



## Lesson 5 – The Problem of Evil

The world is filled with unimaginable suffering: Disease, war, death, loss, pain, sorrow, depression, anxiety, torture, and countless other horrors. One of hardest questions for Christians to answer is the question of evil: why is there so much suffering in a world that was made by a good and all-powerful God?

### Where did evil come from?

Although the Bible may not tell us everything we want to know, it does tell us enough to know that we can live trusting God and His goodness.

1. The Bible teaches God created everything \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1).
2. The Bible teaches God does not tempt with \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:13-15).
3. The Bible teaches man \_\_\_\_\_ at Satan’s bidding (Genesis 3).
4. The Bible teaches God is \_\_\_\_\_ over human choices (Gen 50:20; Prov 16:9; 21:1; Acts 2:23).

### Why doesn’t God end evil?

If God can do whatever He wants, why does He not simply end all the suffering right now. God could do so if He wanted, so why doesn’t He?

1. God will \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ undo evil once and for all (1 Corinthians 15:22-26; Revelation 21:4).
2. God uses evil for His \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28).
3. God is giving sinners a chance to repent (2 Peter 3:9).



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## Other Thoughts

Here are a few other random thoughts that will help us process this question and that can help others who have questions. Some are biblical considerations, many of them are of a philosophical nature.

**1. Without \_\_\_\_\_, there is no such thing as good or evil.**

“Good” and “evil” are value terms, and as we saw in our previous lesson on the existence of God, there is no way to get from what “is” to what “ought to be” if there is nothing higher than the material world.

**2. God \_\_\_\_\_ all evil in the world.**

If we are bothered by the evil we see, let’s not forget that God sees all of it. One preacher remarked, “If we could see one ten-thousandth of the suffering of the world at any given moment, we would collapse under the horror of it all. Only God can endure that sight and carry on.”

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of suffering reflects the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.**

We don’t see sin as awful. At least part of the awfulness of suffering is designed to wake us up to the seriousness of sin.

**4. There is a difference between the \_\_\_\_\_ question and the \_\_\_\_\_ crisis.**

This issue can be broken down into two questions: how do we explain evil as a whole, and how do we process individual instances of evil? One hits us at the level of logic; one hits us like a gut punch in our heart. Both need to be addressed.

**5. \_\_\_\_\_ came to earth and suffered and died.**

God is not a robot in heaven running calculations with no understanding of what we are going through. He Himself came to earth and suffered (cf Hebrews 4:15).

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