

One Life

March 27-28, 2010

SEPARATION

Sin divides relationships.

ONE LIFE

Jesus paid a price He did not owe
to give us a grace we did not deserve.

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Apostle Paul, Romans 5:5-11)

RECONCILIATION

The sacrifice of Jesus' ONE life
offers us at-ONE-ment with God.

“Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10)

For further study, pick up a copy of our Devotional Guide
in the lobby or simply go to our website: www.mscwired.org/one

Morning Star Church
Devotional Guide
ONE, Week 5, One Life [The Cross]
March 29 – April 2

Message synopsis: Pastor Mike continued our message series leading to Easter, *ONE*, during which we've been exploring the last 24 hours of Christ's life on earth. This week, we've come to the culminating event of this day and all of human history: the hours Jesus spent on the Cross of Calvary.

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. Acts 2:22-23, NASB

Day 1: This *One Life* was God's Plan
John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

1. Chuck Swindoll, in his book *The Darkness and the Dawn*, talks about this theme we have been studying, the last 24 hours of Jesus' life on earth. He says it this way: "The entire sweep of history hinges on this tiny window of time in the first century, and through that window we see a cross. All of history looks back to that moment—to the tragedy and triumph of that cross. First the crucifixion, then the resurrection of the Son of God. Those two epochal events secure our eternal destiny." Respond to that statement.
2. After reading the verses above, combine them with these verses: Galatians 4:4, 5; Ephesians 1:4, 10; Hebrews 9:24-26. What is the message throughout the Scriptures concerning Jesus going to the cross for our sins?

Day 2: Jesus Brings Us Back to Life in God by His *One Life*.
Ephesians 1:3-7; 2:13; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Colossians 1:15-23; 1 Peter 3:18; Psalm 16:11

1. When Jesus was born, the angels announced the *Good News* to the shepherds, "We bring you Good News...unto you is born this day...a Savior, Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The word *Gospel* means "good news." Christianity is not first theology, it is *good news*—the news that Jesus came to give His *one life* to bring us back into relationship with God.
2. John Piper says about our culture today, "*Many people seem to embrace the good news without wanting to embrace God.*" Respond to his statement.

Day 3: Jesus Became Forsaken So We Would be Accepted
Matthew 27:45-46; Psalm 22:1-2, 14-18; Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 10:10-13

1. On the cross, Jesus cried out loudly for all to hear the first verses of a Messianic Psalm that referred to the coming Messiah. It was His way of reminding all those who heard Him that He was fulfilling the truth of that Psalm, being forsaken by God because He was carrying the sin of the world. Jesus had never experienced a time in all eternity where He and the Father were separated (Proverbs 8:22-31). What must it have been like for Jesus to experience this?
2. The Scriptures you read during this day show you that God laid our sin on Christ, that *He became sin for us*; He paid the penalty for our sins—separation from God—so that when we trust Him as our personal Savior we will be forever accepted by God. What does that truth mean to you?

Day 4: His *One Life* Brings Forgiveness for All Time

Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 103:12; John 19:28-30; John 17:4; Hebrews 10:4-10; Acts 10:43

1. The promise of God in the Old Testament was that He would remove our sin from us and that He would offer forgiveness. Forgiveness has the word *give* in it, not the word *get*. Forgiveness assumes grace. Grace gives what someone doesn't deserve. Have you ever been forgiven by another person before? How is God's forgiveness different?
2. When Christ said on the cross, "It is finished," He is referring to His Mission on earth, to offer His *One Life* so we can have forgiveness of our sins. What do these verses teach you about the finished work of Christ?

Day 5: Jesus Opened the Way to God by His *One Life*

Luke 23:44-46; Hebrews 9:1-14; Hebrews 10: 19-22; 1 Peter 3:18

1. How do we know that Christ's sacrifice satisfied the debt for our sins? In a vivid illustration to Israel at Jesus' death, the veil/curtain in the Temple to the Most Holy Place, where God's presence resided, was torn away. It was at this Most Holy Place where only the high priest would go once a year on the Day of Atonement to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. But when the veil was split, there was no longer a wall between God and man. What do the passages in Hebrews teach you about this?
2. The only way we are going to be able to enter heaven is to enter through *the Way* God provided for us. (Look at John 14:6.) Ian Thomas said it this way: "The life that Jesus lived qualified Him for the death that He died, and the death that He died qualifies us for the life that He lived!" What does that mean to you?

Morning Star Church
Small Group Discussion Guide
ONE, Week 5, One Life [The Cross]
March 29 – April 2

Group Icebreaker

Pastor Mike described Samuel's "peace offering" to make things right with his Dad. Share with your group a time when you offered a "peace offering" as a way to pay the debt of your sin/neglect/disobedience. If you would like, you can share about the time *you* received the "peace offering."

1. In the message this week, we learned that **sin divides relationships**. It separates us from each other, and it separates us from God (Romans 3:23). All of us have experienced the sting of guilt reminding us that we are out of fellowship with God—that we have fallen short of God's plan for our lives. Discuss in your group the kinds of things guilt does to people. How do they feel it, numb it, deny it, and express it?
2. Pastor Mike talked about how different cultures through history provided some kind of sacrifice to pay for their sin. They knew deep within their spirit that they were separated from God. They knew the *effect* sin had in their lives. We *know* when our behavior separates us from others. Describe a time when someone asked you to forgive their sin against you. How did you feel? Has someone ever forgiven you before? What was that like for you?
3. Read these verses together: Mark 15:33-38; Hebrews 9:11-12; Hebrews 10:19-22. Discuss the significance of the veil in the Temple that guarded the Most Holy Place being torn in two at Jesus' death.
4. The sacrifice of Jesus' *One Life* offers us **at-ONE-ment with God**. (Look at 1 John 2:2.) Those of you who feel comfortable, share with your group your gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to bring you back into relationship with God. What does it mean to you?

Prayer Requests: