

Ask Me Anything.



Part 3: My Questions for Myself
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The question beneath the question:

How do I reconcile _____ with _____?

My Questions for Myself

How do I reconcile my disappointment in people with God's mandate to love them?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. – Galatians 5:22-23

How do I reconcile the tension between God's authority and my authority?

We find our personal authority in the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. – John 16:13

Then Job replied to the Lord: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted, You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

"You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." – Job 42:1-6

How do I reconcile pain with the idea of a Good God?

1. God is not the source of pain; sin is (Romans 6:23)
2. Pain brings about repentance (2 Corinthians 2:1-9)
3. Pain teaches empathy (2 Corinthians 1:4)
4. Pain draws us to God (2 Corinthians 4:15)
5. Pain builds character (Romans 5:3)
6. We find hope in the fact that pain is not eternal (Revelation 21:4)

What does God want us to hear from him in all of this?

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you
great and unsearchable things you do not know.
- Jeremiah 33:3

You can ask me anything.

God's invitation to all of us:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
- Matthew 7:7-8

Next Steps

Keep pursuing answers to your questions, but don't do it alone! Connect with other people who can help you find answers. We're making it as easy as we can by offering Connect Weekend between services in the Commons. Stop by a table that relates to your life stage or your interests (even if it's not an exact match). Find out what's available and make the decision today to engage with others who are looking for answers to their questions.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Winter can be a challenging time for many reasons. How would you sum up your perspective on winter in one word?
- 2) If you could ask God anything, what would you ask? You won't have time to answer these questions as a group, so just share your questions.
- 3) What would you say to someone who says, "I did ask God and I got no answer. That's why I struggle to believe in him!"
- 4) Have you learned any helpful things through your own experience with pain?
- 5) How do you personally reconcile the tension between God's authority and your authority?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?