

**Chapter 3: Moral Example: Jesus Shows You How To Live**

**Scriptures: 1 John 3:11-24 and Matthew chapters 5-7**

**Moral Example Atonement Theory**

- **This theory is based on the belief that Jesus Christ is the ultimate example and demonstrates how we are to love others and live the Christian life**

**Moral Example In History**

- **Iraneaus, Polycarp, Ignatius, Origen, and Clement, were people that were present early in the church, and they taught about the importance of Christ's death.**
- **Peter Abelard in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, expressed his belief that we have been made right and reconciled with Jesus Christ.**

**Pros and Cons of The Moral Example Theory**

- **Devega says this "Moral Example Idea" presents and answers some tough questions. (pg. 50) One question he raises is, "What if, instead of dying at the age of thirty-three, after three years of public ministry and teaching, he had died at, say, the age of twenty? Before he did any work as the Messiah? Would he still have been our savior? (pg. 50)**
- **This theory would say no because we need the ministry of Christ, which include his teaching and the way He lived, to bring us salvation. According to author Devega in accordance with the theory, "If he had died on the cross at twenty then we wouldn't have the fully divine example to follow, and we would still have that tarnished image of God affecting us." (pg. 51)**

## Self-Giving Love

- **Oscar Romero- He advocated for the poor people and those who were without jobs and homes. He did not think the U.S. should support the El Salvadoran government because they were not honoring the rights of the people in their country. He was speaking out against the U.S. military offering support for the El Salvadoran government. He was attending a Mass when he was shot. During that service of Mass he said these words: “May this body immolated and this blood sacrificed for humans nourish us also, so that we may give our body and our blood to suffer and to pain—like Christ.” (Pge. 54)**

## The Difficult Way of Love

- **Christ taught some things in scripture that are difficult for us to hear and obey.**
- **One of those things is to love those who treat us wrong and to pray for them. Jesus teaches this in Matthew 5:43-48.**
- **Christ also taught against the love of Money. This is evident in Matthew 6:24. “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (NIV) It is easy for people in our society today to fall into the trap of loving money. There is nothing wrong with money in itself, but its when we love money and put it in place of God.**
- **Forgive others. This is probably the hardest. Jesus taught us to forgive people and this is evident in the Lord’s prayer, which as Presbyterians we have the pleasure of saying in our worship service each week.**

Matthew 6:12

“And forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors.” (NIV)

Matthew 6:14-15

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your father will not forgive your sins.” (NIV)