

Series: The Gospel of Freedom and the Things That Hinder

Message: “The Propitiation Antidote”

1 John 3:16-24; 4:7-10

Central Thought: *Propitiation means that a holy God’s offense at all sin has been satisfied by God placing on Jesus all the blame for all sin. This is the measure of God’s love for us and our love for others.*

- 1) What is propitiation?
 - Biblical definition – “a **covering** to satisfy an angry, offended party.”
 - Atonement is often substituted in English translations for propitiation.
 - Atonement is **relational** – it satisfies the offended person.
 - Propitiation is **legal** – it satisfies the broken law.
 - Propitiation is the **payment** for an offense. Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 8:1
- 2) What keeps us from embracing propitiation?
 - **Woundedness** of past blaming.
 - Holding on to **unforgiveness**. Matthew 6:15
- 3) What are we saying when we ignore propitiation?
 - “I am **pretending**” – to be a disciple of Jesus or to run the race.
 - “Jesus’ blame is not **enough**” – still more blame to be taken.
 - “I am hopeless” – unforgiving and **unforgiveable**.
 - “I am a hypocrite” – not willing to receive the blame I give.
 - “I am an exception” – Jesus’ forgiveness covers everyone but **me**.
- 4) What will propitiation do to blame?
 - It takes to the cross **each** circumstance of blame and accusation.
 - It covers **all** blame – not as in “covers over” or “hides”, but as in “covers the **cost**”.
 - It affirms God’s sovereign **purpose** in all sin and failures.
- 5) How do we live out the propitiation of Jesus?
 - Mind-**renewal** – believe that Jesus has done this! 4:10
 - Scripture – renew the mind with the **Word** of God. (see insert)
 - Prayer – honesty at the **Cross** about offenses.
 - Proactive forgiveness – look for opportunities to **practice** forgiveness.

- Compassion – respond to others’ sins and failures by **understanding** how *they* feel, not how *you* feel.
- Community – gather with others to confess **bitterness** and unforgiveness.

Word bank: *all, bitterness, cost, covering, Cross, each, enough, legal, me, payment, practice, pretending, purpose, relational, renewal, understanding, unforgiveable, unforgiveness, Word, woundedness*

For LIFE Groups and personal reflection

- 1) Explain the difference between covering as “hiding” and “taking care of the debt”.
- 2) What is the difference between pro-active and re-active forgiveness?
- 3) Read Matthew 6:15. Is this a limitation of God’s forgiveness of us? Discuss this.
- 4) Why do we need community to beat the Blame Trap with the Propitiation Antidote?
- 5) Why is the Word of God vital to beating the Blame Trap?