

How Could an All-Powerful, Loving God Allow Evil to Exist and Bad Things to Happen to Us?

Background

- Our beliefs are summed up in the **Apostles' Creed**
- Many atheists believe in **Scientific Materialism** which denies anything **Supernatural**
- Christians believe in the Supernatural, as God is a **Spirit** (John 4:24)

God's Nature

- God is a **Person** and part of the **Trinity**.
- The first aspect of God is that God is **Relational**
- A second aspect of God is that God is **Holy**, He will not allow **Sin** to be in His presence
- God gives us **Freedom** to accept or reject Him
- A third aspect is that God usually respects the **Consequences** of Science and Nature

Our Condition

- We are created in God's **Image**, to be relational and to love God
- Working against us are the **Flesh**, the **Devil** and the **World System**
- One of the Devil's biggest schemes is to pretend that he doesn't **Exist**

God's Solution

- **Reasoning:**
 - God hates **Sin**
 - Some things need to be **Punished**
 - God needed a **Sacrifice**
- **Five Requirements that the Sacrifice must do:**
 1. **Remove** our sins.
 2. Pay the **Penalty** for our sins
 3. Clean creation from the stench of **Sin**

God's Solution (cont.)

- **Five Requirements that the Sacrifice must do (cont.):**
 4. Victory over **Death** and the **Grave**
 5. Deal with **Evil** and **Satan**
- **The Solution – the Ultimate Sacrifice**
Jesus became human, lived a sinless life, was crucified and raised from the dead
- **What we need to do:**
 - Believe that **Christ** died for us.
 - Admit that we are sinners, **Confess** and repent.
 - Turn our **Lives** over to Christ
 - Grow in Christ
 - Read the **Bible**
 - **Pray** daily
 - Continue **Meeting** with other believers

My Best Answer to the Question

- Sin has corrupted us and all Creation,
- This means that bad things can happen
- God loves us and values our relationship so much that He takes a chance that we might reject Him
- God tends to let natural consequences take place
- God has created a solution to sin sickness, in His Timing
- We must accept God's gift of Jesus
- God knows that life can be tough on earth! He welcomes our prayers and sometimes does miracles but is always with us
- Ultimately, this life on earth is not the end!

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. * catholic means "universal"