

“He is risen, He is risen indeed!” Those are the words we proclaim every Easter Sunday. But do you ever stop and think about the significance of that statement? If Jesus has risen, if He has risen indeed, then what? What does that mean to you? What does that mean for your life?

**ASK PEOPLE TO SHARE!** Challenge how this truth should radically change our lives.

Consider these questions:

**What would change in your life if you did not believe that Jesus has risen from the dead?**

**What would you do differently if you woke up tomorrow and no longer believed?**

The answers to these questions are not easy and should challenge us in thinking about how we are living out our faith.

Meditate on this powerful message today: 1 John 4:9-10

*“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

### **Who – What – Where – Why – How?**

1. Who showed us love?

God showed us love by sending His son. This was the single greatest expression of love in the history of mankind.

2. What did He do to show us love?

He sent His Son. The one who was and is Holy. And He sent Him as a sacrifice for us who were anything but holy.

3. Where did God send His Son?

He sent His son into the world. Into sin and into the frailty and humility of a human body.

4. Why did He send His Son into the world?

So that we might live through him. Otherwise we were destined to the curse of sin and death. (1 Corinthians 15:55-56)

5. How did He make atonement for our sins?

Jesus, when he went to the cross he carried the punishment of sin for the whole world with him and he paid the price, taking on the full wrath of God so that we would not have to ever face such a punishment. He became sin for us. (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18)

Praise God for the truth of the atoning work of Jesus on the cross, and just as line in the song, “Here I Am To Worship” goes...“I never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross!” we will never experience the wrath of God because Jesus has swallowed it up in victory through the cross.

The words “atoning sacrifice” also translated “propitiation” is from the Greek word “*hilasmos*”, only used twice in the Bible (1 John 4:10 and 1 John 2:2) and it describes the means of appeasing God for sin.

### **Read 1 John 2:1-2**

*“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life that God required and when He went to the cross He took the sin of the whole world with Him and God punished Him who was without sin to be sin for us. He died once for all that we might be brought to God.

**For Christ died for sins once for all**, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

So back to the original question, what is the significance of those words, “He is risen, He is risen indeed?”

Ask again if you feel the discussion may have a deeper impact.

**Read: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

What should your response be to Jesus as our risen King, whose name is above all names, who has restored your relationship with God?

Ask this question and use it to lead you into praise and prayer.