

#1 ISSUE

about GOD for both believers and non-believers

EXAMPLES:

- death
- disease
- hurricanes
- abuse
- terrorism
- earthquakes

TYPES:

MORAL & NATURAL

Why?

...do bad things happen

OUR RESPONSE:

- Must be Biblically accurate
- Must be theologically consistent
- Must be Relevant
- Must be Practical

GOD'S DESIGN

MAN'S BROKENNESS

THE GOSPEL RESTORES

bringing suffering

THE PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION

- Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then He is not omnipotent.
- Is He able, but not willing? Then He is malevolent.
- Is He both able and willing? Then why is there evil?
- Is He neither able nor willing? Then why call Him God

EPICURUS
(Greek Philosopher)

4 A RESPONSE for THOSE GOING THRU SUFFERING

How should we respond when others are suffering

- Always be aware what you say and not to say
- Sometimes it is best to say nothing
- Be a comfort to those in need. (2 corinthians 1:3-7)
- Be truth and strength to those in need
- Be a light to those in need (point them to Christ)

THE CROSS OF CHRIST PROVIDES THE GREATEST COMFORT THRU SUFFERING

1 THE REALITY OF SUFFERING

- The **ORIGIN** of Evil ▶ **SIN** (genesis 3)
- The **DEPTH** of Evil ▶ **♡ is wicked** (genesis 6:5; jeremiah 17:9)
- The **EXTENT** of Evil ▶ **👥🌍** (romans 5:12-21; 8:18-22)
- The **INEXPLICABILITY** of Evil ▶ **?** (job; isaiah 55:7; psalm 8:1)
- The **FINALITY** of Evil ▶ **it will end** (revelation 21:1-4)

THE CROSS OF CHRIST PROVIDES THE REMEDY FOR OUR SIN AND SUFFERING

3 A REASON FOR SUFFERING

A Few Things we often say...

- **Matter of Perspective**
- **God is more than just "good" and "powerful"**
- **Evil defines Good** (Reminds us how bad sin is, and how merciful God is)

A FEW RESPONSES:

- **Greater Good Defense** → you do the math
- **Free Will Defense** (Matthew 23:37)
- **Judgment/Discipline**
- **Creation-Order Theodicy** (God created the world according to a designed order, which includes suffering. He doesn't promise to prevent it all but He does promise to redeem us from it)



A FEW WAYS GOD USES SUFFERING:

- **For good** (genesis 50:20; habakkuk 1:5-11)
- **To discipline** (psalm 32; hebrews 12:3-11; deuteronomy 20:16-17)
- **To show us something better** (romans 8:18)
- **For His glory** (john 9:3)
- **For our growth** (colossians 1:24-29)

THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING

2 A RESPONSE from GOD to SUFFERING

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND:

- How **BAD** we are (matthew 15:18-19; romans 3:10)
- How **HOLY** God is (exodus 15:11; 1 samuel 2:2; psalm 24:3-5)
- Sometimes God does step in and prevent suffering...
That's God's... **PROVIDENCE**
- Other times God chooses not to step in and prevent suffering...
That's God's... **SOVEREIGNTY**

THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS THE THE GREATEST RESPONSE TO OUR SUFFERING

? QUESTION ?

If we saw suffering about to happen and would stop it, but God doesn't...

DOES THAT MAKE US MORE MORAL THAN GOD?

- **Who SERVES Whom?** (God is not subject to man)
- **Is morality determined by one act or an entire character?** (God is HOLY all the time, in every way)
- **Which instances would He prevent?**

If God stepped in every time, it would:

- disrupt the natural order of physical life
- hinder the full exercise of moral freedom
- disrupt the natural order for making rational and moral choices
- defeat the conditions of moral improvement
- hinder one of God's most effective ways of providing moral warnings

GOD is not OBLIGATED to prevent suffering