



Twenty Things Every Christian Should Know



Objectives:

Identify the most commonly accepted beliefs about the Christian Faith and how they interact to ground our faith



SUMMARY OF FIRST SESSION

Knowing the Bible

↳ Allows us to know God

↳ Who is Triune

↳ And was responsible for Creation

↳ Therefore, we need to pray to Him

↳ Understanding that there are Angels & Demons

↳ That God created Man

↳ However, Man Sinned

↳ So God sent Christ

↳ To offer an Atonement

WHO IS CHRIST?



WHO IS CHRIST?

- ✓ Jesus needed to be fully man and fully God to act as the perfect mediator, fulfilling the requirements of both divine justice and human representation.
- ✓ As man, He could represent humanity and die in our place
- ✓ As God, His sacrifice had infinite value to satisfy God's wrath, break the power of sin, and overcome death.



WHO IS CHRIST?

Jesus is FULLY man

To be a suitable substitute for Adam, and representative for Humanity: Jesus had to be human to represent the human race.

A. Possessed all the attributes of humanity (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18)

1. **Virgin birth-** **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit

2. **Jesus had a human body born as a human baby.**

Luke 2:7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn



WHO IS CHRIST?

3. Jesus had a human mind, increased in wisdom; (Luke 2:52) and learned obedience:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

4. Jesus had a human soul and human emotions

John 12:27	<u>Soul Troubled</u>
John 11:35	<u>Wept</u>
John 2:13–17	<u>Angry</u>
Matthew 4:2	<u>Hungry</u>
John 4:6	<u>Tired</u>
Luke 10:21	<u>Happy</u>

5. Sinlessness-: He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us
2 Corinthians. 5:21

WHO IS CHRIST?

Comfort comes when we know that someone actually understands what we are going through and knows exactly how we feel. Our Savior understands it all.

Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:14-16**



WHO IS CHRIST?

When Jesus was resurrected, He came back with a physical body.

“See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

Luke 24:39



WHO IS CHRIST?

B. Why was Jesus' full humanity necessary?

1. Representative: To obey God on our behalf:

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:18-19

2. Substitute: To die for sin in our place:

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17



WHO IS CHRIST?

JESUS – FULLY GOD

The second person of the Trinity has always existed as the Father's Son. Equally God. This is crucial for salvation and worship.

- **Infinite Worth of Sacrifice:** Only a divine, sinless being could bear the full, infinite weight of God's wrath against the sins of all humanity.
- **Ability to Conquer Death:** As God, He had the power to overcome death and rise from the dead, providing eternal life.
- **Perfect Obedience:** His divinity ensured his life was perfectly obedient and sinless, fulfilling the requirement for a perfect sacrifice



WHO IS CHRIST?

C. Direct Scriptural Claims

God's exact imprint means everything that makes God, God was in Jesus:

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.

Hebrews 1:3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

“For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again”.

John 10:17-18



WHO IS CHRIST?

Jesus DID claim to be God as understood by His audiences

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” Matthew 7:21-23

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.’ And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” Mark 2:10-12

And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27-28



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?



I lay down My Life
for the sheep



For this reason
the Father loves me

John 10:15-17

WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

Definition:

**The atonement is the work Christ did
in his life and death to earn our
salvation**



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

The Problem:

- **As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God” Romans 3:10-11**
- **For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:22b-23**
- **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord Romans 6:23**



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

The Solution:

If all have sinned, it is necessary that there be a sinless sacrifice to satisfy the justice of God. This is referred to as 'atoning' for sin, thus the atonement.



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

A. Two causes of the atonement: Love and Justice

The love of God: As a cause of the atonement, it is seen in the most familiar passage in the Bible:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life John 3:16

The Justice of God: Being perfect in justice, it would be required that God find a way that the penalty due to us for our sins would be paid because He could not accept us into fellowship with Himself unless the penalty was paid.

(We) are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:24-25



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

B. The Necessity of the Atonement: God did not need, nor was obligated to provide atonement for the sins of mankind.

For if God **did not spare angels** when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes** he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **and if he rescued righteous Lot**, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly** from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 2 Peter 2:4-9



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

But the atonement was necessary if God was going to save any sinners;

And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Luke 24:25-26

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

C. The Nature of the Atonement

Christ's obedience for us (sometimes called his "active obedience")

Christ lived a life of perfect obedience to God as our representative.

“And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” John 8:29 (Also, Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 3:9)

Christ's sufferings for us (sometimes called his "passive obedience")

Suffering for his whole life: **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:3** (Also Hebrews 5:8)



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

Why did Jesus have to die?

- Jesus died to pay the penalty for human sin—defined as death—thereby satisfying divine justice and reconciling humanity with God.
- As a sinless substitute, his voluntary death and resurrection conquered the power of sin and death, offering forgiveness and eternal life to believers.



Key reasons for Jesus' death include:

- **Atonement for Sin:** Scripture states that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins," (Hebrews 9:22) making Jesus' death a necessary sacrifice to pay the debt of human disobedience.
 - **Satisfying Divine Justice:** God is just, and sin requires punishment; Jesus took the wrath of God on behalf of humanity, acting as a propitiation (a sacrifice that turns away wrath).
 - **Defeating Death and Evil:** Jesus' death and subsequent resurrection broke the power of Satan and the mastery of death over humanity.
 - **Reconciliation:** The death of Jesus removed the barrier of sin, allowing humans to be reconciled to God and restored to fellowship with Him.
 - **Demonstrating Perfect Obedience:** Jesus proved that a human could remain faithful to God under the ultimate test, correcting the disobedience of Adam.
 - **Ultimate Sacrifice:** Jesus ended the need for the Old Testament animal sacrifices by offering himself as the perfect, final, and sufficient sacrifice.
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WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

Propitiation: (*hilasmos*) a sacrifice that turns God's wrath to favor

- Whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins Romans 3:25
- Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people Hebrews 2:17
- He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world 1 John 2:2
- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins 1 John 4:10



WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

D. The Result of the Atonement

- Christ lived a perfect, sinless life and died a terrible death in order to ‘save His people from their sins’

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **Matthew 1:21**

- He paid the penalty, endured the wrath that WE deserved in order to pay for our sins.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. **Isaiah 53:5**

-He freed us from the bondage caused by sin.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery **Galatians 5:1**

WHAT IS THE ATONEMENT?

Because of Christ's work on our behalf, the atonement, God 'delivered us from the domain of darkness' and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. Colossians 1:13



Next Week:

**We return to the
verse-by-verse study
of
1 Corinthians
with
1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Teacher: Richard Byrd