

Facing Suffering & Evil

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Romans 8:18-21; 2 Peter 3:9-13

The # 1 Question People Would Ask God

I. Why don't you eradicate (remove, destroy, eliminate) all evil?

- A. (Ask a question when questioned)
If you could eradicate all evil, would you?
- B. Before you answer, we must ask...
 - 1. Do our kids do evil?
 - 2. Do our parents do evil?
 - 3. Do we do evil?
- C. If you have a reason to not push that button, maybe God doesn't want to push that button (yet)

II. The hypocrisy we all experience

- A. We all want the "spray cans" that eliminate what is bad or evil
- B. But we want to hold the cans
- C. We don't want the cans pointed at us

III. God's grace is amazing

- A. God's delay is not indifference, it's not inability
 - 1. It's mercy
 - 2. It's grace
 - 3. It's love

- B. His desire is that all come to repentance
 - 1. You see this in the prodigal son
 - 2. The lost sheep
 - 3. The woman at the well

IV. The 2nd most asked question, "Why is there suffering?"

- A. Why is the world so broken?
 - 1. Why do so many suffer?
 - 2. Does God care?
 - 3. Will God do something?
- B. What we need to understand
 - 1. What is in the present was not in the original
 - 2. Sin entered the world as
 - a. Rebellion
 - b. Disobedience
 - c. Defiance
 - 3. Evil was/is the result

V. What is evil?

- A. Evil is the result of corrupting, defying, & opposing what was supposed to be good
- B. Good is how things start, evil is corruption of good
- C. Truth is how it starts, lying is corruption of truth
- D. If there is evil, we assume there is good. If there is good, there is a moral law that declares what is good. If there is a moral law, there must be a moral law giver.
- E. If there is no moral law giver, there is no moral law. If there is no moral law, there is no good. If there is no good, there is no evil.

VI. Suffering is the result of evil

- A. The law of sowing & reaping
Galatians 6:7-8
- B. The wages of sin is death
Romans 6:23
- C. Dead in trespasses & sin
Ephesians 2:1-3
- D. Your sin will find you out
Numbers 32:23
- E. Sin is a reproach to any people
Proverbs 14:34
- F. After rejection: God gave them up
Romans 1:24-28

VII. So what does God do about evil & suffering?

- A. God allows consequences
 - 1. Consequences are great teachers
 - 2. Helps us see the depth & reality of our decisions
 - 3. God wants us to see sin & Satan for what they are
- B. He then steps into His creation
 - 1. After interventions
 - 2. After revelation
 - 3. After commands
 - 4. He comes down to our level
- C. He faces the ultimate result of evil
 - 1. Mocked, abandoned, & murdered
 - 2. He suffers & dies
 - 3. That we might be set free
- D. As we see our diagnosis & His cure
 - 1. We are drawn to Him

- 2. His gift is free
 - 3. As God steps into our pain, our life, & our death & redeems us
- E. He one day returns
 - 1. Taking back what Satan stole
 - 2. Making all things new

VIII. What does God want?

- A. He wants to forgive you more than remove you
- B. He wants to bring you grace more than judgment
- C. He wants you to have eternal life more than eternal judgment
- D. He values you as He gives His life for you

IX. What's God's answer to the problem of evil in a broken world?

- A. You: the follower of Jesus
- B. The ones who give, love, build, care, serve, feed, heal, & help
- C. We answer the emotional problem as we grieve with those who grieve

**It's When We Care, We Bring Hope To The Broken
That Is When We Look Most Like Jesus**