

The Faith:
Knowing What You Believe and Why It Is Important
Week 2

How did evil happen in a world created by a loving God?
How do we respond to evil in the world?

The Story of Christianity

Creation
Fall
Redemption
(Restoration)

Q. If God and His creation were so beautiful, how did it become so wrong?

A. God has granted humans freewill.

Inherited from God, in that man was created in the image of God.

God is love and love presupposes a freewill.

Humans choose to love and obey God by using their freewill.

Original Sin

Adam and Eve's sin nature is passed down to all men.

Doctrine of original sin has been proven by an observation of history.

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Considering the reality/doctrine of original sin, no one is truly good.

Mark 7:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ When He had called all the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

The problem is us.

We instinctively want to blame God when something goes wrong.

We want to forget sin and our responsibility.

The heart of the gospel is that God did not leave us in our rebellious state.

Incarnation- God made flesh.

John 1:14 (NKJV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Virgin birth- scriptural truth and necessary, only way for the Christ to be sinless.

Substitutionary Atonement:

Christ dying in man's place to purchase their freedom, reconcile them to God, and thereby satisfy the righteous demands of a holy God.

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 (NKJV)

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Galatians 1:4 (NKJV)

who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Resurrection:

Makes Christ distinctly different than only a good teacher.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV)

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

What is the Good News and the Kingdom of God?

The Good News is Jesus coming and bringing the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Mark 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Kingdom has come now- to break the reign of Satan

Kingdom will come in the future- to fully redeem the world

God's reigning - God wants us to join Him in redeeming the world by the making of followers of Jesus.

Ascension:

Bodily- a precursory example of man's bodily resurrection

Intercedes at the right hand of the Father. TM Moore- www.worldviewchurch.org/moore

How to describe in common language the good news.

God loves us in spite of rebellion

God becoming flesh in order to redeem us

Forgiving of sins by cross

Jesus dying upon the cross in man's place/Taking upon Himself man's punishment for sin.

Announced the end and doom of Satan, so mankind could be with Him.