

## 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 <sup>Hebrews 6:18</sup>, life <sup>Exodus 3:14</sup>, perfections <sup>James 1:17</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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