

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Romans 3:25

FOUR MAJOR EXPLANATIONS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

1. The ransom explanation (Key words: "ransom" and "payment")

"For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Ephesians 1:7

Caution: Don't get hung up on the question: "Who did Jesus pay the ransom to?"

2. The moral influence explanation.

Key words: "love" and "example"

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...

John 3:16

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth: Today you will be with Me in paradise."

Luke 23:42

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Luke 23:47

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

Caution: Jesus' death was much more than just an example of sacrificial love.

3. The victory explanation.

Key words: "power," "destroy," and "triumph"

Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who has the power of death -that is the devil- and free all those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us in to the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

God has made you alive in Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; and took it away nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:13-15

"It is finished."

John 19:30

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's works.

1 John 3:8

4. The substitution explanation.
Key words: "sacrifice" and "for us"

God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.

Romans 3:25

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people...

Hebrews 9:28

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous...

1 Peter 3:18

Caution: Be careful not to think of God the Father vs. Jesus.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE?

1. We ought to hate sin.
"Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:16

2. We ought to love Christ.
This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

3. We ought to make the message known.
The love of Christ compels us...

2 Corinthians 5:14 NKJV