

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 really will be free' (John 8:36, NLT)
 - The **pollution** has been removed
 - '... the blood of Jesus cleanses 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

Searching Issues

Nicky Gumbel

Mud, Sweat and Tears

Bear Grylls

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