

## There is no Substitute for The Substitute

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### Introduction

1. Romans 5:6-11
2. A substitute is a person or thing serving or used in place of another
3. The fact that Christ died in our stead is at the heart of Christianity Titus 2:13-14
4. In fact then Christ is our substitute and there is no substitute for The Substitute
5. Based on our text, we want to ask and answer three simple yet crucial questions about what Jesus did.

### II Discussion

1. What did Jesus do?
  - a. He died for us Romans 5:8
    - i. It is the “for us” that makes His death a substitute
    - ii. We are the one who sinned, and we are the ones who deserved to die, but He died “for us”
    - iii. Jesus became our sin-bearer 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6, 11; John 1:29
  - b. Many find the fact of His death to be offensive
    - i. The death on the cross was cruel and bloody and some consider it to be violent
    - ii. Some say that the substitute death of Jesus on the cross was “divine child abuse.”
    - iii. One translation of the Bible was going to take the blood out
    - iv. Yet, a river of blood flows from Abel’s sacrifice to Calvary and the Bible makes no apology for this emphasis on blood Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; Colossians 1:14, 20; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 5:9
    - v. (Blood is used 447 times in the Bible)
2. When did He do it?
  - a. This question is answered in our text
    - i. He died for us when we were “ungodly” Romans 5:6
    - ii. He died for us “when we were without strength” Romans 5:6
    - iii. He died for us “when we were still sinners” Romans 5:8
    - iv. He died for us when we were enemies Romans 5:9
  - b. It was in “the fullness of time” Galatians 4:4
  - c. When we were:
    - i. Irreverent and wicked
    - ii. Weak and devoid of power; we had a problem we could not fix Isaiah 59:1-2
    - iii. When we were/are missing the mark that God had set Romans 3:9, 23
    - iv. When we were adversaries with God rebelled against God and became His enemy 1 Samuel 15:22-23; 1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; James 4:4
  - d. This makes the death of Jesus on our behalf amazing
3. Why did He do it?
  - a. Because He loves us Romans 5:8
  - b. To be an offering and sacrifice to God for us Ephesians 5:2
  - c. To redeem us from all iniquity Titus 2:14
  - d. To purify unto Himself a peculiar people Titus 2:14
  - e. So that we can live together with Him 1 Thessalonians 5:10
  - f. That He might bring us to God 1 Peter 3:18
  - g. There was no other way

### III Conclusion

1. It is no mistake that the cross is the symbol of Christianity
2. To many people, however the cross is unbelievable, foolish or too cruel for the educated or wise 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
3. It is in fact the center of human history, is it the center of your history?
4. Come now

Sources: Sermon by Tom Miller 8/27/06; Adam Clark commentary; Vine's Dictionary