

06 – Reasonable faith – What about suffering and death?

... is it reasonable to trust God given all the pain and suffering there is in the world?

A good God?

“A good god, if he existed at all, would want to get rid of evil all together.”

Do we need to bury our brains, have blind trust and follow Jesus anyway, despite the evidence of evil in our world?

A problem for all people

... simply dismissing the reality of God it does not make the problem of evil go away

Pol Pot, ISIS

“is evil a subjective truth” or is “evil objectively wrong”?

Fyodor Dostoevsky, “if God is not real then all is permitted”.

Richard Dawkins, “if the universe is just electrons and selfish genes ..blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference”.

Good without god?

... not saying ‘only Christians can ever be good’

... BUT without god existing at all, who determines what is good or evil in the first place?

a) A part of evolutionary process

... evolution does not produce morality or values via a physical process.

b) An evolutionary deception

‘false but necessary beliefs about God’.

... what other false beliefs this evolutionary process has caused in their thinking

... Who is the arbiter of what is a right evolutionary belief and what is a false evolutionary belief.

God's solution to the evil in the world

a) Rescue not elimination

... if God was to get rid of every evil person in the world NOW then none of us would be left.

... BECAUSE of his love for us

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... people get to make the decision

... to a place of 100% perfection

b) Grace not cancelling

...what it looks like to be someone better

... his grace and mercy to us is ongoing

c) Real Justice will happen

One day, God will show real and perfect justice to everyone.

d) Reasonable faith in the light of the brokenness of the world

... whet your appetite

... filled with confidence

... a rational and compelling answer to the whole problem of evil

e) The best is yet to come