

Why Does God Allow Sin?

Romans 9:19-24

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1. When God acts in ways that don't match our expectations, we're prone to judge Him by our own finite idea of justice. But by His very nature, God is perfectly just.

2. If God gave us what is actually fair, we would receive justice only. If He implemented only His justice, no one could ever enter Heaven.

3. It is out of line for the created to speak to the Creator as though we have the wisdom to judge Him. God is the molder and we are the clay.

4. Whatever the sovereignty of God means, it cannot mean He wants humans to become sinful. God is not responsible for our sin, but His sovereignty also does not excuse us from responsibility.

5. God allows sin to exist for two reasons: to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known. We have to know how great the fall is to understand how great the rescue is.

6. God is glorified in displaying wrath just as surely as He is in displaying grace. His judgment of sin puts His holiness and power on display.

7. God has every right to judge, but because of His mercy He endures rejection with much patience and allows time for repentance. He does not make people sinful, but leaves them in their sin unless they turn to Jesus.

8. Those prepared for destruction are prepared by their own rejection of God. God prepares people for glory, but sinners prepare themselves for judgment.

9. God allows sin to demonstrate the riches of His glory by giving grace to vessels of mercy. It's all about putting God on display.

10. The primary purpose of salvation is not what it brings to us, but the glory it brings to God. If we are saved, it is only because of His mercy, and faith is our response to what God has revealed.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Thelō (thel'-o) to determine - be inclined to

QUOTES

"The sovereignty of God is to the proud heart of man a most unpalatable subject..."

- Charles Simeon - 1833

"Mere human reason can never comprehend how God is good and merciful; and therefore you make to yourself a god of your own fancy, who hardens nobody, condemns nobody, pities everybody. You cannot comprehend how a just God can condemn those who are born in sin, and cannot help themselves, but must, by a necessity of their natural constitution, continue in sin, and remain children of wrath. The answer is, God is incomprehensible throughout, and therefore His justice, as well as His other attributes, must be incomprehensible. It is on this very ground that St. Paul exclaims, 'O the depth of the riches of the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out'"

- Martin Luther- *Bondage of the Will* – 1525

"...both of those attributes comprise His divine nature and character, which are perfectly and permanently self-consistent and are worthy of adoration and worship..."

- Dr. John MacArthur

TODAY'S WORSHIP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- "That's not fair!" This statement can be heard at kitchen tables, sporting events, and corporate offices. The same principle surrounds political debates and creates assumptions about whether equality is a Biblical practice.
 - Read I Chron. 29:11-12. What does David say about God's dominion and outcomes?
 - Read Matt. 25:14-18. Is there any reference to unequal talents and results being godly or ungodly by Jesus?
- What is the difference between justice and fairness?
- Justice is often associated with courtrooms where judgment seems factual, cold and distant. Spiritually, however, we struggle with a preconceived idea of justice and question God's right to hold humanity accountable. What attitude brings us to this place? How do we humbly acknowledge God's sovereignty over creation?
- Pastor Mark states: "The primary purpose of salvation is not what it brings to those who are saved, rather the glory it brings to God."
 - Why would this be hard for some to accept?
 - Have you ever considered this premise, and if so, what affect does it have on your walk with Christ?
 - How can the Lordship of Christ be reinforced as we apply this truth?
 - How might this truth help persecuted believers endure hardship?
- God is holy and does not make a human sinful, nor does He tempt them (James 1:13). He prepares them for glory but allows sin in order to demonstrate the riches of His glory by imparting grace on vessels of mercy (Rom. 9:22-23). Use the analogy of a rebellious child who would rather run away from a loving home than accept authority. What would the child forfeit short and long term? Who would be rejecting mercy? Would the child's destructive choices be due to an unjust parent?
- Martin Luther wrote that man makes a god of his own fancy who hardens and condemns nobody and pities everybody because he fails to comprehend how a just God can condemn; but God is incomprehensible—His justice as well as other attributes.