

SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK OF CHRIST IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD

The following statements describe a false understanding of substitution: God's justice demands that sin be punished. Jesus willingly took upon Himself the guilt of sinners and took upon Himself the wrath of God for sin. God condemned Jesus in our place. Jesus took God's penalty for sin upon Himself. Jesus bore God's punishment for our sins. Jesus died to satisfy the offended God. Jesus became sin rather than the "sin offering."

I believe that all the above are misunderstandings of the substitutional work of Jesus Christ on the cross and misunderstandings of Scripture.

True Biblical substitution paints a different picture of God. Jesus is humanity's God-given substitute for Adam. Jesus is killed by the sin of humanity and God condemns sin because of His sinless death. Jesus is given the right as Second Adam to reverse all that Adam caused. Jesus has authority and power to remove all sin and death from creation. The born again believer has followed Jesus, The Way, to the cross and has died to his sole relationship to Adam and is born to new life in Christ. Sin is ultimately removed from the follower of Christ at physical death and thus he escapes the penalty for sin. God credits the born again believer with righteousness which is produced in the believer through the sanctifying work of the Spirit. God freely forgives sin without payment. Jesus bore the wrath of our sin, "He bore our sins." Our sin killed Jesus. His one act of righteousness, dying sinless, enables God's condemnation of sin to its utter destruction. Believers take their place with Jesus on the cross and die to sin. God changes the believer through justification, sanctification, and glorification. God does not change Himself in order to save us.

Jesus died for me. Jesus died a physical death so that I don't have to die the eternal death.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 Peter 4:1,2 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. Reference: Romans 6:11-23