

Jesus: Condemned, Yet Innocent

Isaiah 53:7-9

When you look on the suffering of Jesus, what do you see?

Jesus is the _____ of the Father's _____ and the Father's _____, both of which are _____ and _____.

Jesus is the _____ for the sinner, bearing the full weight of the righteous _____ which we deserved, and affording us the _____ we don't possess nor could achieve.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God ... (1 Pet. 3:18)

How?

By becoming our _____ ...

"... the blood is the life ..." (Deut. 12:23b)

"... without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Heb. 9:22b)

"... with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." (1 Pet. 1:19)

By being our _____ ...

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Now look more closely ...

Is he merely a man?

Is he then God, pretending to be a man?

Or is he the one and only God-man?

Why this distinction matters (a lot):

The Father is not _____ the Son in our salvation. God works in perfect _____ to save us.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:17-19)

*"The Father did not lay on the Son an ordeal he was reluctant to bear, nor did the Son extract from the Father a salvation he was reluctant to bestow." (John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*)*

The Son is neither _____ alone or _____ alone but the true _____ who alone can mediate for us.

"In order to save us in such a way as to satisfy himself, God through Christ substituted himself for us. Divine love triumphed over divine wrath by divine self-sacrifice. The cross was an act simultaneously of punishment and amnesty, severity and grace, justice and mercy." (Stott)

Now look at yourself in light of the cross of Christ ...

Will you acknowledge the seriousness of your own sin and the magnitude of God's grace? And in seeing both, will you humbly repent and receive mercy?

Or will you choose the only alternative to the cross?

Apart from the cross, there is no hope for forgiveness, reconciliation, or life. _____ is all that's left.

How will you respond?