

3. Questions about substitution

a) Why is it necessary? Why can God not 'just forgive'?

Leviticus 9:22-10:3

Isaiah 6:1-7

Forgiving vs. Excusing

b) How is it just? How can one man be justly punished for another's sin?

Romans 5:15; Ephesians 1:7.

c) How is it right? Is this not 'cosmic child abuse' (Steve Chalke)?

John 10:17-18

d) How is it enough? How can one man die for the sins of many?

1 John 1:7

4. Why substitution matters

- Because it alone preserves the righteousness of God

Otherwise we serve a God who turns a blind eye to evil

- Because it is the only ground for real forgiveness

Only the atoning God can really forgive

Only those forgiven by atonement can really forgive others

This is why Christianity alone welcomes those who *according to its own standards* are sinners.

Christianity alone can condemn evil while loving those who practice it.

God seems to have it in for me; I think it's because I was so cruel to my sister a few years ago.

I know Jesus died for sinners, but I just don't think my faith is strong enough for God to accept me.

I know I'm supposed to forgive people, but if you knew what he had done to me you would understand why I can't.

Christians talk far too much about sin, when they're supposed to be all about compassion.

Most Christians are far too tolerant, when they're supposed to be upholding God's standards.