



Part 1: TO SHOW US GOD'S LOVE

Of all the questions regularly asked about Jesus, the question, 'Why did Jesus die?' must be among the most frequent. It is certainly the most fascinating.

-- N.T. Wright, *The Reasons For Jesus' Crucifixion*

What we believe about the cross (and what God was doing there) will fundamentally shape our attitude toward, and involvement with, wider society.

-- Steve Chalke, *The Redemption of the Cross*

The cross does not have the appearance of "good news" but of absurdity. The message of the cross calls for a worldview shift of colossal proportions because it subverts conventional, taken-for-granted ways of thinking and knowing.

-- Mark D. Baker, *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross*

According to Jesus of the Gospels and the Gospel writers themselves, God sent his Son with good news of love, and then we responded by killing him.

-- Brad Jersak, *Nonviolent Identification and the Victory of Christ*

The cross is a symbol of love. It is a demonstration of just how far God as Father and Jesus as his Son are prepared to go to prove that love.

-- Steve Chalke, *The Lost Message of Jesus*

The gospel announces a new relationship of God based on grace, forgiveness, and love, and this emphasis virtually eclipses the concept of retributive punishment. The father of the prodigal son does not say, "Here comes my son; before I receive him back, I must make sure that the family sees justice done."

-- DFD Moule, *Punishment and Retribution: Delimiting Their Scope in NT Thought*

I don't judge you. I leave that to a wrathful, angry God to do.

-- Ned Flanders, to Homer Simpson

A god who demands the child –sacrifice of his own son to satiate his own wrath? That is NOT Jehovah; that is Molech. God was not punishing Christ on the cross. He was IN Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.

-- Archbishop Lazar Puhalo, quoted in *Stricken By God?*

Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity.

Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God.

-- Richard Rohr, *The Franciscan Opinion*

I could have been me put the
Thorns in your crown
Rooted as I am in a violent ground
How many times have I turned
Your promise down
Still you pour out your love
Pour out your love

-- Bruce Crockburn, *Dweller By a Dark Stream*

This is how we know what love is: Jesus laid down his life for us.

-- The Apostle John