

If God is Good, Why Is There So Much Evil in the World?

1. Introduction

- a. Whenever there is a terrible tragedy or natural disaster the question always comes up, "Why would God allow this?"
- b. Sometimes this idea is posed by a person truly suffering whether they have been directly affected by the loss of their possessions or of a loved one.
- c. Sometimes it is merely a philosophical argument used to deny the existence of the God of the Bible. God is either a monster who is all powerful and could stop the evil but chooses not to thus allowing people to suffer, or he is too impotent to stop the evil."
- d. Mark 14:7 "*For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.*" They were not just empty words. This was really a mandate from the God of heaven to meet the physical needs of whomever we can. "If I have the ability and the opportunity to meet a need, then I have the responsibility to do so." (1 John 3:16-18)

2. Comes from Misunderstanding of God's Nature

- a. Bible teaches that God is both all powerful (Isaiah 46:9-11) and loving (1 John 4:8) God is love
- b. But there is another aspect of the nature of God that is not mentioned in this question, His justice.
- c. We would not think that a government that willfully and knowingly ignores the blatant violation of its laws to be very good government. Romans 2:6-10
- d. We do not like to think about that because we are the guilty party. We deserve God's wrath.

3. Comes from Misunderstanding of Whose Responsibility Evil is Anyway

- a. God made a perfect world, it was very good, meaning that everything was exactly as God had intended it.
- b. Adam willfully, knowingly chose to disobey the direct command of God. He in effect said, God I don't want your way I want my own way.
- c. Where is the God of Love? When we deserve death He says, "I will withhold my justice.... I will step into time and space and take your sins upon Myself and give you the opportunity to merely trust me to save you.

4. Comes from Misunderstanding of God's Purpose If God could stop it Why Doesn't He?

- a. He will some day but in order to do so He must destroy sinners; which would include all of us. 2 Peter 3:9 "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*"

- b. Asking the question, "Why did he/she/they die?" is the wrong question anyway. Right question is why are we all going to die?

5. Comes from Misunderstanding of the Big Picture

- a. Why did God do all this anyway? Why did He even allow sin? Romans 11:22 *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. God wanted to reveal every aspect of His nature to creatures who were intelligent enough to appreciate all that He is and could freely love Him for it.*
- b. God has perfectly good reasons why He allows these things to occur that we may not see.
- c. Eternity 2 Corinthians 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

6. How do I respond? (Lessons for our Lives)

- a. Recognize Who God really is, whose responsibility it is, What God is doing and focus on the big picture
- b. When faced with someone grieving, they are not interested in such a discourse, just be there for them and comfort them with assurances that God is real and is there to receive and comfort them.
- c. When faced with someone merely argumentative then find out their basic ideas and show them God does exist and He is in control.
- d. Perhaps you are here today and have never come to the point where you can say with certainty God has saved me, I know that when I die He will take me to be with Himself for all eternity