

2. The Cross... and the attributes of the Triune God

Jesus saves! - Session 5

Q: What kind of God was at work in the sufferings of Christ?

WCF 2.1, "There is but one only, living, and true God,
Who is infinite in being and perfection,
a most pure spirit, invisible, *without* body, parts, or passions..."

(a) The "simplicity" of God

God IS his attributes

E.g. Isaiah 6:3, "'Holy, holy, holy **IS** the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

(Contrast – creatures like us are:
created... with parts / complex... which we can lose...)

God cannot lose an attribute – e.g. essential to Him is:
truthfulness ^{Hebrews 6:18}, life ^{Exodus 3:14}, perfections ^{James 1:17} *etc.*

(b) So: no attribute can "trump" another... or diminish

Reflection: how do we see God's holiness *and* righteousness *and* wisdom *and* goodness in the Saviour's sufferings?

Jesus' death – and the Trinity

John 17:1-5

Discuss while waiting to begin

"God is... _____".

- How would you finish that sentence? List as many words and ideas as you can.
- How do those different words and ideas fit together?

Introduction and recap

Westminster Confession 8.1,

"It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Saviour of his Church; the Heir of all things; and Judge of the world; unto whom he did from all eternity give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified."

- **While Jesus suffered and died...**

- Last week: = a penal substitutionary atonement... for those united to Him
- Today: = God's being (the Trinity) & God's attributes (what He is like)

- **Danger!**

"Jesus was just an innocent 3rd party being abused by His Father"

"God the Father was angry, but the Cross made Him love us"...

"God is love. Let's stop talking about punishment and sin."

1. The Cross... and the united work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

(a) The covenant of redemption

Luke 22:29,

“... I *assign* to you, as my Father *assigned* to me, a kingdom...”

= covenant

= covenanted

John 17:1-5

= agreement between the Father & Son

- a work which the Father gives Jesus to do
- glorify God... give eternal life... to those people given to him by the Father
- a promise/reward for the Son

➔ the Cross is the united and loving plan of the Trinity

(b) The inseparable operation of the Trinity

John 5:19, “Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

= “whatever things the Father does,
those things the Son does.”

the persons of the Trinity never act without each other

Q: Who gave Christ to be crucified?

- the *Father* - Romans 3:25, “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement”
- the *Son* - Galatians 1:3-4, Christ “gave himself for our sins.”
- the *Holy Spirit* – Hebrews 9:14 – “... through the eternal Spirit.”

➔ God is one... and always works as one

(c) An unbroken Trinity

- God is one – God cannot be broken ^{John 10:30}
- God the Son is eternal – and God cannot die ^{1 Timothy 1:17}
- God the Son saved his people by suffering in his human nature ^{1 Peter 2:24, Hebrews 10:5}