

Series: The Case for Christianity  
Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27  
Date: June 8, 2008

## IF THERE IS A GOD, WHY IS THERE EVIL AND SUFFERING?

### I. The Problem of Evil

We can summarize the problem this way: Because evil exists, God doesn't. Or, He either created evil or He allows it. If He created it or allows it, no one can trust and believe in a God like that.

### II. Two Truths about Evil

First, evil \_\_\_\_\_ and must be defined by \_\_\_\_\_.  
We face an ironic situation: the problem of \_\_\_\_\_ only exists if a personal \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

Second, evil is not some \_\_\_\_\_. Evil describes an unnatural or improper \_\_\_\_\_ between things that are not evil in or of themselves.

What does God say about the presence of evil in the world?

### III. Evil is an Intruder.

A. It was not something \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

B. Evil is a description of what happened when man \_\_\_\_\_ God's leadership.

Romans 5:12 "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

### IV. Why Is There So Much Evil And Suffering?

We live in a world that \_\_\_\_\_ crippled, and a crippled \_\_\_\_\_ produces crippled \_\_\_\_\_ and crippled \_\_\_\_\_.

1. "Why should I suffer for what someone else did?"

2. "Didn't God know this would happen?"

3. "Why doesn't God just prevent evil from harming anybody but still let them make free choices?"

## V. What Is God Doing About Evil?

1. God uses human \_\_\_\_\_ to lessen the impact of evil.

2. God gives His \_\_\_\_\_ to help overcome evil.  
Gal 5:16,19-21 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature..."

3. God will one day restore perfect \_\_\_\_\_.  
Rev 21:3b-4 "God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (2 Thess 1:8-9)

4. God sent His \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for evil men so they can be forgiven rather than condemned.

Eph 2:3b-5a, Eph 1:7

2 Peter 3:3-4,9...The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

## VI. Conclusion

What do we want? We want a God:

1. That takes evil \_\_\_\_\_.
2. That provides a way to \_\_\_\_\_ us from evil without taking away our moral choices.
3. That gives an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_ instead of only \_\_\_\_\_ for evil.
4. That has a plan for completely \_\_\_\_\_ this world so that all men would be both free and good.

***That's exactly what God has done!***