



HOT POTATOES

#3: Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Introduction – The World At War

- 1 Peter 4:12
- 1 Corinthians 15:26

But isn't God in charge of everything?...

Just because God is all-_____, doesn't mean he is all-_____ – because that would be _____.

Seeing Sin As Spiritual Pollution

1. The world was made _____ by God.
Genesis 1:31
2. Death and suffering was not part of the _____ design.
Genesis 1:28-30
3. Human _____ effected all creation.
Genesis 2:17; 3:16-19; 9:3
Romans 6:23
4. Now, all creation _____ together.
Romans 8:18-23
5. Deliverance from _____ will happen in partnership with eradication of _____.

Isaiah 11:6-9
Revelation 21:3-5, 27

How To Live In A World Gone Wrong

- ✓ War demands _____.
- 2 Timothy 2:3-4
- ✓ Seek to know the _____ God experientially, not just intellectually.

1 Corinthians 1:9
Philippians 3:10

- ✓ Look for the _____ that God can bring out of every situation.

Genesis 50:20

_____ with those who hurt.

Romans 12:15

Conclusion – The Suffering Of God

Romans 3:21-25
2 Corinthians 5:19

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing your sermon notes, talk about one thing that was most new, encouraging, or perplexing to you.
2. Have you ever gone through a period of asking disturbing questions about the love and power of God? What precipitated it? What was most important in helping you through it?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read God's words of frustration in **Amos 4** as well as Paul's words of encouragement in **Hebrews 12:5-12**. a) How might some large-scale evils and personal sufferings be God's way of getting our attention and calling us to repentance? [Note: This is not to say that this is always the case.] b) Can you think of any recent examples that could possibly fall into this category of evil and either corporate/national or personal suffering?
4. What are the key lessons we can draw from **Romans 8:15-39** and **Ephesians 3:14-21** on the issue of God and suffering? Brainstorm a list.
5. What does the Christian world view offer for comfort that no other spiritual or philosophical world view can regarding God and suffering? Where is this found in the Bible?

SO WHAT?...

6. Using non-churchy language, try to articulate a sensible answer to the question, "Why should I believe in a good God when the world is so bad?"

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 20, 2002