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## Introduction

*And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:1-2 ESV)*

Atonement – encompasses the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God through the death of Christ.

## The Purpose of the Atonement

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 ESV)*

John 2:11

John 12:20-24

John 12:27-28

John 13:31-32

John 17:1-5

The purpose of the atonement is to glorify the Father.

## The Centrality of the Atonement

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ESV)*

John 1:29

Hebrews 10:1-4

Hebrews 10:14



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Matthew 1:21

Romans 1:18

Romans 3:10

Romans 5:1

Romans 3:22b-25a

So Christ's death propitiates, or satisfies, God's wrath and makes this satisfaction of God's wrath available to us through faith. That is the initial *why* of the atonement.

## Terminology of the Atonement

When we consider, though, the *what* of the cross, as in what did Jesus accomplish by his death, we need to define the terms propitiation, expiation, redemption, justification, and reconciliation.

### Propitiation

Leviticus 16:15-17

Luke 18:9-14

Matthew 10:8

Isaiah 55:1

Matthew 18:21-22

1 John 4:9-10

The first thing Jesus's death on the cross accomplished was propitiation, the satisfaction of the wrath of God against sinners.

### Expiation

1 John 1:7-9

Leviticus 16:20-22



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Leviticus 14:1-7

Psalm 103:12

The second thing Jesus's death on the cross accomplished was expiation, the cleansing of sin.

## **Redemption**

Leviticus 25:25-27

Ruth 4:9

Exodus 6:6

Psalm 51:5

Romans 7:14

Colossians 2:14

John 8:34

Ephesians 1:7

Romans 3:23-24

Romans 6:17-18

Hosea 3:1-3

The third thing Jesus's death on the cross accomplished was redemption, freedom from sin.

## **Justification**

Deuteronomy 25:1

Exodus 23:7

Proverbs 17:15

Proverbs 24:24



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Isaiah 5:23

Romans 4:5

Romans 5:6-9

The fourth thing Jesus's death on the cross accomplished was justification, a right standing before God.

## Reconciliation

Hosea 1:9

Jeremiah 31:33

Hosea 2:23

2 Corinthians 5:15

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Romans 5:6-11

The fifth thing Jesus's death on the cross accomplished was reconciliation, peace God.

## Conclusion

All of these aspects of the Atonement highlight a different aspect of our human need. Propitiation shows our need to be saved from the wrath of God, and expiation shows our need to be cleansed. Redemption emphasizes our captivity to sin while justification emphasizes our guilt. Finally reconciliation demonstrates our enmity against God and our alienation from him. All of this shows how needy we are before God. Also, though, all of these aspects of the Atonement show God's loving initiative in saving us. He propitiated his own wrath, removed our sin, redeemed us from the bondage of sin, declared us righteous, and reconciled us to himself.

1 John 4:10

Luke 1:68

Romans 8:33

2 Corinthians 5:18

Romans 3:25

Ephesians 1:7



Romans 5:9

Ephesians 2:13

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