

**The Cross of Jesus Speaks About Sin**  
**Romans 3:23-26**  
**SONG #68 - Give Thanks**

**Introduction**

**1. Read the following from Romans 3:23-26:**

*23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (ESV)*

2. In essence when we look at the cross of Jesus Christ we can hear God proclaiming, “sin troubles Me, and it should trouble you”
3. Have you even really contemplated exactly why God had to move against sin? While some would argue that God didn’t have to do anything to destroy the influence of sin, has it ever occurred to you that there is a real mandatory purpose behind God’s plan to prevail over evil?
4. Karl Barth said it this way:  
*“To put it in the simplest way, what unites God and us as men is that He does not will to be God without us...He does not allow His history to be His and ours to be ours...”*
5. F.W. Faber offered the following human perspective that is rather profound if you listen carefully:  
*“God loves to be longed for  
He longs to be sought  
For He sought us himself with such longing and love  
He died for desire of us  
Marvelous thought  
And he longs for us now to be with him above”*
6. The way some of us talk at times you would almost have to believe that the only reason that God moved against sin was because, well, “He was mad”. Why does that always seem to come to mind as a first answer when we are asked for the reason that Jesus had to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world?

**I. The Cross of Christ Says Much About Sin. (SONG #781 - Thank You, Lord!)**

**A. What does the cross say about sin?**

1. While the cross certainly shows God’s hatred of sin and his strong will to destroy its influence in the world, you would still be forced to ask, “WHY?”
2. Consider that God created us to be in fellowship with Him. He is “our Father”. When we as His children decide to live a life of sin, we separate ourselves from Him and no longer can have a close relationship with the one true God of heaven and earth.

3. As with any good parent, when our children are in trouble, we will do whatever it takes to step in and make plans to correct their situation and help them out of it. No doubt we are upset when our children disobey us, but our undying love for those that we brought into this world calls us into action on their behalf.
4. I believe Jim McGuiggan asked the all-important question, when he said, “what’s wrong with imagining that he (God m.l.h.) jumps to his feet prepared to do what his holy love requires to save his beloved children?”

**B. Why does the cross have anything to say about sin? (SONG #218-Blessed Jesus)**

1. Sin in a sense is “relational infidelity” against our Father in heaven. Sin is indeed “ingratitude in the face of his generosity” or “arrogance instead of humility” possibly “treachery instead of glad hearted allegiance” maybe even, “blind pride and a claim to godlike independence” (McGuiggan, 29; The Dragon Slayer [all quotations in this paragraph]).
2. When we look at the love of Christ Jesus on the cross and consider what it says about sin, here is what sin becomes in God’s eyes:  
“...power that destroys his (God’s m.l.h.) beloved, enslaves his children and cheats them out of the fullness of life he longs to bless them with.” Also, “it deprives him (God m.l.h.) of the joy he finds in their (God’s children m.l.h.) love for him.” (McGuiggan, 29 [see above]).
3. God knows that in His very nature that He is love and light. Because of His character, God will do whatever He can to get us to come out of darkness and into His marvelous light so that we can once again share in a close loving relationship with Him. Through the cross, God is showing His determination to find a way to lead His wayward children back into His awesome presence.
4. Sometimes when talking about these things it is really easy to get the wrong impression about who God is and how He feels about sin. Remember that this has nothing to do with God being extremely sensitive and that He sulks when we don’t treat Him as we are commanded to and are able to. God needs nothing from us, but He desires that we do not miss out on having a pure relationship with Him while receiving His rich blessings in and through His Son, Jesus Christ.
5. Don’t be shocked then to find so many passages in the New Testament that deal with our atonement from sin, not from the angle that God is extremely angry, but that He overwhelmingly loves us all. One man expressed it this way, “The cross not only affects God and satisfies his holy heart it affects our unholy heart so that we find God satisfying and we are at one with him.”
6. Not a single soul could argue rightfully that we are redeemed in any other way besides the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross (Eph. 1:7).

7. Sometimes people may wonder if God could have accomplished His plan of redemption another way. The fact remains though, that God didn't seek to do it any other way. He redeemed us in His only Son, Jesus.
8. To reveal exactly why the cross has anything to say about sin, look at the following:
  - If we are dead we need to be made alive
  - If we are slaves to sin we need to be set free
  - If we are under the power of Satan we need rescued
  - If we are blinded from truth we need to receive sight
  - If we are poor spiritually we need to become rich
  - If we are weary souls we need to find rest
  - If we are separated from God we need reconciliation
  - If we are fighting God we need to come to peace
  - If we are darkness we need to become children of light
  - If we are guilty we need to be acquitted
  - If we are unrighteous we need to be made righteous
  - If we are in the wilderness we need to come home
9. When it comes right down to the main point, everything that God intended and intends for us is exactly what we need and the message is heralded by His amazing sacrifice on the cross. Sin is not only the cause of the rupture between God and us; it is the very thing that separates us from our Father.
10. Finally, the cross says in a voice loud and clear, that it was not an option for our heavenly Father to simply obliterate this sinful world (because of His love), nor could He just dismiss the error of our ways (because of His justice, holiness and righteousness). Rather God chose to deal with sin by the great sacrifice of His Son on the cross so that we could be His children throughout eternity.

## **Conclusion**

1. As we seek to partake of the emblems at the Lord's table today, let us remember the everlasting love of our Father in heaven as it is seen in the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins.
2. If you are not saved from your sins today through the blood of Jesus, remember that God is just and the justifier of those who come in trusting faith to His Son, Jesus.
3. As we all seek to cease sin and find salvation, let us remember that when we fall short of the glory of God through our unrighteousness, that God is forever faithful to forgive us of our sins, if only we will repent and turn back to Him. (I John 1:7-9)
4. Use this time to do self-examination. If you find that you are not as faithful to the Lord as you ought to be, take a moment to remember what He has done for you and rededicate your life to the Lord.