

The Black Ice of Evil

Darcy Siggelkow

Questions: When have you asked the question “God where are you?” in response to a painful situation?

One of the top questions most people wrestle with is “Why does God allow suffering?”

The challenge added to the Christian faith is “If God is truly good and all powerful, how can he allow suffering, evil and pain in our world?”

If God is not able to prevent evil, then God must not be all powerful; if God is not willing to prevent evil, then he must not be good.

Epicurus

In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky; and you won't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference.

Richard Dawkins

In response to Dawkins and Epicurus, if there is no such thing as good or evil, why do we even wrestle with problem of evil? Why do we feel like the world is broken?

Question: How does removing God make these questions more difficult?

Read 1 Peter 4:12; John 16:33

The story of our world from a Christian perspective:

- God created a good and perfect world.
- Human sin broke the world
- Jesus came to save humanity and restore the world

Evil, suffering and pain is not contrary to the story of the Bible. It's right in the middle of plot.

Here is the key to understanding the problem of evil: When God's children disobeyed their heavenly Father, they damaged everything. When Adam and Eve rebelled against the King of the universe, they broke the whole world.

Gregory Koukl

Read 1 John 5:19

Evil has its roots in personality.

George Eldon Ladd

We are broken people who live in a broken world.

Question: When have you wrestled with believing that God is good and yet experiencing difficulty?

Canadian expectations:

- We expect immunity from suffering
- We expect our suffering to be alleviated
- If we do suffer, we expect to know why

Question: Which of these questions do you wrestle with the most?

What to say to someone who is suffering:

- I'm so sorry
- We love you
- We're praying for you

If love is a choice, suffering is a possibility.

Craig Groeschel

Question: God chose to love us when humanity rejected Him. How much suffering did God expose Himself to in Jesus?

Read 1 Peter 4:12–13; Hebrews 12:2-3

Followers of Jesus are to resist evil. The enemy will try to use suffering to separate you from Jesus. You must not let him.

Questions: How has the enemy used suffering to try and get you to turn away from Jesus? What does “resisting evil” look like in your life?