

# God's Story, Our Story

## Lesson 27: God the Son –

### Incarnation and Redemption

*The Paschal Mystery Accomplishes God's Saving Plan*



CCC 457-460

Rom 5:8, Acts 2:23,  
1 Cor 15:3; CCC 599-603

CCC 602-03

CCC 651-55

1 Cor 7:23

2 Tim 4:18

1. The Incarnation - The Word became flesh:
  - a. In order to save us by reconciling us with God
  - b. So that we might know God's love
  - c. To be our model of holiness
  - d. To make us partakers of the divine nature
2. God made a covenant, or sacred kinship bond sealed by oath, with man at Creation.
3. Sin breaks our relationship with God, violates the Commandments and distorts our own human nature.
4. Atonement is reconciliation with God.
5. Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scripture, not by chance.
6. We are ransomed from death by Christ's Precious Blood. No one is excluded.
7. The Resurrection is the confirmation of Christ's works and teachings, the fulfillment of the Old Testament and of Christ's promises. The resurrection also confirms His divinity.
8. The Paschal Mystery 1) liberates us from sin by His death and 2) gives us a new life in God's grace, opened by His Resurrection.
9. Christ's atonement can be understood by looking at the role of the family in the ancient world, which was:
  - a. An *economic* unit, which owned land, flock, herds.
  - b. A *military* unit; where men were kinsmen-redeemer responsible to protect and defend each other.
  - c. A *legal* unit, where every father was a judge and lawgiver.
  - d. A *religious* unit, where every father was a prophet and priest, and every home was a temple where members prayed, studied God's word, and grew in obedience and holiness.
10. **The Four Models of Atonement:**
  - a. **Economic (Marketplace)** – Sin is a debt we owe and cannot pay. Salvation is redemption, the purchase of a slave or ransom of a captive. Christ gives his life and blood to buy us back into God's family.
  - b. **Military (Battlefield)** – Sin is captivity, exile. Christ is the victor who delivers us and defeats the enemy, the devil, by offering his own life. And so He overcomes the fear of death, and empowers us to make ourselves living sacrifices, to win

<p>Rom 3:24</p>	<p>the battle by also laying down our lives</p> <p>c. <b>Legal (Courtroom)</b> – Sin is criminal behavior. Salvation is the exoneration of our sins before God our judge. Christ fulfills the legal conditions of the covenant by his life-giving love. His obedience, suffering and death do not exempt us from obeying the law or suffering and dying; they <i>empower</i> us to obey the law, embrace suffering and turn our death into a holy sacrifice and fulfillment of a debt of justice.</p>
<p>1 Cor 6:11</p>	<p>d. <b>Religious (Temple)</b> – Sin is a desecration/defilement. Salvation is our purification and sanctification. The covenant requires a <b>sacrifice</b> of self, because it enables us to live life-giving love like the persons of the Trinity. Sacrifice is the principal act in a temple; the priests’ animal sacrifices are not enough. Adam had been called to offer his life as a gift in the beginning. Christ, the high priest, establishes the new covenant and new temple by offering his life as a perfect sacrifice to the Father for our sin. So we are also called to offer our lives as a sacrifice.</p>
<p>CCC 606-09</p>	<p>11. Christ’s life is an offering to the Father. His humanity became the free and perfect instrument of his divine love, through His suffering and death.</p>
<p>Rom 6:4, CCC 628</p>	<p>12. Baptism signifies the descent into the tomb by the Christian who dies to sin with Christ in order to live a new life.</p>
<p>CCC 618</p>	<p>13. Since Christ’s incarnation united Him with every man, we can become partners in the Paschal Mystery.</p> <p>14. We can follow in His footsteps and His example, taking up our crosses to participate in his redeeming sacrifice.</p> <p>15. Mary achieved this supremely, and was associated more closely than anyone else in the mystery of his Redemptive suffering.</p>

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How is the Paschal Mystery the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
2. What was Adam’s role supposed to be? How did sin affect Adam’s role?
3. Why did Christ have to be crucified, and die, and rise again, and descend into Hell to defeat Satan? Why was the Resurrection necessary?
4. How are the four models of atonement parallel with the marketplace, the battlefield, the courtroom and the temple?
5. How do we participate in Christ’s sacrifice? Why do we need to?