

Christ Our Substitute
2 Corinthians 5:21

Substitute: a person or thing acting or serving in place of another.

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“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

I. Christ our Substitute Atonement

Atonement: reparation for an offense or injury

1 John 2:2

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Propitiation: “a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath and turns it to favor”

Colossians 2:13–14

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ^[14]by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

II. Christ our Substitute Perfection

Isaiah 1:11–15

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. “When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.”

Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

III. Christ our Substitute Redemption

Martin Luther

“That is the mystery which is rich in divine grace to sinners: wherein by a *wonderful exchange* our sins are no longer ours but Christ’s and the righteousness of Christ not Christ’s but ours. He has emptied Himself of His righteousness that He might clothe us with it, and fill us with it.”