

Jesus Became Our Guilt

Jesus did not merely bear the guilt of humanity, He *became* it. Every vile thought, every secret shame, every crushing weight of regret was placed upon Him as He hung, bloodied and broken, on that rugged cross. The Lamb of God did not simply carry sin like a burden strapped to His back; He became sin itself, so that we, the guilty, might be declared innocent.

When we behold the cross, we are not merely seeing a sacrifice, we are witnessing the execution of our guilt. Our shame was nailed there, our failures, and our self-hatred. The record of our wrongs was hammered through His hands, and the verdict was rendered in His final breath: *It is finished*.

In that divine exchange, Jesus stood in our place, not just as a substitute, but as the embodiment of all that was corrupt and condemned in us. The perfect One was marred beyond recognition so that the marred might be made new. He was silent before His accusers, though heaven and earth waited on His word. He submitted to judgment that we might be spared. He was cut off, that we might be grafted in.

Isaiah saw it centuries before: *“The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”* It pleased the Father, not in cruelty, but in love, that His Son should suffer, because through that suffering, the justice of God would be satisfied and the mercy of God unleashed.

This is the holy paradox: the sinless One became sin, so that the sinful might become righteous. And not by works, not by merit, but by *union*, for we are now hidden in Him, clothed in His righteousness, covered by His blood.

There is no more guilt for those in Christ. It died with Him. There is no more shame. It was buried in His tomb. There is only freedom, only newness, only righteousness purchased at the highest cost.

Isaiah 53:7-11 *“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich at His death; because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*