

The Problem of Pain and Suffering

Part 5 of the *In Defense of Christianity* Series

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Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to; or he cannot and does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, and does not want to, he is wicked. But, if God both can and wants to abolish evil, then how comes evil in the world?

Epicurus

The big questions that human suffering raises...

- Is God all-powerful?

You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17 NIV

With God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:36 NIV

- Is God good?

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Psalms 145:9 NIV

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalms 136:1 NIV

Where is God in suffering?

- God walks with us in our suffering.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Psalms 23:4 ESV

- God works in us through our suffering.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 ESV

- God empathizes with our suffering.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Isaiah 53:3 NIV

- God saves us from suffering.

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 NLT

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Pt 2:21 NIV

Next Steps

- If you have any questions or objections to this sermon or to Christianity in general, please email or Facebook message them into us at either 1) richw@ctk.church or 2) www.facebook.com/ctkferndale. A third option is to write them on the blue connection card in your program.

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- What has been the most exciting part of your week so far?
- Why do you think so many people struggle with the existence of God in a world where there's so much pain & suffering?
- Tell about a time you questioned God in the midst of pain & suffering. What helped you come back to God & trust Him again?
- Have you been able to use a painful experience to help someone else? Explain.
- Read Isaiah 53:1-5. How does this change our perspective on God & suffering?