

The Doctrine of the Substitutionary Atonement

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1. Man is sinner; as such he is born spiritually dead and incapable of saving himself.
2. God in His omniscience knows all the knowable. In Eternity Past God designed a perfect plan of salvation.
3. This plan involves all three members of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the Trinity: God exists eternally in three Persons with one Essence. Each is equally God, Each is equally eternal, each is equally righteous.
4. Jesus Christ is eternally God, there never was a time when Jesus Christ did not exist. As such Jesus Christ possesses all the attributes of God, Col. 2:9, Phil. 2:5-8.
5. As the eternal second person of the Trinity, the pre-incarnate Jesus was perfect righteousness.
6. As the incarnate God-man who was undiminished deity and true humanity united together in one person Jesus Christ was born perfect, without a sin nature in his humanity.
7. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life this qualified Him to go the cross.
8. At the cross the sinless, or impeccable, God-man, received the imputation of all human sins and bore our punishment, 2Cor. 5:21.
9. This act of Jesus Christ, paying the penalty of spiritual death for every human being, is called spiritual substitutionary atonement.

Characteristics of the Divine Love Exemplified in salvation, John 13:34-35.

If you have this new kind of love then the world can identify you with me. This is a life transforming kind of love.

1. It is objective with an objective model. This means that enduring love is not subjective based on personal feelings of attraction and sentiment.
2. It is not the symbol of the cross or some other symbol.
3. It is not emotion, sentimentality, some feeling.
4. It is based on character, character developed from walking by the Holy Spirit and based on the example of God's love for fallen, rebellious mankind.
5. It challenges unbelievers. Though unbelievers can have awe, attraction, devotion, and can have feelings of affection and delight in some one, love is something much greater than any of these.
6. John 13:35 presupposes that the world knows this; presupposes that this is inherent. So what comes first doctrine or love, emotional love first to unbeliever, doctrine first to

believers.

7. This is the greatest apologetic or defense for our faith.

8. This challenges the arrogant doctrinal believer who thinks that Christianity is summarized by what you know. You can't get to love without knowledge, but knowledge without love is meaningless.

The Characteristics of Divine Impersonal Love as expressed in salvation.

A reminder of man's attitude toward God: hostile, at enmity, rejecting, obnoxious, odious, antagonistic, rebellious, hateful, resentful, continuously taking advantage of the gracious provisions of air, water, food, climate, which God has provided for human sustenance. Despite these negative factors God still exercised love toward mankind. What characteristics can we discern from the cross.

For God loved the world so much that He gave His ONE OF A KIND SON that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have and hold as a continuous possession eternal life.

But God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were still sinners; Christ died as a substitute for us. Rom. 5:8

1. **Initiating:** it takes charge to provide the perfect solution necessary to restore the relationship broken by Adam's original sin. God's initiating love took place billions and billions of years ago in eternity past through antecedent grace. Antecedent means prior to, and refers to the acts of God's unmerited favor which preceded the creation of the universe, the creation of man, and the Fall of Man.

2. **Aggressive:** Asserts itself with confidence and boldness. It does not operate from a position of weakness that is trying to curry favor or generate approbation. Because of omniscience God knows the entire problem and with understanding takes every step necessary to resolve the problem.

3. **Humble:** Seeks not His own personal glory but takes on the attitude of a servant to do whatever is necessary including incarnation, sacrifice, and the undeserved imputation of human sin to recover fallen humanity. Remember, the suffering Jesus Christ encountered on the cross was more intense, more excruciating, and more agonizing than any suffering, rejection, torment, or pain you have ever suffered.

4. **Intense:** A zealous determination to achieve the goal of salvation despite all obstacles. Since God is omnipotent He is able to accomplish whatever is necessary to fulfill His perfect plan for the human race.

5. **Steadfastly Loyal:** God is loyal to His promises to man and strongly desires all men to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Therefore He does not reject and condemn man at the moment of sin. God is always loyal and faithful to His promises.

6. **Consecration:** Jesus Christ is solemnly set apart [sanctified] for the high purpose of being the exclusive means of salvation for the Church. As such He is loyal, and set apart to bring every believer to maturity.

7. **Dedication:** Jesus Christ committed Himself to the task of service, sacrifice, salvation, and sanctification.

8. **Devoted:** To give or apply (one's time, attention, and self) entirely to a particular activity, cause, or person. In this case the activity is the incarnation and crucifixion, the cause is the salvation of the world, and the person is every individual.

Thus we have 8 words which define for us the essence of impersonal love. Initiating, Aggressive, Humble, Intense, Dedication, Devotion.