Lifegroup Study (PM) – 19 Aug 2018

**Gospel Fluency P3 – Vicarious Atonement**

**INTRODUCTION**

One of the ways of looking at what Jesus achieved is known as Vicarious Atonement. This says that the Son of God didn’t just become a human, but that effectively became humanity, so that all of creation was represented in his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-19**

**14**For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

**16**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

**KEY POINTS FROM SERMON**

* All of creation is contained and sustained by Christ (Hebrews 1:3, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17, Acts 17:28)
* Therefore when Christ became human, all of creation was represented in him.
* That means he died not just for us, but as us. He was resurrected as us. He ascended as us. And he exists in unbroken fellowship with the Father as us.
* Therefore all of humanity has been forgiven and set free from the power of sin. This isn’t to say that all go to heaven or that personal faith is not necessary. But faith is not what saves us, faith is the lens by which our eyes are opened to see the salvation that is already ours, so we can walk in it and benefit from it both now and eternally.
* Repentance is the result of forgiveness not the condition for it.
* Because of the gospel we can live in freedom from guilt and shame.
* Because of the gospel we can live in freedom from the power of sin. The sinful nature was crucified with Christ!
* Because of the gospel we can treat others the way God treated us, accepting them BEFORE they believe or behave, forgiving those who have wronged us, and announcing the good news that God is not the enemy of humanity but the Savior of it!

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within this passage, what insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's purposes for His people?
4. How does the Vicarious Atonement model of viewing salvation differ from how you have typically viewed it?
5. How does seeing of all creation as represented in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus change the way you might interact with the world?
6. How does the idea that God has already forgiven you change the way you view confession and repentance?
7. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves*.” Is there anything that God is asking you to stop, start or continue in this passage?
8. What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word? (i.e. obedience)

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For us to each be gospel fluent and live out of the finished work of Jesus on the Cross
* For us to be intentional in creating an environment where people can wrestle with the deeper heart issues and ask the hard questions of what the gospel means for them