

## **The price of our sins**

We do pay a price for our sins. The law of sowing and reaping still applies to "born again" Christians. Christ's sacrifice on Calvary did not remove the need for God to "chasten those whom He loves." I see the message of Calvary not as means of removing the penalties associated with our sins, but as removing the single consequence of a perceived "separation" or "isolation" from God that result from feelings of guilt that are associated with our sin. I would define the "death" penalty for sin, not as eternal Hell, but as a kind of "spiritual death" or feeling of abandonment and isolation from God, which is only our subjective perception, not an actual reality from God's point of view. It is possible that Christ actually "experienced" this on Calvary on behalf of whole of humanity. Or, perhaps, this was more of a demonstration of God's love, instead. Regardless of how you view the atonement, Christ did not suffer vindictive retribution from God for the sins of mankind. God never has, and never will, punish us in this way. Instead, He allows us to suffer the natural consequences of our sin, one of which is "spiritual death." These consequences are removed for those who turn to Calvary and turn to God for forgiveness and receive the wonderful "gift" of eternal (age abiding) life, which I would define as "fellowship with God" in this life and the next.