement”

#### (English)

- “atone” = to make amends or reparation for a wrong or an injury
- “at-one-ment” – become united or reconciled

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### Definition of “Atonement”

#### (Hebrew)

- “*kipper*” = compensation given to God for sin or impurity through which purification and forgiveness are granted
- results in reconciliation or peaceful relationship with God (not judgment)

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### 1. Necessity of Atonement

#### ➤ *atonement is necessary for salvation*

- God does not forgive sin without atonement
- God cannot forgive sin without atonement

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“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”  
– Hebrews 9:22

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### 2. Nature of Atonement

- the means for making atonement was given by God
- the means for making atonement was blood (i.e. death; the shedding of blood)
- the blood (death) was substitutionary – “for the life” of the worshiper

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***Atonement was by substitutionary death***

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### Essential Questions

#### 1. Why can't God forgive repentant sinners without the sacrificial atonement of Jesus?

- Is it not a virtue in men to forgive transgressions without compensation?
- Does God's display of mercy without atonement necessarily make Him unjust?
- If God can be longsuffering for a moment, could He be longsuffering forever?

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### Essential Questions

#### 2. Why is the substitutionary death of Jesus accepted by God as satisfactory atonement?

- Is not the substitute-penalty bearing of the innocent for the guilty inherently unjust?
- How does the death of the one man, Jesus, atone for the sins of multitudes?
- Why didn't Jesus have to bear God's judgment forever?

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