

**Why Did Jesus Have to Die?**

If we're going to do this question any kind of justice we need to put it into a wider context.

**Genesis 1:26-27: Image and Likeness**

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**Imaging God:**

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**Image of the Ruler:**

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**Dominion:**

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**Our dominion over creation is to be expressed in such a way as to reflect the character and nature of God to all creation.**

**Adam, as the first human being, represents all of humanity before God. In his likeness to God he stands as mediator between God and His creation but as a created being he is mediator between creation and its God.**

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**That takes us through Genesis 1 and 2 and brings us to chapter 3, to the scene that is often called the fall.**

**Genesis 3:1-6**

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**As the choice is between two apparent goods the decision comes down to a question of who do you trust. Who is telling the truth? Who really has my best interests at heart?**

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**The serpent know what's at stake and enters into a program of character assassination**

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**Adam and Eve make the wrong choice, they choose to trust the serpent over God, to put their faith in him rather than in the God that created them for relationship with himself, to trust the word of Satan over the word of God.**

**Two Consequences:**

- 1. Through their choice, Adam and Eve implicitly agree with the serpent. In their action they are calling God a liar, accusing Him of representing Himself falsely, attempting to deceive them about His true character and nature, and seeking to control them.**

**It's this attack upon the character and nature of God that's at the heart of sin. It's this attitude towards God that we all reveal in our actions.**

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**Sin is far more serious, heinous, and insidious than simply breaking the arbitrary rules of some wooly bearded cosmic judge. Far more than the breaking of rules sin is the violation of a person. Sin is the violation of the person of God!**

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**As a result of their attack upon the character and nature of God, Adam and Eve have made themselves enemies of God deserving of punishment. Part of God's judgement upon them is that they are separated from God**

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**Man is separated from God as a result of sin but he was created for the very purpose of relationship with God.**

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**Because Adam is the first human, and as such our representative and mediator, all human kind from Adam onwards share in the damage Adam's choice brings to the human race. We all suffer separation from God and the death that it brings.**

- 2. As a result of Adam's choice we have become enslaved. Through the deception of Satan, the human race have become his captives.**
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**As we are his captives, he is our captor and rules over us as such.**

- Acts 26:18
  - John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
  - 2 Corinthians 4:4
  - Ephesians 2:2
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**The Problem in a nutshell:**

**In eating from the tree Adam and Eve agree with the serpent's assessment of God's character and nature. In their action they are calling God a liar, accusing Him of attempting to deceive them, and control them through His deception.**

**This attack on God’s character makes Adam and Eve enemies of God and results in their being separated from Him. However, God is the source of life so their separation from God brings death to Adam and Eve, and through them to all of humanity.**

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**All of humanity have become slaves to sin, death, and captives of the Devil, who through his deception rules over us as our captor.**

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**So what is the solution to this mess?**

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- **Acts 1:23**
- **Acts 4:27-28**
- **1 Peter 1:20**
- **Revelation 13:8**

**The Covenant of Redemption**

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**Jonathan Edwards**

**As our mediator**

**“Christ, that gave himself in sacrifice, is so united to them he died for, that it may well be accepted as their sacrifice. It may be accepted of God as if we had offered that price, and justice in Christ’s suffering may well be satisfied for our sins; it may be looked upon as though we had suffered because Christ is as we. He laid down his life out of love to us; he has been pleased to unite himself to us in his heart, to love us so as to put himself in our stead in the most extreme case. And he is appointed hereto of the Father. God chose him for our mediator; he is God’s elect, and his anointed and sealed. And therefore God looks upon him as our head, and the head being united to the members, the sufferings of the head may be looked upon as the sufferings of the members.”**

**The Sufferings of Christ Acceptable, Works vol 14, P.453**

**In His perfect life and sinless death on behalf of all humanity as our mediator, Jesus confirms His position as The Son of Man, the one upon whom God bestows all of the promises made to humanity at creation, included in which is the promise of dominion.**

- **Daniel 7:13-14**
- **Matt 28:18-20**
- **Philippians 2:9-11**
- **Revelation 11:15**
- **Revelation 12:5, 12:10**
- **Revelation 17:14**



**Through Christ's perfect mediation in both life and death, Jesus overthrows Satan, wresting back the authority that the serpent usurped through the deception of Adam.**

- **Genesis 3:14-15**
- **Revelation 12:5, 12:10**

**There is no longer an accuser before the throne of God but one of us, the man Jesus, our mediator who makes intercession for us night and day.**

