

God is Good, Then Why?

I have talked to a lot of people over the years, and whether they are believers or not, most of them say that their biggest struggle with God is if He is so good, why is there so much evil and pain in this world. Why does He allow it? Why does He not just stop it?

We are going to cover 5 key points in dealing with this question today. But, I want you to write down questions or even text me questions. Next month we will spend all of our time talking through questions to this most difficult topic.

Go to video that will set the basis for our discussion, as this true story does an amazing job of touching on all 5 of our key points



Case for Faith clip

God is Good, Then Why?

- The world does not work the way God intended because of sin

In the beginning, when the earth was created, everything was perfect, working just the way that God designed and desired. There were no floods, hurricanes or tornados, no sickness or pain or suffering or death. God granted man complete authority over the earth, and it worked flawlessly. Man had authority over all the earth. What happened? How did it get out of balance? Where did evil come from?

God is Good, Then Why?

- Genesis 3:17,19

- And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;** ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return”

Until Adam and Eve sinned, there was no concept of evil. Everything was good. But their sin left a gaping chasm between how things should be and how they were. As a result, death and tragedies like natural disasters happen—proof that God’s perfectly designed world has gone awry.

It is because of sin that God casts judgment on everything and death enters our reality—everyone and everything must now die. We fail to realize how bad sin is.. As we are surrounded by so much pain and suffering, our response should be, “Lord, forgive me for my sin which causes the evil in this world. For what I deserve is the full consequence of my sin, immediate and permanent separation from you. But, thank you, Lord, for your grace.” And to Thank Him for one more day for allowing me to be the exception to the rule. Thank you for giving me what I do not deserve.

God is Good, Then Why?

- Bad things will happen, but God is with us as our comforter

God is Good, Then Why?

- Matthew 5:4
 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Psalm 34:18
 - The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Following Christ or not following Christ does not free us from bad things. But, it has a huge impact on how we deal with bad things.

It really is an amazing comfort to know that God is with us through all of our pain and suffering. Imagine trying to deal with this messed up world and the effects of sin without a personal relationship with God through Jesus.

God is Good, Then Why?

- God is so great that He can bring good out of bad

God is Good, Then Why?

- Romans 8:28
 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

This does not mean that everything is not good. Let's get that straight. But God is so great and so loving that He can work together all things, even horrible things, for good for those that love Him and are called according to His purposes. But here is the key. It is about His purposes!! Not about our comfort, ease or pleasure.

Our job is to focus on loving God and being called according to His purpose.

God is Good, Then Why?

- We will not understand everything, but we can trust in the Lord

There will be things that happen to all of us that do not make sense. Everything is not good. But at the end of the day we can trust in the Lord with all of our hearts.

God is Good, Then Why?

■ Proverbs 3:5-6

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

This verse makes it clear that we will not understand everything. If we understood everything, we could lean on our own understanding. We have a daily choice to make.

The work used here for trust means to rely upon, to lean upon, to be confident in, someone with whom you feel safe and secure. Like a father who tells their child he will catch a child learning to walk before he falls. Similar to telling someone who has never seen a chair that it will support them. It won't let you down. You can put your full weight on God and not attempt to understand everything.

Straight (yashar) means to make a straight and level path, free of obstacles. But the key here is straight to what? It is not straight for our purposes of comfort, ease and pleasure and a life free of problems. It is all about God's purposes. If we trust in the Lord He will make it clear what His purposes are and will make sure that nothing impedes our progress towards accomplishing His objectives. As long as we trust, God's objective is achieved without interference. Straight in that God will give us discernment to know what God's purposes are and to clear the path for us to follow Him. Thy will be done!! We have to pre-decide if we are going to lean on our understanding or trust in the

Lord (resurrection)

God is Good, Then Why?

- One day it will all be perfect for believers

God is Good, Then Why?

- Revelation 21:1,4
 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

When sin entered the world, it all went bad. All of creation was subjected to frustration by God as a result of sin. We are all dying. The world has been judged and we all suffer from it. Our response should be an eager longing for heaven, where there will be no sin and no effects of sin. The world will once again function just as God intended.

However, it is because of God's vast mercy that there is a solution. Through His son, Jesus, He fixed the problem that we created. We still face the consequences of sin on this earth, but God has a sinless world waiting for those who believe and place their trust in Jesus Christ.

God is Good, Then Why?*

- Romans 8:18-19
 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Heaven is such a powerful reality for us that we can endure whatever we have to face in this world.

God is Good, Then Why?

- “What happens to you does not have to be the same as what happens in you.”

Dr. Caroline Leaf

Pain is pain. Don't compare your situation to someone else's. But, know that God is there with you. None of this means that what happens is good, but it does mean that God is good. God is God and we are not. He gets to make the rules, and His ways are not dependent on my understanding.

God is Good, Then Why?

- The world does not work the way God intended because of sin
- Bad things will happen, but God is with us as our comforter
- God is so great that He can bring good out of bad
- We will not understand everything, but we can trust in the Lord
- One day it will all be perfect for believers

Write down your questions on your 3x5 cards for us to discuss next month.