

**Where Is God When Life Gets Tough?
Why Suffering?
First Christian Church—April 26, 2020
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It's not supposed to be like this! Think of the worst thing that has ever happened to you...

We hate pain; we hate suffering and we don't want to die. Why?

- We know that it's not supposed to be like this!
- If there really is a loving God, why does he allow such pain and suffering in this world he supposedly created?
- Conclusion: *A loving God cannot allow suffering.* But perhaps he can and does. Perhaps he must allow it and we simply need to understand why.

GOD's Story— Why Suffering? Broken Humanity = Broken Creation

- **Broken Humanity Led to a Broken Creation, Genesis 3**
 - A loving God allows free will. Love cannot exist without it.
 - True love risks rebellion and rejection
 - Mankind's rebellion had a cosmic effect on all God's *good creation*
- **Broken Creation Awaits the Redemption of Broken Humanity, Romans 8:18-24a**
 - A loving God does not prevent the consequences of free will
 - But he does intervene with a plan to undo the effects of sin on his creation
- **God has a Plan to Restore & Renew All Things—Matthew 19:27-30; Acts 3:19-21**
 - First reference to Satan's defeat, Genesis 3:15
 - Paul referred to this passage in Genesis to encourage Christians, Romans 16:20
 - Our enemy, Death, will also be defeated, 1 Corinthians 15:22-27a
 - God is reconciling All Things to himself, not just people, Colossians 1:19-20
 - We look forward to God's final restoration & renewal of all things, 2 Peter 3:13

Big Idea:

For now, we suffer, as a broken humanity together with a broken creation. But we look forward, in eager expectation, along with the rest of creation, to the restoration and renewal of all things, and to the redemption of our bodies in the New Heaven and the New Earth!

Right On!

(O.T. Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25)