

The Atonement

The Necessity and Nature of the Atonement (Part Eight)

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The Atonement

The Necessity: God's Nature

- God is absolutely and necessarily just – He cannot but punish sin
- God is love – He provides a means of satisfying His just retribution against sin and forgiving sinners = **THE CROSS**

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The Atonement

The Nature: "Penal Substitution"

God, in His love, sent His Son Jesus, who, as our representative substitute, bore the just penalty/judgment (i.e. God's wrath) for our sin by His death on the cross...

whereby God's wrath is removed and sinners are reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

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The Atonement

Important Questions:

1. How is this just?

- How is it just to punish an innocent person in the place of the guilty?
- Are the opponents of penal substitution correct in their criticisms? ("*divine child abuse*")

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The Atonement

Important Questions:

2. How is this effective?

- How is the death of the one sufficient atonement for the many?
- How does the penalty-bearing death of Jesus satisfy the infinite quality of God's judgment?

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

The justice and effectiveness of penal substitutionary atonement are based on the nature of the substitute

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Christ: The Substitute

- **Fully God** – the eternal Son

There is one God eternally existing and fully expressed in three distinct, equal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Christ: The Substitute

- **Fully Man** – He “became flesh”

The eternal Son of God, without ceasing to be what he is, God the Son, took into union with himself a human nature.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Christ: The Substitute

- **God-man** – two natures in one person

In the one person of Jesus the two natures, God and man, are inseparably united forever, yet with the two natures remaining distinct, whole and unchanged.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fulness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

In order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive adoption as sons.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Philippians 2:5-9

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Colossians 1:19-20

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him,

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace by the blood of His cross; through Him. I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Colossians 2:9-15

For in Him all the fulness of deity dwells in bodily form, ...
 ...He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way having nailed it to the cross.

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Hebrews 2:14-17

Since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

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The Atonement: Our Substitute

Conclusion

➤ *Self-substitution of God for us*

- God in the person of the Son substituted Himself as our penalty-bearer
- The holy and offended Judge Himself, in the person of His Son, bore the penalty for our sin which He Himself inflicted

What are the implications of this truth?

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