

**Why is there Evil and Suffering?
I'm Glad You Asked
Discover Church
Mark Phillips
2/27/22**

“At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice... “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” Mark 15:33-34

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3

A. The Three Big Questions About Evil and Suffering

Question #1: Why is there so much **evil and suffering** in the world?

Question #2: Is there an evil **Spirit** at work in the world?

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:20

“Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death.” James 1:14-15

Question #3: Why doesn't God put a **Final Stop** to evil?

“Evil people will surely be punished, but the children of the godly will go free.” Proverbs 11:21

“Don't fret because of evildoers; don't envy the wicked. For evil people have no future; the light of the wicked will be snuffed out.” Proverbs 24:19-20

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

B. The Three Big Principles About Evil and Suffering

1. We are very **inconsistent** on this topic
2. We wouldn't **understand** it all, even if He **explained** it to us

“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.” 1 Corinthians 13:12

3. We can face the future with **hope**

Three things to look for in the middle of evil and suffering

- He **draws** us to Himself

"Draw close to God and God will draw close to you." James 4:8

- He **develops** character within us

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5

- He **deepens** our perspective

"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!" 2 Corinthians 4:17

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

C. The Three Big Decisions About Evil and Suffering

1. Deal with the **evil within you**

"I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong." Romans 7:21

2. Defeat evil **wherever you can**

"Finally, all of you should agree and have concern and love for each other. You should also be kind and humble. ⁹ Don't be hateful and insult people just because they are hateful and insult you. Instead, treat everyone with kindness. You are God's chosen ones, and he will bless you. The Scriptures say, ¹⁰ "Do you really love life? Do you want to be happy? Then stop saying cruel things and quit telling lies. ¹¹ Give up your evil ways and do right, as you find and follow the road that leads to peace. ¹² The Lord watches over everyone who obeys him, and he listens to their prayers. But he opposes everyone who does evil." 1 Peter 3:8-12

3. Depend on God, **even when you hurt**

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. Through suffering, these bodies of our

constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.” 1 Corinthians 4:8-10

Trust God

1. Trust God WITH your life
2. Trust God FOR your life

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D. The Three Big Questions About Evil and Suffering

Question #1: Why is there so much _____ in the world?

Question #2: Is there an evil _____ at work in the world?

Question #3: Why doesn't God put a _____ to evil?

E. The Three Big Principles About Evil and Suffering

4. We are very _____ on this topic

5. We wouldn't _____ it all, even if He _____ it to us

6. We can face the future with _____

F. The Three Big Decisions About Evil and Suffering

4. Deal with the _____

5. Defeat evil _____

6. Depend on God, _____

Scripture: Mark 15:33-34; Hebrews 12:2-3; John 10:20; James 1:14-15; Proverbs 11:21; Proverbs 24:19-20; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Corinthians 13:12; James 4:8; Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18; Romans 7:21; 1 Peter 3:8-12; 1 Corinthians 4:8-10