

Who Actually Died?

1. It is important to be _____ in our language about the cross.
2. In what sense did _____ die?
 - Death is only a _____.
 - Jesus' physical death had no impact on His _____ nature.

Jesus Is Still Human

1. Jesus will remain fully _____ forever.
 - Jesus was _____ raised from the dead.
 - Jesus ate food. (Luke 24:42-43; John 21:1-14; Acts 1:4),
 - Jesus was touched (Matt. 28:9),
 - Jesus showed His wounds (Luke 24:39-40; John 20:20),
 - Jesus accepted an invitation to visit a home (Luke 24:29),
 - Jesus had conversations (Matt. 28:8-10, Luke 24:13-39; John 20:11-29).
 - Jesus' body isn't the _____ as the ones we have now.
 - It's a glorified body designed for eternity (1 Cor. 15:50),
 - We will eventually have glorified bodies (Phi. 3:20-21).
2. Jesus will return from heaven in the same _____ .
 - Jesus didn't have a resurrection body for _____ purposes (Acts 1:9-11).
 - Jesus' human and divine natures are _____ united.

Was the Cross a Defeat for God?

3. Some _____ struggle to understand how God would let Jesus die.
 - Islam has a high _____ for Jesus.
 - The Quran speaks of _____ on multiple occasions.
 - Muslims believe a death on a cross is beneath what would have been beneath Jesus.
 - *“We honour Jesus more than you do . . . we refuse to believe that God would permit him to suffer death on the cross.”*
 - The Quran was written about 600 years _____ Jesus’ life.
 - The Gospels were written _____ 65 years of Jesus’ life.
 - Paul’s letters were written as early as 20 years _____ His life.
 - Historians accept the crucifixion as a _____ based on the consistent witness of early, diverse sources.

4. Muslims and Christians view Jesus’ death differently because of atonement.
 - Islam doesn’t teach a concept of atonement – there’s no _____ for Jesus to die.
 - Muslims conclude Jesus dying on a cross would be a _____ of God.
 - God _____ to make atonement for us is a demonstration of His love.
 - There’s no defeat because the cross was God’s _____ all along.

Key Points

- (i) Most of the time when we say “God” in everyday language, we are talking about the Triune God in His entire being – which makes it inaccurate to say that God died on the cross.
- (ii) Neither God the Father or God the Holy Spirit took on a human nature and lived on earth. Only God the Son (Jesus) lived a human existence and could, therefore die a human death.
- (iii) Jesus will continue to have both His human and His divine nature forever.
- (iv) The Quran claims that Jesus didn’t die on the cross. Muslims believe that the cross was “beneath” Him and would have represented the defeat of God.
- (v) For Christians, there’s no defeat on the cross because the cross was God’s plan. The crucifixion is a historical event that represents victory.

Talking to our Kids about this

Opener

- Do you think it’s equally correct to say, “God died on the cross” and “Jesus died on the cross?” Why or why not?
 - *(Help your child think through what it would mean if God – the Triune being - died)*
 - *(Clarify that only Jesus died on the cross)*

Going Further

- When Jesus died on the cross, do you think He stopped being human? Why or why not?
 - *(The Bible indicates that Jesus will have both divine and human natures forever.)*
 - *(Read Acts 1:9-11 together.)*
- (for older kids) Muslims believe that Jesus was a great prophet of God (though not God Himself) and that He didn’t actually die on the cross. They believe that if Jesus, God’s prophet had been crucified, it would have been the defeat of God. Why, from a Christian perspective, was Jesus’ death not a defeat?
 - *(The cross was God’s own plan.)*

Application

- In an atheist internet forum, a person commented, “Jesus, according to the trinity is the immortal, eternal and omnipotent god. There’s nothing to add. Jesus couldn’t die if he was god and if he wasn’t, the trinity flies out the window.”
 - Where does this person’s misunderstanding of Christian theology lie? How would you respond?

Who Actually Died?

1. It is important to be precise in our language about the cross.
2. In what sense did Jesus die?
 - Death is only a transition.
 - Jesus' physical death had no impact on His divine nature.

Jesus Is Still Human

1. Jesus will remain fully human forever.
 - Jesus was bodily raised from the dead.
 - Jesus ate food. (Luke 24:42-43; John 21:1-14; Acts 1:4),
 - Jesus was touched (Matt. 28:9),
 - Jesus showed His wounds (Luke 24:39-40; John 20:20),
 - Jesus accepted an invitation to visit a home (Luke 24:29),
 - Jesus had conversations (Matt. 28:8-10, Luke 24:13-39; John 20:11-29).
 - Jesus' body isn't the same as the ones we have now.
 - It's a glorified body designed for eternity (1 Cor. 15:50),
 - We will eventually have glorified bodies (Phi. 3:20-21).
2. Jesus will return from heaven in the same bodily form.
 - Jesus didn't have a resurrection body for temporary purposes (Acts 1:9-11).
 - Jesus' human and divine natures are permanently united.

Was the Cross a Defeat for God?

3. Some faiths struggle to understand how God would let Jesus die.
 - Islam has a high regard for Jesus.
 - The Quran speaks of Jesus on multiple occasions.
 - Muslims believe a death on a cross is beneath would have been beneath Jesus.
 - *“We honour Jesus more than you do . . . we refuse to believe that God would permit him to suffer death on the cross.”*
 - The Quran was written about 600 years after Jesus’ life.
 - The Gospels were written within 65 years of Jesus’ life.
 - Paul’s letters were written as early as 20 years after His life.
 - Historians accept the crucifixion as a historical fact based on the consistent witness of early, diverse sources.

4. Muslims and Christians view Jesus’ death differently because of atonement.
 - Islam doesn’t teach a concept of atonement – there’s no need for Jesus to die.
 - Muslims conclude Jesus dying on a cross would be a defeat of God.
 - God choosing to make atonement for us is a demonstration of His love.
 - There’s no defeat because the cross was God’s plan all along.

Key Points

- (i) Most of the time when we say “God” in everyday language, we are talking about the Triune God in His entire being – which makes it inaccurate to say that God died on the cross.
- (ii) Neither God the Father or God the Holy Spirit took on a human nature and lived on earth. Only God the Son (Jesus) lived a human existence and could, therefore die a human death.
- (iii) Jesus will continue to have both His human and His divine nature forever.
- (iv) The Quran claims that Jesus didn’t die on the cross. Muslims believe that the cross was “beneath” Him and would have represented the defeat of God.
- (v) For Christians, there’s no defeat on the cross because the cross was God’s plan. The crucifixion is a historical event that represents victory.

Talking to our Kids about this

Opener

- Do you think it's equally correct to say, "God died on the cross" and "Jesus died on the cross?" Why or why not?
 - *(Help your child think through what it would mean if God – the Triune being - died)*
 - *(Clarify that only Jesus died on the cross)*

Going Further

- When Jesus died on the cross, do you think He stopped being human? Why or why not?
 - *(The Bible indicates that Jesus will have both divine and human natures forever.)*
 - *(Read Acts 1:9-11 together.)*
- (for older kids) Muslims believe that Jesus was a great prophet of God (though not God Himself) and that He didn't actually die on the cross. They believe that if Jesus, God's prophet had been crucified, it would have been the defeat of God. Why, from a Christian perspective, was Jesus' death not a defeat?
 - *(The cross was God's own plan.)*

Application

- In an atheist internet forum, a person commented, "Jesus, according to the trinity is the immortal, eternal and omnipotent god. There's nothing to add. Jesus couldn't die if he was god and if he wasn't, the trinity flies out the window."
 - Where does this person's misunderstanding of Christian theology lie? How would you respond?