

**Christian Beliefs Week 11: Teaching  
Ch 10: What is the Atonement?**

*What is the atonement?*

*What is the cause of atonement?*

*Why is it essential for us to believe that God is both love and just in order to believe in the atonement?*

*Why is the atonement necessary?*

*What is the nature of the atonement?*

- There are two aspects of Christ's work:
- Christ's obedience for us is called His "Active Obedience."
- Christ's suffering and death for us is called "passive obedience."

*What is the meaning of the blood?*

*What is penal substitution?*

*What are the different aspects of the atonement?*

- We deserve to die as the penalty for sin.
  - We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin.
  - We are separated from God by our sins.
  - We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan.
- 
- These four needs are met by Christ's death in the following ways:
    - Sacrifice:
    - Propitiation.
    - Reconciliation.
    - Redemption.

*Did Christ descend into hell?*

*What is the extent of the atonement? Who does it cover?*

- The two sides of the issue are called Reformed and non-reformed.
  
- Those who believe Jesus died for the entire human race are non-reformed.
  
- Those who believe Jesus died for the elect, chosen, or those who would believe in Jesus are called reformed.
  
- There are some points that both sides agree on:

Discussion:

- Why was it necessary for Jesus to come and live a perfect life on earth?
- Why was it necessary that Jesus die? Could He have saved us in some other way? In what ways has this enabled you to appreciate Christ's death more than you did before?
- In what way did God's justice and love contribute to His saving us through Jesus' death on the cross?
- Can any of the hardships or sufferings that you experience in life be due to the wrath of God against you?
- If Christ indeed redeemed you from bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan, are there areas of your life in which you could more fully realize this to be true?
- How does your understanding of the atonement humble you? How does it encourage you?
- Have you told other people about what God has done for you through Jesus? If so, how do you go about telling them? If not, what is keeping you from sharing the good news with people?