

We Believe "Jesus is Our" Community Group Questions

1. How are you currently helping the people around you?
2. Do you have people in your life that remind you of the past sins that you committed? How does it make you feel?
3. Do you ever fall into the trap of making people pay for their sins?
4. Have you had situations in life in which you had a hard time reconciling a relationship with another person?
5. How do you redeem the culture around you?

Article of Faith #6 We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.

What I would like to do today is look at what Jesus' death accomplished in our lives and how we can follow His example in the way we interact with those around us.

Jesus is our...Substitute

Substitution is at the heart of the atonement...He paid *instead of* us. We deserved to die, and he took our sin upon him and paid the penalty *himself*. ***Isaiah 53:5-6**

It should have been us but it was Him

Jesus was our substitute how can we practice this toward others? Lets look at it this way Jesus didn't "have to" die for us, He was willing to because He loves us. In life when we deal with other people there are many things we do not have to do but as believers in Christ what are we willing to do because we love others?

In practical ways we can look at our Christian interaction with others and say because I love these people I will do things for them...maybe

things they would normally have to do for themselves or in some cases that they can't do for themselves.

-Pray for them--Encourage them--Help them in a time of need-

It is kind of like standing in the gap for them

This may be hard for us to remember but then when we think about how Jesus stood in the gap for us as our substitute it inspires us to do that for others.

Jesus is our...Expiation-means the removal of our sin and guilt. Christ's death removes our sin and guilt. The guilt of our sin was taken away from us and placed on Christ, who exonerated in His death.

Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

One of the main issues with sin in our life it produces guilt and guilt can be positive or it can be negative. Positive because "*Godly sorrow produces repentance*" 2 Cor 7:10 so our guilt and our sorrow for our sins brought us to Trusting in Jesus.

But a negative to guilt and it is being caught up in it after it is forgiven by Jesus. He does not want us to live in guilt and shame, there are three unhealthy places that guilt and shame come from...

-The first is **Ourselves**...we do not fully understand that Jesus really does forgive us and wash our sins away as far as the east is to the west etc

-The second is **Satan**, He is the father of lies and tries to make us feel as if we are not worthy or not forgiven.

-The last is **Others**...sometimes other people will not let you forget about your sin. Do you know anyone like that?

As Christians sometimes we fall into the trap of bringing up the sins of others after it has already been forgiven and that is not consistent with how God wants us to act. So we can emulate the fact that Jesus expiates our guilt by not continuing to bring up a sin in another persons life that has already been dealt with.

Bringing it up will not help them move forward...it will not help you forgive them...and it will not help the message of Jesus move forward and compel people to believe.

Jesus is our...Propitiation- refers to the removal of God's wrath. By dying in our place for our sins, Christ removed the wrath of God that we deserved and took it upon Himself. **Romans 3:25-26*

This is important because sin must be dealt with and paid for.

1 John 4:10 says "in this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Sometimes when people sin against us we want to make them pay by instituting our own form of justice to make them pay. I am not talking about people getting off with no consequences when they commit a crime. I am talking about the little subtle ways that we try to make others pay for their sins against us... It becomes returning evil with evil.

It is not our job to make them pay and we need to be reminded that Jesus is their propitiation as well as ours. So practically speaking we absorb the sin against us and do not seek to pay them back.

If we do not act in this way it makes the next thing even more difficult...

Jesus is our...Reconciliation- restores our relationship. Because of our sins, we were *alienated* — separated — from God. Christ's death removed this alienation and thus *reconciled* us to God. *Romans 5:10-11*: Tells us that by Jesus death we are reconciled

As Christians we are called to reconcile with our fellow Christians when we have difficulties, issues or they sin against us. This does not mean you have to be their BFF and ride off in the sunset on Tandem Bike singing Kum by Ya. But it does mean "*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all*" *Romans 12:18*

Here is what happens when we do not seek reconciliation

- It is a bad testimony-hurts others
- We harbor bitter feelings-hurts us
- It is not pleasing to God-hurts God

Finally...**Jesus is our...Redemption** freed us from captivity to sin through the payment of a price of His blood.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law: *Galatians 3:13* "*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"*

Christ redeemed us from the power of sin: *1 Peter 1:18-19* reminds us that we don't have to be a slave to sin any longer

1 Corinthians 6:20 "*You have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your bodies*"

How do we glorify God in our bodies? We can follow in Jesus' example and redeem. Jesus redeems people but as Christians we can redeem the culture around us.

Historically Christians have responded in three different ways to the culture around us. They either, Receive it, Reject it or Redeem it.

Receive- Good example would be Liberal Theology. Things are going on in our culture that are sinful so we go along with it...“when in Rome”. This goes a little further to say...well the Bible is an old book how can it possibly be speaking to us in 2015. The problems arise when they start calling the things that God says are sinful not sinful.

Reject- A good example would be Amish people. We live in this world but we don't want to be like this world so reject the conveniences of this world and say they are not Godly or from God. The problem with rejecting a great deal of culture is we become ineffective witnesses for Jesus and we confuse people to what the truth of the Gospel message and make it based on works.

As Christians we realize we can't receive everything the world offers but we also can't reject everything the world offers. What do we do?

We **Redeem**-What can I do to make this different or more pleasing to God?

How do we apply this? Here are some examples

Technology- we have the internet there is a lot of things in the internet that we need to reject but how do we flood the internet with positive things to redeem it. Website etc. For you, social media... using social media to help people feel better about themselves and promote the name of Jesus.

Work or school-What goes on at work or school that you should reject? Are there conversations between other people that are not helpful or sinful...we can't reject and stop talking to people at school and at work but we can redeem what is being talked about. If people are gossiping try to steer the conversation in a different way, if people

are using foul language you don't have to join in but use language that is helpful and edifying...redeem the conversations

We can only redeem the world around us when we believe Jesus died for our sins (as a substitute), took care of our guilt (expiation) endured God's wrath (propitiation), restores our relationship (reconciliation) and freed us from the captivity of sin (redemption)