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**Through faith in Christ we become united to Christ as our mediator, our new covenant head and representative. As such we move out of the kingdom of darkness under Satan and into the Kingdom of light in Christ. We switch allegiances from being represented by Adam to being represented by Christ and we come out from under the curse of Adam whereby all die, and into the blessings earned by Christ where all who are in Him shall live.**

- **Romans 5:12-21**
  - **1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 45-49**
  - **Acts 26:18**
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Again listen to Edwards here;

**“...the sufferings of Christ did not only satisfy justice for our sins, but merited God’s favour. Merely by our sins being done away, we stood entitled to no positive blessing at all; we were only freed from obligation to punishment. But Christ’s sufferings have not only satisfied and appeased God’s anger but they have merited God’s favour and eternal life... This was a most glorious act of obedience because it was so expensive. Christ... showed an infinite respect to God’s commands in that he would obey it at such infinite expense. And it was therefore meritorious because Christ was not obliged to appear in the form of a servant in such a manner to obey God. It is an act of obedience of infinite value in God’s account, and a price sufficient to purchase all those eternal blessings which are promised in the Gospel to believers.”**

Christ’s Sacrifice Acceptable, Works Vol 14, P.444-45

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**Through faith in Christ we are justified having our sins done away with through Christ’s death on the cross, and having been granted all the blessings earned by Christ in His perfect life and death.**

- **2 Corinthians 5 17-21**

**Some explicit scriptural statements as to why Jesus had to die<sup>1</sup>**

**To fulfil the law**

**Matt 5:17-20**

**As a sign of the times**

**Matt 16:4**

**To give his life as a ransom**

**Matt 20:28, Mark 10:45, 1Timothy 2:6, Hebrews 9:15, 1Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 5:9-10**

**As our passover lamb**

**Matt 26:2, John 1:29, 1Peter 18-19**

**To establish a new covenant**

**Luke 22:20**

**To save us from the wrath of God**

**John 3:36, Romans 5:9**

**To lay down his life for his sheep**

**John 10:15**

**To create a new flock with one shepherd**

**John 10:16, John 11:51-52**

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<sup>1</sup> These references are a sample only and are not exhaustive. They deal only with explicit statements and not with reasons implicit to the thrust of the arguments provided in scripture.

**To bear fruit**

**John 12:23-24**

**To grant and assure us of eternal life**

**John 14:19**

**So that the Spirit might be sent**

**John 16:7-11**

**For our justification**

**Romans 3:24, Romans 3:26, Romans 4:25, Romans 5:9**

**To make atonement (propitiation)**

**Romans 3:25, 1John 2:2, 1John 4:10**

**For our trespasses and sins**

**Romans 4:25, 1Corinthians 15:3, 1Peter 2:24**

**For the ungodly**

**Romans 5:6**

**To prove his love for us**

**Romans 5:8, 1John 4:10**

**To bring reconciliation**

**Romans 5:10, 2Corinthians 5:17-21**

**So that those who believe might be united with Christ**

**Romans 6:1-14**

**To free us from sin**

**Romans 6:6-7, 2Corinthians 5:14, 1Peter 2:24, Hebrews 9:15, Revelation 1:5**

**To free us to live for God**

**Romans 6:14, 2Corinthians 5:15, 1Peter 2:24**

**To condemn sin in the flesh**

**Romans 8:3**

**So that he might be lord of both the living and the dead**

**Romans 14:9, Revelation 1:18**

**Human authority**

**Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 9:8**

**The Devil's authority**

**John 12:31, John 14:30, John 16:11 (Ruler of this world)**

**Acts 26:18 (humanity under the power of Satan)**

**2Corinthians 4:4 (the god of this world)**

**Ephesians 2:2 (the ruler of the power of the air)**

**Luke 4:6-7 (in the temptations Jesus never challenges the Devil's claims to have authority over all the earth, nor does he challenge the devils ability to bestow that authority to Jesus)**

**Jesus authority**

**Matthew 28:18-20, Revelation 11:15, Revelation 12:5-10**

**In Adam vs in Christ**

**Romans 5:12-21, 1Corinthians 15:20-22, 1Corinthians 15:45-49**

**Jesus as our mediator**

**1Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 8:6, Hebrews 9:15, Hebrews 12:24**

**Jesus our intercessor**

**Romans 8:33-34, Hebrews 7:25**



**Some reading material I found helpful**

All of the following works are from Jonathan Edwards and can be found in The Works of Jonathan Edwards

**“The Sacrifice of Christ Acceptable”**, Works Vol 14

**“Justification By Faith Alone”**, Works Vol 19

**“Christ as the Anti-type of the Sacrificial System”**, Works Vol 20