

Different “Kinds” of Death

The Bible refers to more than one kind of death.

1. Physical death – almost everyone understands this. It is the cessation of the physiological activities of the body. It is the absence of life.
2. Spiritual death – this is the original cause of the deterioration that eventually leads to physical death.
Gen. 2:15-17 - in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die
Adam obviously did not physically die that day (he lived over 900 years), but physical death began working in him, and all his progeny, and even the rest of earthly creation (plants, animals). Physical death was inevitable, from the moment he sinned.
3. The “second death” – eternal punishment and torment of the lost. Rev. 20:11-15 (Lake of fire)
4. The substitutionary death of Christ.
His was certainly a different kind of death, because he was not spiritually dead (due to the virgin birth). His death was totally voluntary – first in becoming a man (God as spirit cannot die – he had to literally become a mortal man to even be capable of physical death), but also in allowing himself to be crucified.
Rom. 5:6-11 - Christ died for the ungodly ... Christ died for us ... reconciled to God by the death of his Son
1 Cor. 15:3 - Christ died for our sins, according to the scripture
5. The death of “the old man” when we are born again, and symbolized in water baptism
2 Cor. 5:14-18 – new creatures in Christ
Rom. 6:1-11 – our old man is crucified with him, therefore we are freed from sin.

But you may ask, if I am dead to sin, why do I live like I do? You know you were sincere when you received Christ, and when you were baptized, so what is wrong? We need to “die daily” (like Paul, in 1 Cor.15:31).
6. Daily death
Mt. 16:24-26 – deny self, take up cross and follow him
Lk. 9:23-26 – take up your cross daily and follow him
Lk. 14:26-33 – who does not bear cross and follow, cannot be his disciple... count the cost ... forsake all that we have
Gal. 2:20 – I am crucified with Christ
Col. 3:1-15 – If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things that are above ... For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God ... Mortify your members upon the earth... Put off the old things, put on the new things.

So in summary, there is

1. spiritual death at the Fall
2. physical death
3. tormenting death in the lake of fire for the unbelievers
4. substitutionary death of Christ
5. our death to the old life at regeneration, and
6. a daily death as we voluntarily count the cost, deny self, and forsake all\]