

## Young "Theologians" Deny Cardinal Doctrine Of Faith!

Even as the Christian church commemorates and celebrates the pinnacle of our faith--the glorious resurrection of our Blessed Savior, a debate is raging over the very nature of His atoning work on the cross.

In case you've not heard, there is a plethora of "young theologians" who are denying what they commonly call PSA (Penal Substitutionary Atonement). In a nutshell, the denial is this! Jesus' death on the cross was NOT for the purpose of satisfying God's wrath against sin. Rather, the death of Christ was for the purpose of demonstrating God's great love for humanity ONLY! This errant view has been referred to as a form of the "Moral Influence" theory. Obviously, the cross is a demonstrative illustration of God's great love! However, it is His love in light of His holy hatred for sin that is at issue here--sin that must be punished!

Inherent in the doctrine of Christ's substitutionary atonement is the clear understanding that Christ died "for our **sins**" according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3)! And, "on Him was laid the **iniquity** of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). What we deserved was to suffer the unmitigated and undiluted wrath of God for our arrogant **sin** against Him, His word and ways! Yet, Christ died as our substitute, bearing "our **sins** in His body on the tree" (I Peter 2:24). At issue here, with the denial of PSA, is the denial of sin's awfulness! In juxtaposition, the emphasis is placed clearly and ONLY on the love of God that caused Him to die. In actuality, God's very love is minimized, if the magnitude of **sin** is minimized! In other words, we cannot fully understand or appreciate the majesty of God's love, until we comprehend the magnitude of our sinfulness!

The contemporary rallying point for critique and denial of the purpose of Christ's substitutionary atonement is the song, "In Christ Alone" (a 2001 copyrighted lyric by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend), more specifically the verse that states, "and on that cross where Jesus died, the **wrath of God was satisfied**." A multiplicity of contemporary pastors are taking issue with that phrase and using it to condemn a doctrine that has been traditionally and clearly accepted in the Christian church for centuries! Additionally, it is not coincidental that many of those who deny PSA, also deny the inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures!

A landmark article has been written on this topic by Dr. Albert Mohler. In it, he explains the history of the modern denial of substitutionary atonement and its origination at one of America's top theological institutions! I recommend this article to you. You may access it by clicking on the link below. I strongly urge you to digest this outstanding piece, as the ongoing denial of PSA is not likely to end anytime soon! Rather, we who are orthodox in our faith will, most likely, find ourselves contending for Christ's substitutionary death against those who claim to be one of us, but tragically are NOT!

<http://www.albertmohler.com/2013/08/12/the-wrath-of-god-was-satisfied-substitutionary-atonement-and-the-conservative-resurgence-in-the-southern-baptist-convention/>

Dave Kistler

President, HOPE Ministries International  
President, North Carolina Pastors Network (NCPN)