

Discipleship 201

“Why Would A Loving God...?”

Genesis 2:15-17

August 30, 2020 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- Why would a loving God allow pain and suffering? ... and ... Why would a loving God send someone to Hell?
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1. Why would a loving God allow pain and suffering?

- a. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? ... God created me like Him in the sense that I have:
 - i. A Spiritual Nature:
 - ii. A Moral Nature (Conscience):
 - iii. An Eternal Existence:
 - iv. The Ability to Reason:
 - v. To Rule Over the Earth:
 - vi. To have Free Will:
 - vii. To Have Relationships:
- b. Genesis 2:16-17**
- c. The only way this really would have been unfair, if we can call it that, is if God had not warned us. BUT ... He did warn us.
- d. It may have been undue temptation had God only created ONE tree, and that was the one we would not take from. BUT ... He created many trees and placed them in the Garden ... INCLUDING ... the Tree of Life.
- e. Evil is the opposite of what God Created:

i. God created Life	Evil brings death
ii. God offers love	Evil brings hate
iii. God offers harmony	Evil brings division
iv. God offers freedom	Evil brings bondage
v. God gives Grace and Mercy	Evil offers hopelessness
- f. Every time you see someone come to the Salvation of Jesus Christ ... REMEMBER, what God has done to SIN and EVIL!
- g. Jeremiah 29:10**
- h. Does God really understand my pain and suffering?
- i. John 3:16**
- j. There is no such thing, Biblically, as a good person. – **Mark 10:16**
- k. So, to me the real question that should be asked is: Why do good things happen to bad people? ... The answer is simple ... Because God is Good.
- l. Jesus understood pain.
 - i. He saw what leprosy and other disease did to the body – (**Matt. 26:6**)
 - ii. He saw the broken hearts of parents when a child died – (**Mark 5**)
 - iii. He saw family and friends weep over Lazarus – (**John 11**)
 - iv. He saw Evil degrade His creation through possession – (**Mark 5**)
 - v. He saw hunger and all that it did to people – (**Matt. 15**)
 - vi. He saw an oppressed people physically and spiritually – (**John 3**)

- m. Jesus knew pain and suffering. He knows your pain and your suffering as well; it is not oblivious to Him.
 - n. So ... Why did **BAD** things happen to this **GOOD** man? ... So, that BAD people could have a chance to be saved, and come back home to Him.
2. Will God help me when I am in pain and suffering?
- a. The simple answer: Yes.
 - b. **Malcolm Muggeridge** once said ... “Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my 75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my experience has been through affliction, and not through happiness.”
 - c. **2nd Corinthians 12**
 - d. **Psalm 23**
 - e. **Hebrews 13:5**
 - f. **Isaiah 1:18**
3. Why would a loving God send people to Hell?
- a. Does God send people to Hell? The simple answer is NO!
 - b. Then how do people get to Hell? They choose to go.
 - c. **2nd Peter 3:9**
 - d. **John 3:16**
 - e. Most of the time LOGIC rules in our decision making, until it becomes a spiritual matter. Then, logic seems to be overruled.
 - f. What is my other option? ... Simple: Choose Jesus Christ. This will get you Salvation and Heaven.
 - g. **1st Corinthians 2:9**
 - h. **Revelation 21:6-7**
 - i. **Acts 8:26-39**
 - j. **Philippians 4:13**
 - k. **Revelation 21** – Heaven will be beautiful because of what will NOT be there

