

How would you explain to someone in your own words how Jesus' death demonstrated both God's justice and His mercy?

REFLECT

Is there any way that you can see the statement that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" as positive? What would be the alternative to this truth?

RESPOND

Take time to express your renewed gratitude for God's grace. Say together "For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard..." and take a few moments to silently consider your own sin and shortcomings. Then say loudly and with joy, "YET NOW GOD in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins!" (Rom 3:23-24, NLT) Share what that means to you today.

MAKING IT RIGHT



15 REASONS WHY JESUS CHOSE TO DIE.

A great gash had to be healed.
A great debt had to be paid.
A great wrong had to be righted.

+TO DIE IN OUR PLACE (propitiation)

Ephesians 5:2
Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Mark 10:45
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.

2 Corinthians 5:21
God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

John Stott

The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives that belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone.

John Piper

Let us not trifle with God or trivialize his love. We will never stand in awe of being loved by God until we reckon with the seriousness of our sin and the justice of His wrath against us. But when, by grace, we waken to our unworthiness, then we may look at the suffering and death of Christ and say, "In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the [wrath-absorbing] *propitiation* for our sins" (1 John 4:10).



15 REASONS WHY JESUS CHOSE TO DIE.

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+TO MAKE US HOLY AND BLAMELESS

(justification)

Colossians 1:22

But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation...

Colossians 2:13-14

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:14

For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

+TO GIVE US CONFIDENT ACCESS TO GOD

(reconciliation)

Romans 5:10

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

Rock of Ages

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to your Cross I cling;
Naked, come to You for dress;
Helpless, look to You for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

"What, me a sinner?!"

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Do you think it is easier for a person who has done really bad things and "hit bottom" to repent and come to God than it is for a comparatively decent person? Why is that?

What principle, insight, idea, or quote was meaningful to you from this week's sermon?

READ

Romans 3:5-26

Paul argues that all people, even those who do their best to obey the law, are sinners under God's judgment who need a savior.

What argument did people use at the time this was written to avoid their accountability to God for their sinfulness? (v. 5-8) What arguments do people today use to deny God's right to call them to account for their lives?

Is anyone naturally free from sin on their own? (v. 9-10, 23)

How have unrighteous people treated God? (v. 11-12, 18) How do you see this play out today?

Can someone be saved by being a good person according to their community's value system, i.e., "keeping the law"? What was the purpose of the Old Testament law? (v. 19-20)

How did you become aware that you were a sinner and needed God?

Where does righteousness come from, and how is it gained? (v. 21-22)