

# Christian Beliefs

## Doctrine of Atonement and Resurrection

### Section 1—Doctrine

#### Crosspointe Community Church—statement of faith

##### Atonement

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to the will of God the Father, offered himself as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice, and that all who repent from their sin and believe in him have eternal life. By his death on the cross, Jesus defeated evil, sin, and death.

(Isa. 53:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38; John 3:16; Heb. 2:14)

##### Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the firstfruits of our resurrection, and in his ascension into heaven to the right hand of the Father. (1

Cor. 15:3–8, 20; Acts 1:9–11; Rom. 8:34)

### Atonement:

#### I. Concepts associated with the atonement

##### a. Definition:

- i. Atonement—"the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation"—Grudem p. 568 (Word not specifically in the NT—but frequent in the law)
- ii. Atonement presupposes two parties that are estranged, with the act of atonement being the reconciliation of them into a state of harmony—IVP *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*.

##### b. Obedience of Christ (active obedience)—Rom. 5:19

<sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

##### c. Suffering of Christ—death (passive obedience)

###### i. Physical—Mk. 15:24

*And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.*

###### ii. Bearing sin—2 Cor. 5:21

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

###### iii. Abandonment—Matt 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

###### iv. Bearing wrath of God (propitiation)—Rom. 3:25

*whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*

- v. Redemption—paid the price of sin—I Pet.1:18-19  
*knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

## II. Various views of the atonement

- a. **Ransom theory—NO!**—Christ paid a ransom to Satan-Col. 2:14-15
- b. **Moral influence theory- Not really**—God is love and died to show love—Rom. 5:8  
<sup>8</sup> *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- c. **Victory over evil (Christus Victor) theory**—Defeat of evil-I Jn. 3:8  
<sup>8</sup> *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*
- d. **Penal substitutionary theory**
  - i. Father inflicted the penalty—Is. 53:6  
*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
  - ii. Penalty for sin is death and he bore our sin and paid the penalty(redemption) — I Pet 2:24  
<sup>24</sup> *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
  - iii. Christ was our substitute—Rom. 5:5-8—“FOR”  
<sup>6</sup> *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
  - iv. Jesus is our final sacrifice for sin—Heb. 9:26  
<sup>26</sup> *for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*
  - v. Jesus is our propitiation for our sins (satisfied the wrath of God)—I Jn. 4:10  
<sup>10</sup> *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
  - vi. His death has reconciled us to God—2 Cor. 5:18-19  
<sup>18</sup> *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling<sup>[c]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

## RESURRECTION

### I. Resurrection of Jesus

- a. Scripture affirms in many places
  - i. Matt. 28
  - ii. I Cor. 15
  - iii. Hebrews 13
- b. Nature of resurrection—physical body (Lk. 24:30ff and elsewhere)
- c. Significance of resurrection
  - i. Lordship of Jesus—Rom. 1:3-4  
*concerning his Son, who was descended from David<sup>[b]</sup> according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
  - ii. Regeneration—gives life to his people—I Pet. 1:3  
*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
  - iii. Justification—applies atonement to his people—Rom. 4:21  
*It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*
  - iv. Assures our resurrection—I Cor. 15:20  
*<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*
  - v. Ultimate victory of God—he takes back creation and reverses the curse—I Cor. 15:25-26 *<sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death*

## Section 2—Practicing the doctrine of atonement and resurrection

1. **Atonement:** Our sins are covered by Jesus—we do not have to pay for them. Can give us comfort, assurance, peace. Guilt is gone. Rom. 8:1—“there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.
2. **ATONEMENT:** Gratitude to the triune God for coming to us and providing a way for us to be united with him. We should be in a continual attitude of thanks
3. **RESURRECTION:**
  - a. May we persevere in the hardest of times because of the kingdom of resurrection (reversal of death)—Pray for grace to **persevere**  
Rev. 2—to him who overcomes  
*<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’*
  - b. May his church pursue a victorious kingdom based on resurrection. Pray that we **will be on the move and that Jesus will be our focus!!**
    - We are not retreating or
    - just in survival mode or

- waiting for our escape route (death or the Lord's return).
- This is the mission of the church—worship risen Lord and proclaim a his Kingdom of victorious new life.

Hebrews 13:

*<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us<sup>[a]</sup> that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- c. **We can take risks in our personal life and corporate ministry—Pray that we will live pure lives and be willing to step out of our comfort for His kingdom**

Matt. 16:21-25

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord!<sup>[a]</sup> This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance<sup>[a]</sup> to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Rom 6—Dead to sin

*<sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

Col. 3:2-4

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

- d. **Give our life to serve the risen Lord—I Cor.15—Pray for steadfast laborers**

*<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

#### Discussion questions:

1. Jesus died on the cross. Discuss what happened when he died. What did he accomplish in his death on the cross that is good news.
2. We do not work for our salvation—Jesus did the work on the cross. How can this help when we feel unworthy or guilty? Do you struggle with past guilt? How can atonement help? How can the cross work of Jesus help us to forgive those who sin against us?
3. Jesus rose from the dead. It was his physical body. How does that help us to see value in our bodies? How should we treat our bodies?
4. The resurrection of Jesus can make us courageous to take risks to live for him. What are some areas where that may be true in our world today? Do you know some people who lived for the risen Lord and were not afraid of death?
5. We must persevere until the Lord returns. How can the resurrection help us to do that?
6. What are some areas where we can be steadfast? What are some areas where we can abound in our personal lives and in our church life, because of the hope in the resurrection?