

# Jesus Died For Us - True or False?

*Matthew 27:11-56* - Jesus' death is the foundation of the Christian faith.

Why did Jesus have to endure so much pain and brutality?  
**Because this is what it took to pay the sins of humanity.**

**Three false claims about Jesus' death.**

**The Unification Church:** (*"the Moonies"* claimed that) **Jesus was not supposed to die!**

*"Divine Principle", (theological textbook of the Unification Church)*  
Sun Myung Moon teaches that Jesus' death on the cross **was not** an essential part of God's plan for redeeming sinful man. **Moon says**, "we must realize that Jesus **did not come to die on the cross**" (p. 178).

He claimed, **Jesus' mission was to get married and to establish a righteous family**, to rid sin and to start anew. However, Jesus died before He could get married!

**Jesus, according to Moon, was a failure, and Jesus' death had no influence.** He says, *"the cross has been unable to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth by removing our original sin."* (p. 178)

**Moon believed Jesus' death was a victory for Satan.** *"Satan attained what he had intended through the 4,000-year course of history by crucifying Jesus, with the exercise of his maximum power."* (p. 435)

The Bible states that Jesus came to this earth for a specific and very clear purpose: **to die as a ransom for the sins of mankind!**

*Matthew 20:28* Jesus said, *"For the Son of Man came not to be cared for. He came to care for others. He came to give His life so that many could be bought by His blood and made free from the punishment of sin."*

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## **The 'Swoon Theory.'**

The swoon theory agrees that Jesus was crucified but He didn't actually die; He just swooned (*lose consciousness or to passed out*).

**The torture of Jesus' crucifixion was extreme.**

After Jesus died, a soldier thrust a spear into His side, blood and water leaked, signifying that the heart had stopped beating and the blood was settling in the chest cavity. **Jesus was dead! No doubt about it.**

**The Burial of Jesus** (*Matthew 27:57-60*)

## **The ‘Substitution Theory.’**

**This theory suggests that it wasn’t actually Jesus who was crucified.** Some orthodox Muslims have proposed, "*God made someone else look like Jesus and that this person was crucified instead*" (*McDowell, Islam, p. 107*).

### **The Koran (Quran) Sura 4.157**

*They denied the truth and uttered a monstrous falsehood against Mary. They declared, “We have put to death the Messiah Jesus the son of Mary, the apostle of Allah.” They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but they thought they did. Those who disagreed about him were in doubt concerning his death, for what they knew about it was sheer conjecture; they were not sure they had slain him. Allah lifted him up to his presence.*

**Not only does this contradict the Bible, but also it raises some big questions.**

- Hundreds of people knew Jesus. Surely someone would have noticed that the wrong man was being crucified.
- Jesus’ mother stood at the foot of the cross (*John 19:25*).
- If it was the wrong man on the cross, wouldn’t he be yelling, “*I’m not Jesus?*”
- If Jesus wasn’t crucified, then what happened to Him? Where did He go?

The truth about the death of Jesus is that “**dying was His reason for living.**” **He was born into a death sentence!**

## **Jesus died for each of us! (TRUE)**

*Matthew 27:24* When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

Pilate's reaction is the most common in our society today. Most people don't hate Jesus. But many don't accept nor acknowledge Him!

The **Apostles' Creed** says Jesus "*suffered under Pontius Pilate.*" Pilate is the only other person named in the Apostles' Creed.

It is almost as if he is being blamed for the sufferings of Christ.

**But why him?**

- Herod the Great sought to kill Jesus at His birth.
- The Pharisees sought to trap Jesus.
- Judas betrayed Jesus.
- Herod's son, Antipas, had Jesus flogged and crowned with thorns.
- The High Priest wrongfully accused Jesus before Pilate.

**Yet it was Pilate's decision that counted.**

**It wasn't only the Romans, the Jews and Pilate who nailed Jesus to the cross, humanity's sins also nailed Jesus to that cross.**

*Colossians 2:13-14 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross.*

**We all have a choice and Jesus requires a response from us!**

We can do what Pilate did and show that we admire Jesus, but ultimately wash our hands clean of Him. Or we can admit that Jesus nailed our sins to the cross.

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- Dying was Jesus' reason for living.
- He died for us so that we might be forgiven.