

Vicarious Atonement

Vicarious atonement, as used in the Bible and interpreted by the churches and Bible commentators, is understood as a price paid by Jesus for the redemption of humankind from their sins and from the ultimate death penalty for sin (Rom. 6:16, 21-23). It also implies that God is an angry Deity, who was waiting for the payment of a previously determined price in the form of a sacrifice (1 Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 13:8) in order for His wrath to be satisfied (Rom. 5:9). This price had to be paid by a perfect person whose life was worthy to satisfy the requirements of this angry God. It is also believed that the only way such price could have been paid was by shedding of blood and death on the cross of Jesus, who alone was qualified to meet these requirements. (This then led to the idea that Jesus is God and a part of the Triune Godhead and gave meaning to his shocking and otherwise seemingly senseless death.)

In short, a sinless human being, Jesus Christ, by shedding his blood and dying on a cross, accomplished washing away the sins of humans, cleansing their souls, and making them fit to become God's children (Rom. 8:3, 32-39; 4:25; 5:1, 6-11). More specifically, it is believed that Jesus vicarious atonement has accomplished the following:

- Redemption and salvation of humans from their sins and from the ultimate death penalty for sin (Rom. 6:16, 21-23).
- Paying a presumed debt which man owed to God.
- Appeasement of the wrath of God who was angry because of human sin (Rom. 5:9)
- Washing away of sins, cleansing the souls of those who have accepted Jesus as their savior, and making them fit to become God's children (Rom. 8:3, 32-39; 4:25; 5:1, 6-11).
- Purification from all sin (1 John 1:7)
- Sanctification (being made holy) (Heb. 10:29)
- Cleansing our consciences from acts that lead to death (Heb. 9:14)
- Reconciliation of all things (Col. 1:20)
- Bringing the Gentiles (non-Jews) who were without hope near to God (Eph. 2:11-13)
- Redemption from the empty way of life of the forefathers (1 Pet. 1:18-19)
- Eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12)

How Did These Ideas Become Established

The vicarious atonement accomplished through Jesus sacrifice was not originally in God's plan – even though the Bible implies that it had been decided from the foundation / creation of the world (1 Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 13:8). It is also seen as a fulfillment and the antitype of the original Passover before the Israelite exodus out of Egypt, and culmination and end of the nation's

sacrificial system in general (Ex. 12:3-6; 21 and 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:19-28), and even the antitype of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac (Gen. 22:1-18).

The various New Testament passages about the blood of Jesus washing away sin and his death on the cross justifying us were not written by those to whom they are ascribed. Rather, they were penned by writers who, in the various translations and alleged reproductions of these writings, added to and eliminated from the original writings until the Bible became a mixture of truth and error. The writers of the present Bible belonged to the church which became nationalized in the time of Emperor Constantine (4th century AD). Many of those writings, and subsequently formed creeds, were the outcome of bitter doctrinal disputes during various church councils. The motives for formulating the doctrines as they now stand in the Bible included the desire of church rulers for power and control, which the church could have never had under the original teachings. The doctrine of the vicarious atonement through Jesus' shed blood and death on the cross has been believed for over 1500 years and accepted by Christians as the true doctrine of Jesus and the only way to salvation.

True Atonement

In reality, Jesus' death or blood could not have redeemed or saved a person which only happens through the Divine Love of the Father transforming the soul. The so called vicarious atonement is in no way related to individual soul cleansing and getting in harmony with divine laws, which is the only way to remedy evil and become at one with God. Rather, only the new birth of the soul, through the inflowing of God's Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit, can accomplish true atonement. Each person has the choice to pray in faith for the Divine Love of the Father to fill their soul. When obtained, the Love makes a person a part of divinity – though not a god or the equal of the Father. Yet, this divinity causes their soul to be transformed into the substance of God's Love and not remain the mere image of their Creator. As a result, the person becomes an immortal divine angel.

Reference:

Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. 1, chapter 4

See also a comparison between the two atonements or gospels on this website at <http://universal-spirituality.net/truth-and-perceptions/gospels-reflection>