



CULTURE QUESTIONS

BELIEF IN AN AGE OF SKEPTICISM

Culture Questions (Part 3)

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#7CityChurch

The Most Common Question: **Why Does God Allow Tragedy and Suffering?**

Source and Insights from Lee Strobel, Christian Apologetic Author

John 16:33 (NIV) – “...In this world you will have trouble.”

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT) – Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Insights to Understanding Tragedy and Suffering:

1. God is not the Creator of Suffering and Evil

Genesis 1:31 (NLT) – Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!...

Philosopher Peter Kreeft: “...once God chose to create human beings with free will, then it was up to them, rather than to God, as to whether there was sin or not....It’s a self-contradiction — a meaningless nothing — to have a world where there’s real choice while at the same time no possibility of choosing evil. To ask why God didn’t create such a world is

Romans 3:23 (NLT) – For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 8:22 (NIV) – We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

2. Though Suffering isn’t Good, God can Use it to Accomplish Good

Romans 8:28 (NLT) – And we know that God causes everything to work together[a] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

3. The Day is Coming when Suffering will Cease and God will Judge Evil

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) – The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

4. Our Suffering Will Pale in Comparison to What God Has in Store for His Followers

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT) – For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

Romans 8:18 (NLT) – Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) – ... “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

5. We Decide Whether to Turn Bitter or Turn to God for Peace and Courage.

John 16:33 (NIV) – I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”