

# Objection #1 – The Problem of Evil

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**Objection: Since evil and suffering exist, a good God cannot.**

- If there is a loving God who is good why does he allow such evil in the world?
  - Where is God when bad things happen?
  - Is it his fault?
  - If God is so loving and good, shouldn't that mean that evil and suffering shouldn't exist?

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- ◉ Why didn't God make a world where bad things didn't happen and people didn't hurt each other?
  - He did... When God finished the work of creation, he said it was very good.
- ◉ If God didn't create evil, where did it come from?
  - God did not create evil – just the potential to choose to love him or rebel against him
  - God's motivation to create was love – his desire was that his creation would love him back and it was worth the risk of rejection to create
  - Evil exists because of sin – our constant rebellion

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- If God didn't cause suffering, why doesn't he just stop it now? Isn't watching something bad happen to someone when you can stop it bad?
  - A good parent does not do everything for their child
  - A bear in a trap... From the bear's perspective!
  - An athlete's love/hate relationship with pain – the outcome is always worth it!
  - Romans 5:1-7

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<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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- God can take a bad circumstances and create good from them for those intent on following him
  - Romans 8:28  
<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
  - When we trust that God is good and we are intent on following him and honoring him with our lives, we know that ultimately good awaits us
  - The greatest good coming from the greatest injustice – Jesus being murdered resulting in our relationship with God being repaired

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- It doesn't seem fair that God allows bad people to hurt other people – why does he let them get away with it?
  - Short answer: he doesn't
  - Just because God hasn't evened the score does mean he won't
  - All sin will be punished in one of 2 ways
    1. Through believing in Jesus and giving your life to him – Jesus paid for your sin – all of it!!!
    2. Hell – everyone who rejects Jesus' offer of forgiveness will have to pay for their own sin

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- If God could end all the evil and suffering of this world, why doesn't do it now?
  - Short answer: God loves you; he's waiting for you
  - 2 Peter 3:9... <sup>9</sup>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.
  - We live in a fallen and sin-filled world and Jesus was honest with us when he said we would face trouble in this world
  - Jesus is the answer to our pain and trouble rather than pain and evil being the an objection to following him