

Why, God, Why?"

Wrestling with the questions of evil, suffering, and God

9/4	Questioning the Suffering God
9/11	The Problem with the Problem
9/18	Why does Evil Exist?
9/25	What not to say when someone asks "Why?" and What to do.
10/2	Moving from "Why" to "What now"
10/9	Testimonies of grace and Q & A

- *No Pain is in Vain. (Rom 8:28)*
 - *Good? Not saying:*
 - *God is to blame for evil*
 - *Event itself is good*
 - *Immediate aftermath is good*
 - *Faith and patience is the key*
 - *Testimonies of Grace*
 - *God is not to blame, but has promised to walk with us in the pain (Isa 43:2)*
- I. *Question #1: We live in a world of evil, suffering, and sin. So how do we take a stand against sin without being hateful toward the sinner and what is the cost for doing so?*
- *Two extremes to avoid: Cast in and Cast Away (Gal 6:1)*
 - *Cast in- Join in, avoid confrontation, redefine good and evil (Isa 5:20)*
 - *Cast Away- Easier to simply dismiss, but call is to restore gently*
 - *It is not wrong to distinguish between right and wrong (Matt 7:1-5)*
 - *Distinguish right and wrong, but don't judge the worth of the individual*
 - *Love enough to confront sin, love enough to love in the sin (Rom 5:8)(Eph 4:15)*
 - *Leave vengeance to the Lord (Rom 12:19)*
 - *Love lavishly, but have boundaries (2 Cor 6:14)(Matt 10:34-36)(Rom 12:18)*
 - *Love without condoning, Love without condemning (Matt 11:19)*
- II. *Question #2: How can God suffer on the cross and yet be in Heaven? (2 Cor 5:19)*
- *Trinity is best attempt to be faithful to biblical data*
 - *God is relational within Himself. (John 1:1-3)*
- III. *What about Chronic Pain?*
- *Focus on God's sustaining grace (2 Cor 12:9)*
 - *Focus on Inward Renewal (2 Cor 4:16-18)*

Conclusion:

- *Suffering and pain can move us closer to God, but a great deal depends on what we do with it.*
- *Ask the questions. Seek the answers. Find the answer in Christ.*

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