

“The Toughest Questions”

How did we get here?

Where did the world come from?

How did life start?

Genesis 1:31

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” - ESV

In the beginning of time, God made everything. All the stars, all the worlds, all the creatures down to the very smallest bugs. He even made people. But He made us different. He gave us something He gave to no one else. Free will.

Why is there evil?

If God loves us, why do bad things happen?

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” – ESV

Since we were given free will, we had the ability to choose for ourselves what to do. God made us and when humans were first created, they had no wrongs, no evil. But then they decided to disobey God, creating rebellion and all sorts of various evils. When bad things happen, it is because people have chosen to go against God.

So what does evil being here mean?

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death...”

Sin is evil. When we do something wrong, it is sin. Well, sin destroys things. It warps and twists people until it eventually kills them. Death exists in the world because of sin. If there had never been sin, there would never have been death.

Can we fix it?

How do we make it better?

John 3:19

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.” - ESV

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” - ESV

We can't. Humanity has no power within itself to change the evil that has been done. Doing a bunch of really good things does not make our bad things go away, and so we

cannot work to become perfect. We do not have the power to fix ourselves any more than our iPod can fix itself.

**If we can't make it better, then Who can?
And what is this "grace"?**

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." – ESV

Well, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth for a very specific task. Jesus came to Earth and lived among us. He faced every kind of choice we do and He chose to follow God every time. He lived a truly perfect life. And He died so we could be close to God again.

How does that work?

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." – ESV

Jesus chose to trade all of our faults for His perfection. Jesus can take away our wrongs and give us His rights. It's part of His being the Son of God. So Jesus basically says "You are perfect because I am perfect."

Remember that part earlier that said *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*? Well, there is a second part to that. *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* Jesus chooses to give us His perfection so we can know Him and know God.

When Jesus died, he didn't stay dead. He came back to life, and in doing so, he beat evil. He beat sin. And because of that He has opened a door for the death caused by sin to never happen. It is His gift to us because He loves us.

How does He give it to us?

Romans 10:8-11

"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.'" – ESV

Jesus wants to give His gift to everyone He can. But people have to accept it too. He offers a gift that will allow you to know God and be close to Him. But you have to trust Him. You have to believe what He says. When you sit in a chair you trust the chair will hold you up. It's the same kind of thing with Jesus. When you trust Him, you believe that He did create a way for us to know God. When you trust Him, you are placing your life in His hands.

But Jesus wants you to be all in with this. Either you trust Him or you don't. If you do, you have to say so. If you believe Him, then you also need to say it. When someone confesses something, they claim something. If you confess Jesus Christ is Lord, then you are claiming you trust Him.