



Part 1: TO SHOW US GOD'S LOVE

INTRODUCTION – The Penultimate Question

The Gospel = Good News that through Jesus, God has come to us to

- SHOW US...
- SAVE US...
- SET UP...
- SHUT DOWN...

“Atonement” = At-one-ment

What's the BIG IDEA?

The cross shows God's heart of infinite love, even in response to our hate and hostility.

DINE IN – “God Was In Christ”

1 John 4:8, 16; 3:16; John 15:12-13; 10:11; Romans 5:8

Mark 12:1-12; Luke 15:11-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Zachariah 12:10; 13:1

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

No matter what you've done, and no matter how far you've gone away from God, he loves you, he is waiting for you, and he wants to celebrate with you when you come home.

CONCLUSION – The Ultimate Question

Acts 16:30-31

For Further Study...

- *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*, by Thomas R. Schreiner, James Beilby, Paul R. Eddy, and Gregory A. Boyd
- *The Atonement Debate*, Edited by Derek Tidball et al.
- *Stricken by God?: Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of Christ*, Edited by Brad Jersak and Michael Hardin
- *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: Atonement in New Testament & Contemporary Contexts*, by Joel Green and Mark Baker
- *Images of Salvation in the New Testament*, by Brenda B. Colin

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What are you most/least looking forward to in this series? Why?
2. If you have a church background, what kind of teaching on the crucifixion have you heard most often? If you have little church experience, had you ever thought about why Christ died on the cross?
3. “At the crucifixion of Christ, God was not outside Jesus, pouring down his wrath. He was in Christ, pouring out his love.” Do you agree or disagree? If you can, use Scripture to support your opinion.

Look To the Book...

4. Read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**. A) What verse or idea stands out the most? Why? B) How would it affect your thoughts and interactions if you were to “regard no one from a worldly point of view” anymore? C) What is the significance of saying that we were reconciled to God rather than God reconciled to us? Does the atonement change God or change us? D) Ambassadors need to know the heart of the leader of the Kingdom they represent as well as the culture of the land to which they are sent. They also need to have the courage to be active in their role and to be recognized as an ambassador in a foreign land. What are your strengths and/or weaknesses as an ambassador for Christ? E) What is something you could do this week to increase your proficiency as Christ's ambassador to those around you?

So What?...

5. What Scripture says God did for us (endure suffering, lay his life down, love his enemies, forgive his persecutors, reconcile broken relationships, etc.), we are called to offer to others. Do you know anyone who is hard for you to love and forgive and bless like God does you? What would it look like this week for you to love them like God loves you? What are you going to do about it?

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching
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