



**Another Way to See the Cross  
Video Trailer  
Unedited Transcript**

**Richard Rohr:** Welcome back. Over the next few weeks we'd like to offer you another way; I'm not saying the only way, another way to see the Cross. That word and that concept; of course it became the Christian logo, but it also became rather problematic because it was understood in what I call a transactional way, not usually a transformational way. Some expressed it as the Penal substitutionary atonement theory. I always say even the phrase is garbled in the mouth, because I think the concept just garbles up the mind, as if Jesus had to pay a price to get God to love us. My own Franciscan tradition never felt that could possibly be true. Francis, the early Franciscans, St. Bonaventure, and John Duns Scotus understood the cross as a process of at-one-ment, if you don't mind me playing with the word. At-one-ment instead of atonement. But if that intrigues you at all, I'd love to offer you an alternative orthodoxy on the doctrine of the Cross, and it is an orthodoxy. It was considered a minority position even inside the Catholic Church, but was never deemed to be heresy, and here it is in two simple sentences. Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity. It didn't need changing. God loved us from the beginning. While I'm making it more than two sentences, but anyway. Here's the second sentence. Jesus came to change the mind of humanity, our mind, about God. So, it's not a heavenly transaction in which Jesus is paying off God, the Father, as was often thought. But it's almost an aesthetic, moral, dramatic, symbolic, use whichever word makes sense to you, way of switching our understanding of God. That God as visualized on the cross is outpouring love. God's infinite, naked, vulnerable love. That's different than paying a price. So, stay with me, and I hope you can see that this is not heresy. In fact, it's even in the scriptures, but most of us weren't trained to look for those Scriptures. So if you'll allow us, we'd love to guide you along that path. Thank you for your trust.