

Theology 2
The Central Theme of **Atonement**
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*The doctrines of the nature of God, the statutes of the law, the human condition, Christ, and the Old Testament sacrificial system have great influence on one's view of the atonement. The atonement involves **sacrifice, propitiation, substitution, and reconciliation** in the relationship of God to humanity.*

Background Factors

- The Nature of God – While He's a God of love, He is also a holy God who punishes sin.
- Status of the Law – Disobedience is an attack on the very nature of God.
- The Human Condition – Totally depraved, man can't pay the penalty for his own sins.
- Christ – Being the perfect God/man, He's the only One in a position to pay sin's price.
- The OT Sacrificial System – Sacrifices were offered for a variety of reasons, but especially pertinent to the atonement are the sacrifices offered at Passover and Yom Kippur.

The NT Teaching

- The Gospels – Jesus identified Himself as the Suffering Servant (Luke 22:37, cf. Isa. 53)
 - Clearly, Jesus saw His death as a **ransom** (Mark 10:45), a **substitute** (John 15:13), and a **sacrifice** (John 1:29).
- The Pauline writings – Many of Paul's words could be used to support a satisfactory view of the atonement, but none is plainer than the Book of Romans. Atonement is **the central theme** of at least the first 5 chapters of the Book (see esp. 3:25-26).

The Basic Meaning of Atonement

- Sacrifice – Jesus offered His body and blood as a **sacrifice for human sins** (Heb. 9:6-15, 10:5-18). Where there were two parties (priest and animal) in the OT sacrificial system, in Christ **the two became one**. He is the intercessor and the sacrifice!
- Propitiation – Christ's body and blood are **an all-sufficient payment** for the sins of mankind as they satisfy the requirements of God's wrath (Rom. 3:25, Heb. 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 4:10).
- Substitution – Jesus took the place of all mankind through **His vicarious death** on Calvary's cross (1 Pet. 2:24)
- Reconciliation – Through Christ, the offending party (humans) has been **reconciled to the One we offended** (God). It must not be missed that God was the One who initiated our reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19).

Objections & Implications

- Objections – pp. 263-264
- Implications – pp. 264-265 *"Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe"*