

# Jesus Saves—But How?

## Week 3: Reunion & Recapitulation

### Review:

- Because multiple things went off track, God’s victory through Jesus’s life, death and resurrection has multiple elements (“How did the world chess champion win?”)
- Key Point: No one single aspect of the atonement should be confused with the Gospel message.

### Contrasting the Themes:

#### What went wrong in the Garden of Eden?

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: humans sinned. We rebelled against God resulting in broken relationships between us, God and creation.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: the serpent tempted us, and we handed our God-given authority over to him.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: We were barred from the garden, separated from God and lost access to the Tree of Life.

#### What do we need deliverance from?

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: God’s people suffered (rightly) the consequences of breaking the covenant. They need forgiveness from their sins.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: God’s people are suffering in slavery in Egypt. They need freedom from the rule of an evil tyrant.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: God’s people have been exiled from their land. They need to return (to where God’s presence is) and be reconciled to the Lord.

#### How Jesus Saves Us:

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: Death: Jesus saves us through His death.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: Resurrection: Jesus saves us through His resurrection and ascension.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: Incarnation: Jesus saves us by becoming one of us.

#### 1) Union with Christ: the marriage of Christ to His bride, the church

- Because the Son has united Himself with humanity, we can be united to God.
- When this happens, what is true of Jesus becomes true of us.
- Note: We are not united to Jesus individually, but as the church.

**2) Recapitulation: the human project back on track**

- Christ is the head of a new humanity
- His Father is God, He does not sin, nor is corrupted by it.
- He is given the same choice as Adam and Eve (to worship Satan over God) but refuses throughout His life.

**3) Reunion: The lost son comes home**

- Reconciliation: \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ reconciles us with God.
- The healing of the vertical (us and God) brings healing to the horizontal (us and one another).

**Put it all Together:**

Take a minute to clarify your own understanding. If someone asked you, “Jesus saves—but how?!” and you were attempting to explain this aspect of the atonement, what would you want to say?

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## Key Texts

### **Colossians 1:15-23**

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

### **Ephesians 5:28-33**

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### **Romans 5:12,14-20**

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

### **Ephesians 2:1-18**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

## Bible Study Practice Texts

### **2 Corinthians 5:16-20**

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

### **Colossians 1:21-27**

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### **Other Key Texts:**

#### **Romans 6:3-8 (Union)**

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (Recapitulation)**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.