

THE PROBLEM OF



Part 3: The Problem of Evil and Suffering

Here's the question millions of people have asked: if God is good and if God is all-powerful, why is there suffering? Every world religion and world view (including atheism and agnosticism) has to answer that question. Christianity has an unbelievably different kind of answer that almost everyone misses.

Scripture: Isaiah 53: 4-9 and Romans 3: 5-11 NLT

Bottom Line: Every world view has to answer suffering. Jesus answered suffering by embracing it.

Discussion Questions

1. What 'easy' explanations have you heard from why people suffer? What are some of the least satisfying?
2. How has the problem of suffering impacted your life and the lives of the people you love?
3. Carey explained alternative views to suffering. How compelling did you find those world views?
4. Read through Isaiah 53: 4-9 and Romans 3: 5-11. What do these passages show us about Jesus answering suffering by embracing it?
5. In the message, Carey talked about the difference between the reasons for your suffering and the redemption of your suffering. What's the difference?
6. While most of us will do whatever it takes to avoid suffering, answer this question: When have you grown the most? When life has been easy, or when there has been suffering? Why is that?
7. Suffering never leaves us spiritually neutral. Do you think it's possible for suffering to drive you deeper into your relationship with Christ? How?

Moving Forward

This week, think about how you handle the pain and suffering in your life and the lives of those you love. Instead of letting it create distance between you and God, come closer to God who embraced suffering. The God who embraced suffering also longs to embrace you.

Changing Your Mind

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 8:8 NLT