



### **I don't understand why Jesus would die for us?**

This is a question from one of our recent confirmands. I'm guessing it's a question many more of us have pondered a time or two.

There are actually at least three different questions wrapped up in that one question, so I'll try to separate them out. As always, we'll look to what God has told us in His Word for answers.

#### **"Why" as in "What motivated Him to do it?"**

The answer to God's motivation for sending Jesus to die, and for Jesus to actually make the sacrifice is pretty easy to find.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Romans 5:8 *"But God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Love is was the motivation for Jesus dying for us! That kind of unconditional love may be hard to understand, but thank God for it!

#### **"Why?" as in "What was the purpose for which He died?"**

2 Corinthians 5:19 *"In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,"*

Sin separates us from our sinless God. In order to restore that broken relationship (reconcile the two separated parties), Jesus took our punishment in our place, so that our sin could be "wiped off the books."

#### **"Why" as in "Why did HE have to do it?"**

Hebrews 7:23-28: *Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

*26 Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

In other words, Jesus was the only one who could take our punishment for sin, because He alone is sinless. It makes sense that one guilty person can't take the punishment for another guilty person, because the first guilty person has his own punishment to serve. Only someone who is not guilty can serve a sentence for a guilty person.

I hope you found those answers helpful. And, of course, the response Jesus is looking for from us is to (as Martin Luther said) "Thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)