

Alpha Questions
Week 3, Session 3
“Why Did Jesus Die?”

This week the point is sharpened as the course becomes more specific as to my own sinfulness and culpability before God; not just that the generic “all” have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but that specifically, I have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

• **IMPORTANT:** Remember and discuss that surrendering one’s life to Christ has nothing to do with changing one’s denominational affiliation. This is about our individual relationship with God, not the sign on the front of the building in which we worship.

1. The death of Jesus: **optional or essential? Did tonight’s talk change your impression of that? How? Why?**
2. **Meology:** Would you consider yourself a meologist as Frank described himself. (Blessed Vending Machine; good works as currency) (This could be a good place to discuss trying to have a **Validating Performance Record.**)
3. How would you like to have a **Thought Monitor** installed above your head? **Why not?**
4. Do you ever feel shame or guilt? If so, where does that sense or feeling originate? Why so?
5. On a **scale of 1-10**, 10 being perfect, what number would best describe you on the scale of perfection? (*Don’t be concerned that you get a specific answer. What is being accomplished as you ask this is that you are affording the guests the opportunity to think about their lives and how they measure up to God’s standard of 100% being the only passing grade.*)
6. **Mark 7:20-23.** What do you think or how do you feel about Jesus saying we’re polluted from within with sin (self-centeredness, etc.)? Do you believe it?
7. Look at the Scriptures, **Romans 3:23 (p.1042) and 6:23(p.1044)**; go through them word by word, especially 6:23. What are: *wages; sin; death; free gift; eternal life; through?* Be ready to have a definition of these in context with the Scriptures.
8. How did **the analogy of the Judge** connect with you? Put yourself in the place of the individual who stood before the judge. How does that make you feel that someone would do that for you? Can you see the correlation with this to Christ?
9. **Isaiah 53:3-6 (p.684).** This prophesy was written over 700 years before Jesus. Whom would you say this describes? (Crucifixion was not even a form of torture yet!)
10. Compare the above Scriptures with **Ephesians 2:8-9 (p.1079) and Titus 3:5 (p.1100)**. What do you think these Scriptures are saying? How would you contrast that to Meology (your “personal spiritual worldview”)?
11. **PRAYER CARD:** What do you think or feel about that prayer? If you did, how did you interact with it?
12. At the top of **Page 21** in the manual, we see the statement, “The self substitution of God.” What do you believe that means in light of **John 3:16 (p.984)**?
13. If what we have heard tonight is true, how relevant does that make the cross of Christ to each of us? How does the analogy of **receiving the gift (John 1:11-13, pg. 981)** that has been extended cause you to think or make you feel about the intentional decision one makes to surrender to Christ ?