

Home Group Notes

Prayers of the Communion Service 3

Thanksgiving

1. Did Jesus have any say in whether or not he would die? (Was he any different to the Passover Lamb who had no say?) (c.f. John 1:29)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

2. Whose prerogative was the cross?
3. Who benefits from it?
4. What modern day examples of 'redeeming' can you think of?
5. To redeem a person (e.g. a slave) means to buy them back, to pay the required price for that person. How does this apply to our redemption through the cross?
6. (Oblation – *n.* an offering, a gift.) The Son makes himself the required oblation, the only oblation possible – a square peg in a square hole. Why is this so?
7. Some, including Steve Chalke, argue that the cross was a form of 'cosmic child abuse', that the Father forced the Son to his death. How does this prayer counter that view?

8. Why is it important that Christ's sacrifice was 'once offered', and we do not need any more sacrifices? (c.f. 1 Peter 3:18)
9. If we were to die tonight, having sinned during the day, but hadn't taken communion or repented of those sins, would we go to heaven?

The cross was a:

- Full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice.
- Full, perfect and sufficient oblation.
- Full, perfect and sufficient satisfaction.
- All of these for the sins of the whole world.

10. What does each of these mean?
11. Why can't God just ignore sin, forget about it and let everybody into heaven? How would this violate his holiness?
12. The cross 'satisfies' God's holiness and justice. How?
13. Why do you think Christ instituted and commanded us to remember his death? Why is it so important?

For today's prayer give thanks to God for giving us his Son, Jesus, to die in our place. Pray that we would bear witness to others of God's amazing love. Pray for those Christians in other countries who face serious persecution and opposition when they tell others of God's love in Christ. Pray for our church, here at St George's and St Martin's, as we endeavour to share the Gospel in our communities.