

In *My* Place Condemned *He* Stood
Understanding and Enjoying the Achievement of the Cross

What did the cross achieve? At the cross Jesus Christ stood in our place, dying and then rising on our behalf in order to accomplish all that was necessary to save us from our sins and to bring us to God. His work as our substitute is so massive that God provides numerous word pictures in Scripture to help us understand and enjoy it. The chart below does not exhaust all of Scripture's metaphors for this achievement, but reviews the ones we've recently covered in our series, "In My Place Condemned He Stood."

| Metaphor | View | Sin's Effect on Us | What Christ Did | Achievement of the Cross | Key Texts | Life Connection* (See reverse page) |
|-----------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| Atonement | Sacrificial | Makes us unclean, defiles, pollutes | He sacrificed Himself for us | Makes us clean, acceptable to God | 1 Co. 5:7 Lev. 16 | Guilt and shame |
| Curse | Positional (under curse or blessing?) | Brings us under God's curse | He became a curse for us | Moves us from being cursed to blessed | Deut. 28 Gal. 3:1-14 | Doubting God's goodness |
| Propitiation | Penal | We earn God's wrath | He bore God's wrath for us on the cross | No wrath for us | Ro. 3:21-26 Heb. 2:17 | Fear of God's punishment, Doubting God's love |
| Redemption | Commercial | We owe a debt – are enslaved to sin | His death paid our ransom price | Freedom, our debt is paid; change is possible | Mk. 10:45 Titus 2:14 | Persistent patterns of sin |
| Justification | Legal | We are guilty – condemned | He took our (death) penalty | Declared righteous, justified | Luke 18:9-14 Ro. 5:1 | Guilt, legalism |
| Reconciliation | Relational | Separates us from God, creates enmity | He removed the barrier of hostility with God | Peace with God, friends | 2 Co. 5:18-21 | God feels distant or absent |
| Adoption | Familial | We are God's enemies, outside of His family | He gives us rights to sonship | We are adopted, children of God | Gal. 4:1-7 | Loneliness, lack of assurance |

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***Life Connection:** The truths surrounding the achievement of the Cross could be applied to real life in many ways. Below are some examples of how these truths make a difference in daily life.

- Guilt and shame – Because Christ made me clean, I am acceptable to God; I no longer need to live under the crippling grip of guilt and shame before God for my sin, and sins committed against me by others.
- Doubting God’s goodness – Because Christ received God’s curse, I am blessed by God and only experience His blessing even when I don’t really understand how the circumstance is working together for my good.
- Fear of God’s punishment – Because God’s wrath for all my sins was completely satisfied by Christ, I need not fear nor will I ever experience God’s punishment, though as a child of God, I may experience His loving fatherly discipline.
- Doubting God’s love – God poured out His wrath on His Son and not on me because of the great love He has for me.
- Persistent patterns of sin – Because I have been set free from the enslaving power of sin, I don’t have to sin, and there is hope for change in my life.
- Legalism – Jesus lived a perfect life, one that I cannot live, and His perfect life has been credited to me. No amount of good deeds or behaviors on my part can make my standing with the Father any surer than it is right now.
- God feels distant or absent – Because Jesus gave His life for me, the Father’s hostility toward me has been removed, and I have been reconciled to Him. I can always draw near to Him without fear.
- Loneliness – Through Jesus Christ I have been made one of the Father’s children. He has welcomed me into His family and made me an heir with His Son. Though I may experience times of being alone He promises never to leave me nor forsake me.
- Lack of assurance – Because I am one of God’s children nothing can separate me from His love. I have been adopted into His family and I am secure for eternity in His love and gracious disposition towards me.

Books to read for further study

- *Cross of Christ*, John Stott
- *In My Place Condemned He Stood*, J.I. Packer & Mark Dever
- *The Atonement*, Leon Morris
- *Pierced for Our Transgressions*, Steve Jeffery, Michael Ovey, & Andrew Sach