

WINDOW ONE

1 John 4:10 – “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Isaiah 53:5 - “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed”

To ‘atone’ is to pay or compensate for something. Seen through this window, the cross is where Jesus dies in our place, for our sin. Like the sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament that would die in the people’s place, Jesus is our sacrificial lamb. Because God is just, He can’t just sweep sin under the carpet, but because He is merciful, He pays the penalty Himself. He suffered, He died in our place.

*“Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied,
To look on Him and pardon me.”*

...THIS IS LOVE



WINDOW TWO

1 John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."

Acts 22:16 - "Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on His name."

One of the ways the Bible talks about sin is with the language of impurity; that it makes us unclean, dirty, as we carry our guilt. Seen through this window, the cross is where and how Jesus makes amends for our sin and in doing so purifies us, washes us, makes us clean. The stain of sin is removed and we are spotless in His sight.

*"What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."*

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WINDOW THREE

Colossians 2:15 – “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross”

On the cross, Jesus seemed to have suffered the worst defeat in history. Naked. Beaten. Humiliated. Bleeding. Dying. But seen through this window, that very moment was the point of greatest victory – the very moment and mechanism by which Jesus was exhausting and triumphing over demonic powers, human powers, and over the sin that had wrought such havoc since the garden. The old proverb captures it: ‘it’s always darkest before the dawn’. The horror of the cross is the also the place of greatest victory.

*“Then came the morning,
That sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breath,
Out of the silence,
The roaring lion,
Declared the grave has no claim on me,
Jesus, Yours is the victory.”*

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WINDOW FOUR

Titus 2:14 – “[Jesus] gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession”

Redemption is about deliverance from bondage. Sin enslaves us and rules over us as a cruel taskmaster, much like the Pharaoh who ruled over God’s people in the days of the Exodus. In that day, God crushed Pharaoh and liberated His people. Seen through this window: on the cross, Jesus liberated us, delivered us, freed us from bondage to Satan, sin and death.

*“Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of my sickness into thy health,
Out of my want and into thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into thyself,
Jesus, I come to thee.”*

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WINDOW FIVE

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”

Martin Luthor famously called this ‘the great exchange’. Our sinful record is credited to Jesus, and Jesus’ perfect record is credited to us. Seen through this window, the cross is the place where we exchange our poverty for His perfection. Jesus who had no sin, took our sin upon Himself on the cross - leaving us free and forgiven in the sight of God.

*“Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.”*

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WINDOW SIX

1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ”

A ransom is a payment made for someone. Seen through this window, Jesus' death on the cross is a payment of some kind. Over the years, some have seen this as a ransom paid to the devil. In C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe*, Aslan's life is payment for the witch's claim over Edmund. Others have seen the ransom as something paid to God. Either way, sin is pictured here as debt that we have incurred and Jesus' death is the payment for it.

*“I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.”*

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WINDOW SEVEN

1 Peter 2:21 – “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps”

Ephesians 5:2 - “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”

On the cross, suffering and dying, Jesus remained obedient to the Father. He forgave those who killed Him and He modelled perfect, other-centred, sacrificial love. Seen through this window, He left us the perfect example of how to live, especially in the face of injustice and evil. St. Paul puts it this way in his letter to the Philippian church: ‘In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who... humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross’. It’s a powerful way to live - with the cross as our example and measurement for love.

*“I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.”*

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WINDOW EIGHT

1 Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God”

2 Corinthians 5:19 - “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself”

Sin breaks our relationship with God and others. In Genesis, when Adam and Eve eat the fruit, they immediately hide from God and from one another. Worse still, they have to leave Eden – the place of intimacy with God. Seen through this window, Jesus died to remove the barrier of our sin so that He might reconcile us to God and one another. The cross is the action of God in order to restore relationship with us.

*“I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me.
How He left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.
I was lost, but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
Threw His loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.”*

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WINDOW NINE

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”

The reason that God gave His son, the reason Jesus came, died and rose again... is love. Through church history, the how of the cross has been the subject of much debate, less so the why. Seen through this window, the words of the old hymn, ‘When I Survey The Wondrous Cross’ are just about right:

*“See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?”*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an off’ring far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!”*

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WINDOW TEN

Colossians 1:15 – “He is the image of the invisible God”

In Jesus, God made Himself visible. Through the incarnation, ministry and, most profoundly, the death and resurrection of Jesus, we see more clearly than anywhere else what God is like: His character and nature. And what we see through this window is staggering:

*A God who suffers, a God who bleeds;
A God who cares, a God who sees;
A God who forgives with final breath;
A God who loves - even to death.*

...THIS IS LOVE

