

The Problem of Evil and Suffering

Truth in Love Apologetics Conference

Intellectual or Emotional

- Philosophical Problem of Evil and Suffering
 - If God is good and God is powerful, then why is there suffering and evil?
- Personal Problem of Evil and Suffering
 - Why would God allow me/them to hurt this much?

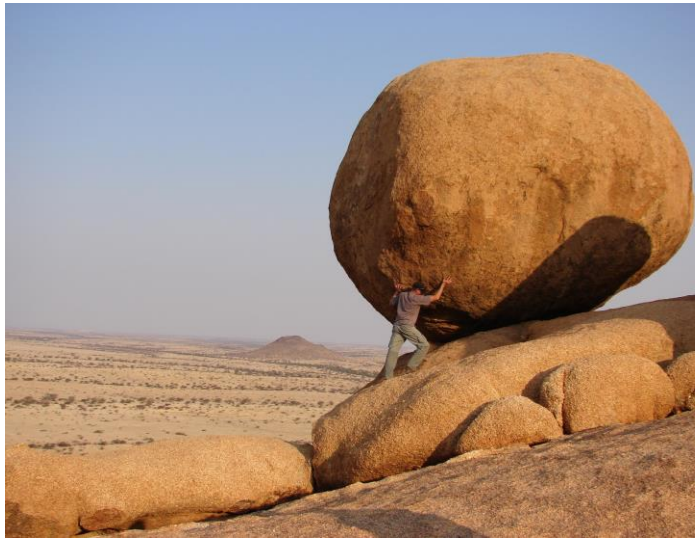
Philosophical Problem

- If God is good and God is Powerful, then why is there suffering and evil?
- Many ways to respond.



Philosophical Problem of Evil and Suffering

- What is the starting point?



- Proceed with caution.

God Is All Knowing

- An all-knowing God could have reasons beyond what we see or understand.
- The God of the bible is beautifully complex.

Moral Argument

- We have a strong sense of what should be.
 - This inherent sense of right and wrong points to moral law giver.
- Apart from a law giver there is no basis on which to call anything good or bad.

Personal Problem of Evil and Suffering

- Why would God allow?
- Psalms 10:1-2 “Why standest thou afar off, O Lord ? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.”
- Prepare, Walk With, Discover

Prepare for Evil and Suffering

- Build before the storm.
- Life of David
 - Shephard: Training
 - Chosen: Struggle
 - King: Victorious (2 Samuel 22:34)
- Habakkuk 3:19



Prepare for Evil and Suffering

- Knowing the narrative of the culture and where it aligns and departs from scripture?
- Church Culture
- Family Culture

Walking Beside the Hurting

- Connect before instructing.
- Emotional pain/questions will override logic.
- Our pain shifts the focus of the story.
- From pain to ?

Walking Beside the Hurting

- Remember the picture of God in the scriptures.
- Ruth and Naomi

Display to the Hostile

- Quick to listen, slow to respond. (James 1:19)
- Discover:



Evil and Suffering

- Hurts and Disorients
- Christianity has a robust response.

1 Peter 5:6-11

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.