

The Atonement

The Necessity and Nature of the Atonement

(Part Nine)

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The Atonement

“Penal Substitution”

God, in His love, gave His Son to suffer the just penalty/judgment for our sin by His death on the cross

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Questions:

1. How is this just?
2. How is this effective?

*The answers are based on the nature of
the substitute*

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Who is our Substitute?

➤ *Self-substitution of God for us*

- God in the person of the Son substituted Himself as our penalty-bearer
- God both inflicts and endures the judgment due us for our sin

Inseparable operation yet distinguishable actions

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2 Corinthians 5:18-19

“Now all these things are from God, who has reconciled us to Himself *through Christ*, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that *God was in Christ* reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...”

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Romans 5:8

“*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

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John 14:9-10

“...He who has seen Me has seen the Father...Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the *Father abiding in Me does His works.*”

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John 5:19-20

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing...”

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John 17:4-5

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which *You have given Me* to do.
And now glorify Me together with Yourself, Father, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

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The Implications

1. The justice of penal substitution

- *Caricatures of penal substitution*
 - Jesus as an independent mediator
 - Jesus as a helpless or unwilling victim
 - Jesus makes God loving by His death for sin

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The Implications

1. The justice of penal substitution

- *There is nothing immoral or unethical about the Father punishing His Son in our place*
 - Not a version of “child abuse”
 - The one sinned against is the one who receives and inflicts the penalty

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The Implications

2. The effectiveness of penal substitution

- *Christ's suffering, though finite in time, is of infinite value because He is infinitely worthy as God*
 - The “value” of Christ's penal substitutionary death is sufficient for every sin of every sinner for all time

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1 Peter 1:18-19

“...knowing that you were not redeemed with
perishable things like silver or gold from your futile
way of life inherited from your forefathers,
but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished
and spotless, the blood of Christ.”