

BIG IDEA

Atonement reminds us that Jesus would rather die than live without us.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 2:14-18, Colossians 2:13-14, Romans 3:22-26

HEBREWS 2:14-18 CHRISTUS VICTOR (VICTORY) ATONEMENT THEORY

The basic problem is that we are captives under the power of sin. When Jesus comes to earth and identifies with us, he trades his life for us, and the devil takes Jesus as his own. But Jesus couldn't be contained by death, and he rises again, overcoming sin, death, and the grave. We all share in Jesus' victory if we follow him.

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14 SATISFACTION (OBEDIENCE) ATONEMENT THEORY

The basic problem is that we have defrauded God of the honor he deserves. Therefore we have a huge debt, and we can't pay God the honor he deserves. But Christ's obedience pays our debt and satisfies God's honor.

ROMANS 3:22-26 PENAL SUBSTITUTION (PENALTY) ATONEMENT THEORY

Because of our sin, we have broken God's law, and therefore God's righteousness demands punishment for human sin. That means every human deserves God's punishment for their sins, for God is just, and God would be unjust if He didn't punish injustice. So, God, in his grace, sends his son and exacts punishment on a sinful world and supplies the one to be punished. Jesus doesn't just pay the honor; he pays the penalty for sin.

LIFE APPLICATION

Use these questions to help individuals understand how the three different Atonement Theories are all useful in certain circumstances. Those who didn't grow up in the church may need help understanding all three types, those who grew up with one theory as the only theory, may need help seeing that one as still useful, especially the Penal Substitution Theory.

CHALLENGE

The atoning work of Jesus inaugurated the work of making all things right. He makes me right, restoring all of the toxicity and brokenness in my heart. He makes us right, healing the things that divide us against each other and keep us at a distance. He makes the world right, repairing the systems and structures that contribute to evil and injustice. Spend some time in prayer this week, praying over the answers to these questions:

- What restoration do you need?
- What restoration do we need?
- What restoration does the world need?