

Good Friday (2026)

Charles Wesley was an English leader of the Methodist movement and a prolific composer who wrote over 6,500 hymns during his lifetime.

One of the most famous was "*And Can it Be?*" It contains a line that asks a very poignant question: "How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

"Did God die on the cross? And if he did not, why am I here?"

Skeptics of Christianity often pose this kind of question. Unfortunately, many Christians either answer wrongly or stand in awkward silence.

All of us should have suspicions about Wesley's hymn. It should bother us. But most of all, "I do not know" should never be our answer to the question, "Did God die on the cross?"

We believe that Jesus Christ is God "In the flesh." We also believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross.

If indeed someone believes that "God died on the cross," it would mean that the divine nature perished— "no more God."

One such heresy arose in the early centuries of the Church, which claimed that God the Father suffered vicariously through His Son's passion on the Cross.

Fortunately, the Church definitively rejected this deception; instead, she teaches clearly that God never changes. God not only created the universe, but God also sustains it by the very power of His Being.

If God ceased to exist for one second, the universe would vanish. If God dies, everything dies with Him.

We should, then, shrink in horror from the idea that God actually died on the cross. The atonement for our sins was made by the human nature of Christ.

Good Friday is not a celebration of death. We celebrate the life we receive through the Cross. We celebrate that Jesus mounted the wood of the Cross to take away our sins deserving of eternal death and bestow upon us the gift of eternal life.

“God does not love us because Christ died for us; Christ died for us because God loved us.” — John R.W. Stott