

# Why Did Jesus Have To Die?

By Ron Boatwright

It is our sins that separate us from God. God will not be around sin. Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

All accountable people have sinned. Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". And Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The death spoken of here is spiritual death which is being spiritually separated from God. God is in Heaven and anybody with unforgiven sins cannot go to Heaven and be with God. God is both a loving God, but He is also Just. God's justice demands punishment for our sins. He could not just "play like" they didn't happen.

We read in Romans 5:6-10, "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

Christ came to this earth and lived a perfect sin-free life. If He had sinned even one time, He could not have died for us. He would have to be punished for His own sin. So we read in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Christ has taken our punishment, so God can now be just in saving us. And we read in 1 Peter 3:18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit". Christ is the just and we are the unjust. God has His plan as to how we are to be saved. We must follow God's plan and not man's plan if we expect to be saved and go to Heaven.