



November 8, 2020

Sermon: Why Atheism is Irrational Part 1

Small Group: The Case For Faith

Introduction (P. 7); On the Road to Answers (P. 21); Objection #1 Since Evil and Suffering Exist, a Loving God Cannot (P. 26)

“If there is no God, why is there so much good? If there is a God, why is there so much evil?” – St. Augustine.

The question that plagues the minds of many people is this: Why does God allow evil and suffering?

What are your greatest doubts in life?

How do you define doubt? Where do doubts come from? What effect do they have on people when they hit? What are the pros and cons of a healthy dose of doubt?

When have you been closest to God and at what points have you felt furthest away from Him?

To what extent are questions and doubts regarding spiritual matters inevitable? Why? Is faith a simple process of belief or does it require a certain degree of thought and struggle or a combination of both? Explain.

Why do you think Charles Templeton abandoned the faith that had once been the cornerstone of his life?

Does the process of asking tough spiritual questions ruin or strengthen one's faith? Why?

If you could ask God one question and you knew He would answer you right away, What would it be?

How does the world define faith?

How does the Bible define it? (See Hebrews 11:1, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Luke 7:50, Ephesians 2:8, 1 Peter 1:6-9).

Why does God place so much emphasis on faith?

Rick Warren states that our greatest blessing – the ability to make moral choices – is also our greatest curse. **Does this make sense to you? Why or why not?**

When Jesus told His followers, “Take heart! I have overcome the world,” what encouragement was He giving to us?

According to John 16:33 and Galatians 1:3-4, how did Jesus overcome the world?

For what cause did He give His life? If Jesus came to give His life for the sins of the world, then why is there still so much evil in it? When will all the hurt and pain be over?

The Bible clearly teaches that to those who receive the gift that Jesus offers, there is a coming day of closure – when pain and sin will be wiped out. If His death on the cross for our sins can really redeem the world and rescue us, how might this begin to give you peace and hope for the future?

Do you think that God sometimes uses evil and suffering to accomplish a greater good? Explain.

How have difficulties, challenges, and pain shaped your character and values?

How are you different today as a result of the problems you've faced in life?

Can you imagine thanking God someday for how suffering has molded you? Why or why not?

See **Questions for Reflection** on P.58.