

To Tell the Truth

The Truth of God's Compassion - Why does God allow suffering and pain?

If God seems unjust or unfair, we are accepting several assumptions:

- A standard of just and unjust exists
 - Fairness means positive outcomes for me—usually defined by me.
 - I deserve good.
 - Sin has no consequences in our society, world system, or existence
 - I understand everything there is to understand about the universe and my circumstances so I can define something and someone as unfair or bad.
 - Suffering is always bad and therefore irreconcilable with God's goodness.
 - Bad things never have positive outcomes.
 - God should always intervene in every circumstance to keep bad from happening.
 - God is real and not good, fair, or just.
- Why does God allow suffering and pain?

1. Because we have _____.

- Because I have the free will to sin, my choice can cause pain and suffering to others.

Genesis 4:3-5 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

Genesis 4:6-8 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

2. Because sin has _____.

John 11:1-6, 11-15 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was... This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." 12 The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. 14 So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

• Consequences to _____

- Ezekiel 18:20 The person who sins will die.
- Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death...

- Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.
- Psalm 38:3 ...My health is broken because of my sins.
- Psalm 32:3-4 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer.
- Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

- **Consequences to _____**

Romans 8:19-22 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

Genesis 3:17-18 Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you.

3. Because difficulties _____.

John 11:15 I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

4. Because difficulties _____.

I don't intend to say that God causes difficulties so he'll be glorified, but He uses the challenges in our lives to grow our faith and change our lives. The result is that He is glorified.

John 11:4 But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

John 9:1-3 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him.