

Colossians 2:13,14, NIV “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

I absolutely love the fact that the parsonage has a garbage disposal! Have some waste from food you're preparing? Dump it down the drain and it's gone! Mixed up “Baking Soda” and “Baking Powder” in the recipe? Once it meets the disposal, your mistake is gone forever! Don't you wish you could do that with all your mistakes? Amazingly, according to St. Paul, you can!

You see, when Jesus died on the cross, He didn't die for His own sins. He didn't have any sin. He took *our* sin to the cross. In fact, we're told that He *became* sin for us! What does that mean? There's one thing in this world that God cannot stand, and that's sin. So Jesus became, in God's eyes, all our sin. When the Father looked at His only-begotten Son hanging there on the cross, He didn't see His “beloved Son, in Whom [He is] well pleased.” No, God the Father saw only our sin, and His reaction was revulsion and wrath. God the Father turned His back, removed His love, from His Son in our place. He punished Jesus for our sinful attitude and condition with the greatest punishment anyone could ever face: abandonment. No living human being except Jesus Christ has ever experienced abandonment by God, not even those who deny His existence, yet Jesus willingly faced this torture alone for you so you'd never have to.

And since Jesus took our sins to the cross, became our sin, and was killed, so *all* of our sin was killed with Him, just like that garbage disposal. They are gone completely with not so much as a residue left, and through Him, we are restored to God and have been promised eternal life, free of the garbage of sin and death.

So next time you take your trash to the curb or throw something down the disposal, remember that so is it with your sin: gone completely.