

# **HOW COULD A GOOD GOD ALLOW SO MUCH SUFFERING?**

John 16:33

Jeff Schreve

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.  
In the world you have tribulation [pressure, affliction, anguish,  
trouble, distress, trials, sorrow], but take courage; I have  
overcome the world. John 16:33*

**How can we answer the question of evil, pain, and suffering?**

**1. The question is used to argue that God must not exist.**

- A. God is all-loving.
- B. God is all-powerful.
- C. Evil exists.
- \* God must not exist.

A. Evil → Good → Moral Law → Moral Law Giver

B. No God → No Moral Law → No Good → No Evil

“The universe we observe has ... no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. ... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.” *Atheist Richard Dawkins*

**2. The question does not consider key facets of God’s nature.**

A. God is all-loving and all-powerful and evil exists.

B. God is all-wise and evil exists.

C. God is eternal and evil exists in time.

*... and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4*

**3. The question must be understood in the light of love.**

*But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13*

A. The supreme ethic is love.

B. True love requires free will.

*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. Romans 5:12*

**4. The question must be understood in the light of God's plan.**

A. Jesus experienced suffering to redeem us from sin.

*Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hebrews 13:12*

B. God uses suffering to teach us and grow us.

*And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.  
1 Peter 5:10*

C. Our suffering will one day be swallowed up in glory.

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18*

**You can trust the good and loving heart of God.**