

Getting Started

- What do you know about the origin of sin/rebellion prior to the Fall in Genesis 3? Consider Isaiah 14:12-15.
- What questions would you like to have answered in the series, If God ... Why evil?

Discussion

- Read the account of the Fall in Genesis 3 and discuss how evil/sin has infected this world? What would each of these characters say about this account from their perspective?
 - God
 - Adam
 - Eve
 - The Serpent (Satan)
 - Holy and Fallen Angels
- Why is “free will” such an important part of this story as it relates to evil? Why would God create angels and humans with free will knowing that they would sin?
- What did Pastor Lee mean by this statement?
“If you want to meet the devil, put white space on your calendar. He’ll come to meet you.”
- Discuss your reaction to this quote by C.S. Lewis as it relates to this sermon series, If God...Why evil?
How might you incorporate these thoughts into your discussions with those who question God’s goodness and power in the face of evil in our world?

“The greatest barrier I have met is the almost total absence from the minds of my audience of any sense of sin... The early Christian preachers could assume in their hearers, whether Jews, or Pagans, a sense of guilt. Thus the Christian message was in those days unmistakably Good News. It promised healing to those who knew they were sick. We have to convince our hearers of the unwelcome diagnosis before we can expect them to welcome the news of the remedy.

The ancient man approached God as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man, the roles are quite reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock. He is quite a kindly judge; if God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty, and disease, he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God’s acquittal. But the important thing is that man is on the bench and God is in the dock.”

-- C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics.

- How would you begin to answer questions like ...
 - If God is so good, why does He allow evil and suffering in this world?
 - Since God is the Creator of all things, how could He create evil?
 - If God knew that Satan would rebel, why did He create him?
 - If God is all-powerful why can't He stop evil from happening?

*In summary, we live in a real world where our good and evil actions have direct consequences and indirect consequences upon us and those around us. God's desire is that for all of our sakes we would obey Him that it might be well with us (Deuteronomy 5:29). Instead, what happens is that we choose our own way, and then we blame God for not doing anything about it. Such is the heart of sinful man. But Jesus came to change men's hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He does this for those who will turn from evil and call on Him to save them from their sin and its consequences (2 Corinthians 5:17). God does prevent and restrain some acts of evil. This world would be **MUCH WORSE** were not God restraining evil. At the same time, God has given us the ability to choose good and evil, and when we choose evil, He allows us, and those around us, to suffer the consequences of evil. Rather than blaming God and questioning God on why He does not prevent all evil, we should be about the business of proclaiming the cure for evil and its consequences—Jesus Christ! (www.gotquestions.org)*

Prayer

Take time to thank the Lord for the time when there will be no more sin, abuse, racism, sexism, death, war, sickness, tears as described in Revelation 21:1-4.

Until that time, pray for boldness to plead with our world in love to respond to God's offer of a renewed relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.