

Source night

Atonement

(What Jesus has done for me)

What is atonement?

Definition of atonement — ‘The action of making amends for a wrong or injury’

- ‘The reconciliation of God and mankind through Jesus Christ.’ Becoming ‘at one’

Atone Hebrew - *Kaphar* ‘To cover’ used in different ways e.g. cover ark in pitch

Related concepts and terms

Can we think of brief definitions of these words?

Redemption	Ransom	Sacrifice
Reconciliation	Salvation	Propitiation
	Substitution	

Why is it important to understand?

1. It helps us appreciate Jesus more. To understand why he came, what he achieved,
2. It shows how the Christian faith is unique
3. It gives us assurance of sins forgiven.

The need of atonement

We are sinners, the Law revealed our sin but did not provide remedy for our sins.

Atonement in the Old Testament — Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) Leviticus 16

Two purposes, to purify a) The Sanctuary v16 (Tabernacle)

b) The People v17

v1-3 We cannot enter God’s presence in our state of sin.

v3-5 Bring bull and a ram for sin and burnt offerings. Wash in water

High Priest enters Holy of Holies in plain simple clothes cf Rev 19 v8

v6-10 Two Goats, One for God, the other was the *azazel* (scapegoat)

v11-14 Kill bull for his own sin, smoke to act as a veil –protection

v15-17 Goat killed blood sprinkled on mercy seat (atonement cover)

v18-19 Blood sprinkled on the altar 7x

v20-22 Hands laid on scapegoat, sins of people on the goat, and taken out from the people to the desert.

Atonement is clearly something that God does

How does Jesus atone for us? John 1 v29

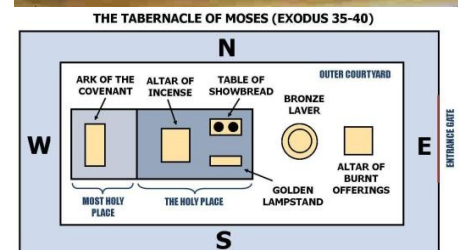
Jesus fulfils the O.T. Picture Hebrews 8 v5-6 Colossians 2 v17

Hebrews 9 v6-7 v12-14

Jesus was both the Priest (Hebrews 9 v12) and the offering Lev 17 v11

Our sins are; a) Forgiven b) Removed Psalm 103 v12

No further sacrifice no required Hebrews 10 v10



Views on atonement, how does it work?

There are three main ways at looking at it, we main gain something from all three.

1. Moral Influence theory -Jesus death just an 'example' of giving, self sacrifice. This view put forward by the theologically 'liberal churches'. Abelard (1079-1142) said that the death of Christ moves people and has an effect that might lead them to repent and lead a more moral life.

Liberal Churches say God is love and wouldn't want to punish our 'human failings'.

2. Ransom Theory. The idea that Satan had gained the rights over man at the Fall, when Jesus died he paid the price to buy back or redeem mankind. When Jesus rose from the dead, Satan had neither rights over the sinners or did he have Jesus dead. It is a sort of business deal between God and Satan. This view was put forward by Origen (185-254)

Matthew 20 v28

3. Penal Substitutionary view. This is the belief that when Jesus died on the cross he was being punished for our sins. This was put forward by Anselm (1033-1109). It shows the justice of God, a crime has been committed and a punishment needs to happen. This is sometimes called the satisfaction theory, because, humans owe God a debt that has to be settled to God's satisfaction.

2 Corinthians 5 v21 Romans 6 v23 — Our sin has run up a debt. Galatians 3 v10-13, 1 Peter 2 v24

What people say about these theories

* A nonbeliever may say man is too small, to have a vast God die for people.

An atheist may say there is no need for atonement as absolute right and wrong don't exist.

* Roman Catholics believe that Jesus death paid our sins but also believe we have to do works of reparation, they also talk about Jesus death as ongoing in some sense.

Pope John Paul 2nd— *We need to... " to stand beside the endless crosses on which the Son of God continues to be crucified"*

* The Liberal theologians say penal substitution shows God as nasty. Too much emphasise on the cross.

* The Evangelical says we cannot make God into some 'Father Christmas' type figure, sin is serious

From God's point of view

God could have atoned for **1.** Everyone (no wrath, justice) **2.** No one (No love, grace, mercy) **3.** Some Atonement shows justice/righteousness and love/mercy working together Psalm 85 v10

Limited Atonement or Particular Atonement or Definitive Atonement

Question for who did Jesus die? What is the extent of the atonement? Why did Father send Jesus to die?

A) For every human being Universalists say Jesus died for all, so everyone will go to Heaven

B) For everyone, but only those who choose to believe get the benefit John 3 v16 – The World I John 2 v2 So people weren't saved by the cross, they just became 'saveable'. Salvation becomes effective when you believe in his work. 1 Timothy 2 v3-4

C) For those who are his people (The Church/The Elect) Matt 1 :21, John 10 v11, God deals in covenants with peoples, Hebrews 9 v15. Although Jesus showed his love to the whole world but only some will be saved. As Jesus was both priest and offering, he atoned for and intercedes for, his people, the church. John 11v 51-52, 17 v6 Revelation 5 v9

Both B and C say that anyone who believes will be saved, and we are to evangelise all, and allow God to work.

What is the result of our atonement?

1. Our sins are 'covered', dealt with. Hebrews 9 v24
2. We are capable of having access to God, as we have now been reconciled with him. Heb 10 v19-22
3. We are able to inherit eternal life with God, we have been saved from Hell. Romans 6 v23b

<u>Arminianism</u> Two hands	<u>Calvinism</u> One hand
1. Free Will	1. Total Depravity
2. Conditional Election	2. Unconditional Election
3. Universal Atonement	3. Limited Atonement
4. Resistible Grace	4. Irresistible Grace
5. Perseverance of some saints	5. Perseverance of saints



How should we respond to what Jesus has done?

How far does it matter if Christians have different opinions on the Atonement?

What red lines are there in what we reject as false, or can accept as acceptable differences?

