

# The Atonement

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

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## The Atonement: Introduction

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### Leviticus 17:11

1. **Necessity:** God does not forgive sin without God-prescribed atonement
2. **Nature:** Atonement was by substitutionary death

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Fulfilled in the necessity of Jesus' substitutionary death for our atonement

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### Premise:

God **cannot** forgive sin without adequate atonement, namely, the death of Christ

### Question: Why?!

- Why can't God simply forgive repentant sinners?
- Why can't God forgive us as we forgive others?

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### Holiness of God

#### 1. Definition of Holiness

- God's transcendent separateness – the infinite distance that separates Him from every creature
- God's transcendent purity – morally spotless and separate from every form of evil

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**God's holiness and sin are utterly incompatible!**

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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"Your eyes are too pure to approve evil,  
And you cannot look on wickedness with favor."  
– Habakkuk 1:13

"For You are not a God who takes pleasure in  
wickedness; No evil dwells with You."  
– Psalm 5:4

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### Holiness of God

#### 2. Reaction of Holiness: Wrath

##### A. Disposition of Wrath

- His steady, unrelenting, uncompromising antagonism to evil in all its forms and manifestations
- This is the inevitable reaction of God's holiness to evil; He abhors it necessarily

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### Imagery of Inevitability

- "*Provocation*" – sin always provokes God's anger (Deuteronomy 32:16-21)
- "*Fire*" – sin kindles God's burning anger (Exodus 32:19)
- "*Vomit*" – sin necessarily nauseates God and leads to His violent reaction (Psalm 95:10)

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### Holiness of God

#### 2. Reaction of Holiness: Wrath

##### B. Execution of Wrath

- The outpouring of the fierceness of His wrath in judgment and destruction of sinners
- This is just retribution – equivalent recompense
- This is an eternal judgment (2 Thess. 1:8-9)

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## The Atonement: Necessity

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### A Better Question:

In light of His holiness, how is it even possible for God to forgive sin?

### An Apparent Problem:

How is it that there is a glaring absence of God's holy wrath against sin?

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