

THE PERFECT SOLUTION TO SALVATION: JESUS

A. The Requirements to be the Deliverer of Sinful Humans

God requires that the claims of justice must be paid in full either by ourselves or another. However, we cannot pay this debt ourselves. We actually increase our guilt every day. No other creature can pay this debt for humanity, for justice would not allow another creature to be punished for what a human is guilty of, and no mere creature can bear the weight of God's wrath against sin and so release others from it. So, the only possible deliverer would have to be:

Fully Human and Truly Righteous

Fully God

Why?

Fully Human and Truly Righteous because: Justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for its sin. And a sinner could never pay for others.

Fully God because: Only by the power of his eternal divinity might such a deliverer bear the weight of God's anger for the sin of all humanity.

The Bible reveals that the only One who meets the requirements to be such a deliverer is Jesus.

B. Satisfaction of the Dilemma between Divine Justice and Divine Love

Suppose a man found guilty of first-degree murder worthy of the death penalty appeared before a judge for sentencing, and as it turned out, that judge was the mother of the guilty man. She would be faced with an impossible dilemma. On the one hand, the claims of justice demand that she execute justice, condemning the man to die. On the other hand, her love for her son demands that she could never put him to death. To condemn the man would violate her love for him. To condone the crime would violate justice and make her complicit in the crime. There is a dilemma here of justice versus mercy.

Such a situation is analogous to the divine dilemma that God faced. It seemed an impossible situation. The problem is that it seems God cannot carry out both mercy and justice. He must either exact the just penalty for our crimes or be merciful. Either you punish or you do not. Either you show mercy or do not.

Though it seemed impossible, God solves this dilemma at the cross. Full justice is done: sin is punished with the very punishment of hell itself. But mercy and forgiveness are also enacted as well. Only the cross of Jesus allows for the demands of justice to be fully satisfied and the desire for love and mercy to be realized.