



Thinking Like a Christian January-March 2021 Zooming in on the Cross
24th January 2021

3. What happened at the Cross

1. God and Christ

a) God is Trinity

One essence, three persons

One will, three modes of working

Immutability – God cannot change

Impassibility – God cannot suffer, God cannot be changed

b) Jesus Christ is God, man, one person

The mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

The mystery of the incarnation

One person, two natures

Two wills

2. The Incarnation and the Cross

John 1:14, 6:38-40, 51-59

Why does Jesus talk about his 'flesh'? What did Jesus have to do if we are to have eternal life? What do we have to do?

The purpose of the incarnation

John 12:27; 6:51-59

Why?

Because: We need a man to suffer the *human* curse for us (Galatians 3:13)

We need a man to be *human* righteousness (i.e. keep God's law for men) for us (1 Corinthians 1:30)

We need a new head for the *human race* to do both for us (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

And: Only the one who created can recreate what sin has spoiled (Col 1:16-18)

We need God to reconcile us to God (Colossians 1:19)

The sins of the whole world need to be propitiated – not those of one man (1 John 2:2)

What Jesus did at the cross is something only the God-man could do. His obedience and his sufferings, were the obedience and sufferings of his human nature, given infinite value by his divine nature.

Did God bleed on the cross?

Did God die on the cross?

3. What happened at the Cross

Philippians 2:6-11

v6-7 The humiliation of the incarnation

v8 The ultimate humiliation of the cross

Who was responsible for what happened at the cross?

Those who killed him? Matthew 26:3-5

God? Matthew 26:1-2, 24 (Acts 2:23)

Or Jesus? Matthew 26:53-54; 27:50

The human sufferings of Jesus

Submission to his Father's will Matthew 26:39

NB Jesus' will *vs* his Father's will?

Jesus' total obedience – unlike Adam

The cursed death

Matthew 27:23; 32-44

v45 Darkness

v46 Cry of forsakenness

Descended to the dead Matthew 27:57-60

Jesus sufferings:

The curse and judgment of God (Deuteronomy 21:23)

Sufferings unlike any other – forsaken by God the Father

The continuing perfect divinity of Jesus

Jesus never stopped being God

The Son always in perfect Union with the Father

Even as he was forsaken according to his human nature

Put them together...

He *suffered* according to his human nature, his sufferings had *infinite value and significance* because of his divine nature

Try to answer these questions...

Why is the death of one man enough to pay for the sins of the whole world?

Why is one day of suffering for Jesus enough to save from an eternity of Hell?

Why must we never think God doesn't know what it's like for us to suffer?

Why must we never think our sins are too serious for God to forgive?