

HEY GOD, I HAVE A QUESTION

Why would a loving God allow evil & suffering?

“God is great” = He is all-powerful.

“God is good” = He is all-loving.

*It is **God's privilege** to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them. **Proverbs 25:2 (NLT)***

*Truly, O God of Israel, our Savior, you work in **mysterious ways**. **Isaiah 45:15 (NLT)***

*The secret things **belong to the Lord** our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV)

*As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, **so you cannot** understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (NIV)

*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And **my ways are far beyond** anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so **my ways are higher** than your ways and **my thoughts higher** than your thoughts.” **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)***

Can there be real love without freedom?

3 Thoughts That Come From This:

1. Freedom makes evil possible.
2. Mankind makes evil actual.
3. God makes evil redeemable.

1. FREEDOM MAKES EVIL POSSIBLE

*And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are **free to eat** from any tree in the garden; but you **must not eat** from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it **you will certainly die**.” **Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)***

Bad Argument:

1. God is the author of everything.
2. Evil is something.
3. God is the author of evil.

True Argument:

1. God gave man freedom.
2. Free men can choose good or evil.
3. Free men do choose good and evil.

2. MANKIND MAKES EVIL ACTUAL

*For you have been called to **live in freedom**, my brothers and sisters. But **don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature**. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13 (NLT)*

Bad Argument:

1. If God is all good, He would destroy evil.
2. If God is all powerful, He could destroy evil.
3. Evil is not destroyed.
4. There is no God.

True Argument:

1. If God is all good, He will defeat evil.
2. If God is all powerful, He can defeat evil.
3. Evil is not yet destroyed.
4. God can and will one day defeat evil.

*"He will **wipe every tear** from their eyes, and there will be **no more death or sorrow or crying or pain**. All these things are **gone forever**." Revelation 21:4 (NLT)*

3. GOD MAKES EVIL REDEEMABLE

*He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross **so that** we can be **dead to sin and live for what is right**. By his wounds you are healed. I Peter 2:24 (NLT)*

*The LORD is **close to the brokenhearted** and saves **those who are crushed in spirit**. Psalm 34:18 (NIV)*

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that **future day**... Against its will, **everything on earth was subjected to God's curse**. All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that **all creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan **to be released from pain and suffering**... Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't have yet, we must wait patiently and confidently. **Romans 8:18-25 (NLT)**