



HARD
conversations
with **GOD**

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Why Does God Allow Evil &
Suffering in the World?

What All Christ Followers Can Agree on

- God is above all things as Author, Creator, and Designer. Therefore, He is the FINAL AUTHORITY on everything and the one to whom everyone is accountable.
- God has the sovereign right to set the standards of right and wrong and expect everyone to follow them. These standards are absolute, constant, and consistent with God's character and nature.

What All Christ Followers Can Agree on

- God gives everyone a choice to follow Christ or reject Him. Those who follow Him agree to follow His Word and obey His teachings.
- If you choose to follow Christ, your life belongs to Him and your purpose is to glorify Him by living for Him, being an example to others, and sharing His love and message of salvation to all who call on Him.

Argument Against God because of Evil & Suffering

“If God is all good (all benevolent) then God has the desire to end suffering, and if God is all-powerful (omnipotent) then God has the ability to end suffering.

Therefore, if God does not end suffering, then God is either not all good, or is not all-powerful, and is therefore not God.”

~ *Philosopher Alvin Plantinga*

What We Know

- The love of God never changes

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

What We Know

- The fallen nature of humanity never changes

¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

What We Know

- The purpose of God never changes

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

~ John 17:1-3 ESV

¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ~ *John 17:19-21 ESV*

What We Struggle with when We experience pain & Suffering

- Why some people have less pain and suffering than others
- Why it seems like God is silent when I am suffering
- Why I cannot see what God is doing when I'm in pain

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” ~ *John 17:19-21 ESV*

BOTTOM LINE

God's Word is Truth filled with wisdom, hope, and joy. He uses His Word to help us through difficult times, grow us closer to Him, and prepare us for our heaven home where we will reign with Him for eternity!