

Session 3

Why did Jesus die

## Why is the cross the symbol of Christianity?

“... the Son of God...  
loved me and gave  
himself for me.”

(GALATIANS 2:20)

### 1. THE PROBLEM

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).

- **Pollution** of sin (Mark 7:20–23)
- **Power** of sin (John 8:34)
- **Penalty** for sin (Romans 6:23)
- **Partition** of sin (Isaiah 59:2)

### 2. THE SOLUTION

- “The self-substitution of God” (1 Peter 2:24)
- Agony of the cross (Isaiah 53:6)

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### 3. THE RESULT

The cross shows:

- You are infinitely valuable to God.
- Jesus is the supreme example of love. (John 15:13)
- God is not aloof from suffering.
- The powers of evil have been defeated: the resurrection wasn't the reversal of a defeat; it was the manifestation of a victory.

- The **partition** has been removed (2 Corinthians 5:19)
  - Reconciliation with God and in other relationships
- The **penalty** has been paid
  - Justified ("Just-as-if-I'd never sinned")
- The **power** of sin has been broken
  - "If the Son sets you free, you are truly free."  
(John 8:36, NLT)
- The **pollution** has been removed
  - "... the blood of Jesus, ... purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)
  - When you are forgiven, you want to forgive.

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## RECOMMENDED READING

*The Cross of Christ*  
John Stott

*Why Does God Allow Suffering?*  
Nicky Gumbel

*Unreachable*  
Darrell Tunningley

*Mud, Sweat and Tears*  
Bear Grylls

*Why Jesus?*  
Nicky Gumbel

*The Hiding Place*  
Corrie Ten Boom

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