

GROUNDING: “DOES GOD TURN HIS BACK ON SUFFERING”

CONTEXT

Despite all our differences in humanity there is one thing we all have in common – we all suffer. The reality of suffering and our Christian belief in God appear to be a contradiction. How can a God who is loving, kind and good allow people to suffer? Most important, where is that God when I am dealing with the pain and disappointments of life. Has God abandoned me or turned his back on me? This lesson will answer this question and more.

A Why do We Suffer?

1. Man is not the _____ of evil and suffering in the world but the cause of it. **Genesis 1:31**
2. God created everything and pronounced it as being “good”. Then Adam and Eve _____ and _____ evil and sin to enter. Adam _____ God and Eve and many people blame God today. **Genesis 3:12**
3. Evil and suffering is the lot of _____. Our life is filled with _____. **John 16:33**
4. When you look around, you will notice that most of the _____ in the world can be traced back to people. Often, we are guilty of _____ hurt and pain on each other.
5. Creation is under a _____ or _____ for the sake of mankind. **Romans 8:20-22**
 - a) God gave mankind _____ over the earth.
 - b) Once Adam sinned, he could not have dominion over a _____ earth.

B. Where is God When We Suffer?

1. When we are dealing with pain and hardship it appears that God is absent. But what do the scriptures teach us?
 - a) God _____ our pain. **Psalm 56:8**
 - b) God is _____ with us. **Romans 8:35-39**
2. The answer to the problem of evil and suffering in the world is the _____. How does God do away with all the evil in the world without _____.

doing away with the people he loves? God sends his Son to die for our evil deeds.

John 3:16-17

C. What is Your Response to Suffering?

1. _____ – We can have hope during pain and disappointment when we realize that God loves me. My pain does not erase God’s love. **Romans 5:3-5**
2. _____ – Our suffering is temporary. God places an expiration date on our suffering. **Romans 8:18**
3. _____ – We all suffer no matter our social, educational, or economic status. **2 Corinthians 12:6-7**
4. _____ – How can I be a blessing to someone else? Suffering is no excuse for selfishness. **Job 42:10**

Conclusion

1. The simple answer to our question is that God is with us when we suffer.
2. In the end, God will do away with the evil and suffering in the world.