



## 10 Reasons Jesus Died on the Cross - Part 1

Sermon Discussion Guide

March 11, 2018

Ice breaker:

Open in prayer

Read Galatians 6:14

Galatians 6:14 - "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

**Background Context:** In Galatians 1 Paul addresses the problem of the Galatian church which had begun to believe "another gospel", a gospel of works. Paul writes the letter to the Galatians to correct this belief. The idea that we are saved by works can be a subtle belief in our hearts. "I am right with God because of what I do." Paul closes the letter with a conviction: We can only boast in the cross of Jesus. Salvation is found nowhere else.

- What is the importance of the cross in the life of a Christian believer?
- Why does the cross hold this value for Christians?
- How are crosses used in popular culture? Does the cross hold value for people outside of Christianity?
- Jesus was rejected throughout his earthly ministry and in his death. What was behind people's rejection of Jesus then? What is behind it now?
- Pastor Loren said, "Today we have a huge emphasis on the fact that Jesus died for us, that God loves us. We hear it all the time. All of these things are true, but you and I are the secondary reason Jesus went to the cross?" Is there a danger for us in only focusing on God's love for us?

**The Big Idea:** The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will forever stand as the most important events in human history. This sacrificial act, motivated by the love of God, initiates the opportunity for our salvation. But do we truly understand why Jesus had to die?

**Why did Jesus have to die?**

### 1. To absorb the wrath of God

- How does the cross encompass both God's loving and just character?

J.I. Packer summarizes: "God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil" (*Knowing God*, 151)

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and Romans 3:23. What do these verses tell us about God's intention for humanity and the reality of humanity?



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There are no small sins. Since God is just, he does not sweep these sins under the rug of the universe. He feels a holy wrath against them. They deserve to be punished, and he has made this clear: "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23). To not punish us would be unjust.

- Because God is just and cannot leave sin unpunished, what should be our response to someone's sin against us?
- How is the cross part of God's plan for justice in a sinful world?

Galatians 3:13 (ESV) - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.'"

### 2. To show the wealth of God's love and grace

Romans 5:7-8 - "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- Pastor Loren said, "The measure of God's love for us is shown by two things. One is the degree of his sacrifice in saving us from the penalty of our sin. The other is the degree of unworthiness that we had when he saved us." What does this verse tell us about our condition when God saved us?
- Why is it significant that Christ gave his life? Would a different sort of sacrifice been sufficient?

### 3. For the forgiveness of our sins

Pastor Loren said, "Grace gives what someone does not deserve. It is giving away the right to get even."

- Read these verses: Acts 10:43, Ephesians 1:7, Psalm 103:10, and Psalm 103:12. How does God respond to us when we trust in Jesus?

### 4. To take away our condemnation

Romans 8:1 - "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."

- How does the death of Jesus secure our freedom from condemnation?

### 5. To give eternal life to all who believe

- Can you share any examples of someone who had a strong will to live? Why do you think we have such a desire?



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Those who trust in Jesus live for eternity in heaven. The opposite of eternal life is not annihilation. It is hell. Jesus spoke of it more than anybody, and he made it plain that rejecting the eternal life he offered would result not in obliteration, but in the misery of God's wrath.

John 3:36 - "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."