

At+One: Crucifixion and Death

1. Open with prayer: *Crucified God, open our eyes, hearts, and minds to hear how salvation came down to earth in your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*
2. Refresh: What is atonement? At-one-ment
3. When did atonement occur?
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Life & Ministry
 - c. **Crucifixion & Death**
 - d. Resurrection
4. **Satisfaction theory**
 - a. Christ dies to restore God's honor, and his surplus repays our deficit.
 - b. "Christ has taken our place! We don't have to!"
 - c. We are saved because Jesus' death pays the honor owed God (not our penalty).
 - d. Read Matthew 18:21-35; Psalm 51; Matthew 6:9-13. Does the idea of honor appeal to you? Why or why not?
5. **Penal Substitutionary atonement theory**
 - a. Christ dies to undergo a punishment meant for us; he pays our debt to God. Our debt of sin was so big that only Christ could pay it.
 - b. "God has paid the price! We don't have to!"
 - c. We are saved because Jesus paid our debt to God.
 - d. Read Isaiah 53:1-6, 10, 11; Romans 3:23-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:10, 13; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18. Do these sound familiar? Does this make you uncomfortable at all – that Christ paid our penalty?
6. **Last Scapegoat atonement theory**
 - a. Christ dies to expose and broadcast the root of human violence—the way we scapegoat one another (allow an innocent person to take the blame for a group).
 - b. "God is rejected on the cross and no more scapegoats are needed!"
 - c. We are saved because Jesus bears our sins away through his death.
 - d. Read Genesis 4:8-16; Leviticus 16:3-10; Hebrews 9:11-15, 10:11-18. How long have we been using scapegoats? Do scapegoats solve problems? Who are scapegoats today?
7. Heidelberg Catechism: only God can pay our debt.
8. Hymns teach theology:
 - a. Nothing but the Blood
 - b. Just as I Am, Without One Plea
 - c. In Christ Alone
 - d. Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
9. What difference does it make looking at the world through these atonement theories?
10. Close in prayer.