

PREPARED – PART 3: GOOD GOD

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022

There is one question about God that elicits more emotion than practically any other. It is this same question that poses a barrier to many people choosing to follow Jesus. If God is good, why is there so much suffering in the world? If God were all powerful, he could eliminate suffering. If God were all loving, he would eliminate suffering. So, is God unable or unwilling?

READ 1 PETER 3:9; ROMANS 8:18-21

- Has anyone ever asked you, “If God is good, why is there so much suffering?” If so, how did you respond?
- What are some things you’ve read, seen, or heard this week that reveal the brokenness of the world?
- Why do you think pain, suffering and evil in the world create such a problem for what people believe about God?
- Do you think it’s possible for pain, suffering and evil to point people to a good God (because the image of God in us leaves us disturbed about the brokenness of the world)? Why or why not?
- Do you believe God is patient with people? Why or why not? Could God’s patience be a reason why he doesn’t get rid of everything bad in the world? Why or why not?
- Is it difficult for you to believe that a day will come when creation will be liberated from the bondage of decay? Why or why not?
- How would you describe “the best possible world”?
- How might pain, suffering and evil be the best possible path to the best possible world (with people free to choose)?
- What next step will you take to always be prepared to address the tension in the problem of suffering and a good God who is for us?

IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?