

WHY THE CROSS MATTERS

"This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross."

Acts 2:23

❖ Why Was Jesus' Death on the Cross Necessary?

He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross.

Colossians 2:14 (NLT)

1. Because we stand UNRIGHTEOUS before a HOLY God.

"There is no one righteous, not even one..."

Romans 3:10 (NIV)

2. Because God's STANDARD for righteousness is PERFECTION.

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

3. Because there is NOTHING we can do to be MADE RIGHT with God.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin."

Romans 3:20 (NIV)

4. Because our unrighteousness is called SIN, and the ultimate CONSEQUENCE is DEATH.

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:15 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

5. Because God is FAIR and JUST... Therefore, there is a PENALTY for our sin.

"I am the LORD, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷I show this unfailing love to many thousands by forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. Even so I do not leave sin unpunished."

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV)

6. Because God LOVES US, and He has made a way to RESTORE us to Himself.

God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

... Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

❖ What Did Jesus' Death on the Cross Do for Us?

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

1. Jesus' death RELEASES us from our own sins.

"The Son of Man came to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

... (Christ) gave himself to redeem us from all iniquity.

Titus 2:14 (NIV)

2. Jesus' death is as our SUBSTITUTE (He takes our place in death).

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV)

3. Jesus' death was the perfect and once and for all SACRIFICE for our sins.

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people.

Hebrews 9:26-28 (NIV)

4. Jesus' death is VICARIOUS... He literally died for US.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

5. Jesus' death is PROPITIATORY... It literally pays for the sin DEBT we owe.

(Jesus) whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed...

Romans 3:25 (NIV)

6. Jesus' death gives us VICTORY over DEATH and HELL.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death He might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

❖ What Does Jesus' Death on the Cross Mean for Us?

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

1. The cross shows us how much Jesus LOVES US.

"There is no greater love than this, than someone lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13 (NIV)

2. The cross shows us what is EXPECTED of us as followers of Christ.

"And you cannot be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and follow me."

Luke 14:27 (NLT)

3. The cross shows us that sin no longer has any POWER or CONTROL over us.

Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)