**Questions about the Faith**

Today, we are going to look at just three of the most common questions that non-believers and believers ask about Christianity. The responses are going to be from the Pastor and Author Timothy Keller. He wrote the book Reason for God which is where the majority of this content actually comes from. The questions we are going to look at are the problem of evil, homosexuality and Jesus, and hypocrisy within the church.

The Problem of Evil

Let's watch the video until 1:15.

So we have the question: how can God allow this kind of evil and suffering?

**How would you respond to that question? Have you thought about this yourself?**

**What conclusion have you come to?**

Alright, now lets see how Tim Keller responds to the question.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkn5lfutSrY&list=PL6A1AE952ADCB31FB&index=7>

**What is his two pronged approach to this question?**

 Answer: He shows that atheism doesn’t help so dismissing belief in God because of evil just takes you one step back and doesn’t actually make it any easier to deal with.

The second is by sharing about the crucifixion and at least showing what the answer is not. It cannot be that God doesn’t care about us or He wouldn’t have come to earth and died for the people that sentenced him to death, all the while praying for his enemies. It isn’t clear why God hasn’t stopped the evil in the world but we can trust that He is loving and that He knows better than we do.

**Why does Tim appeal to the suffering of Jesus saying that it is greater than human suffering?**

Answer: Just like the cat suffering is less severe than a human suffering, the suffering of God is so much greater than human suffering. This just serves to re-emphasize the amazing act of love that it was for Jesus to come to earth and then to die on the cross.

**Can you think of any potential reasons why God does allow evil and suffering to continue?**

Answer: God does often use suffering in our lives to produce character and make us more like Jesus. This is not always a complete answer but it is an idea for you to imagine why God would allow suffering to continue. There is also the reality that the real causes of evil in this world are often us, humans. So, the main way that God could act to stop evil is by removing us humans from the world. This isn’t what we want but it probably is the best solution to a quick end to the evil in the world.

**Have you ever experienced how God has used bad things in your life to do good?**

Homosexuality and Jesus

This next video centers on the question relating Christianity and Homosexuality. The question is what does the Church seem to have against Homosexuals? Is it a sin? Are they going to Hell?

**First, how would you respond to these questions?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZFCB9sduxQ&list=PL6A1AE952ADCB31FB&index=8>

When Tim Keller talks about the two common wrong responses related to this question.

**Have you found yourself gravitating towards one of these responses? What did that look like?**

**Why does Tim say that it is misleading to say that homosexuality is a sin?**

Answer: It will cause people to assume that because it is a sin then you will be sent to Hell. But the correct answer is that the reason people go to Hell is because of self-righteousness not some certain sin. So a gay person that admits that they are in need of grace and forgiveness and trusts in Jesus for it is just as saved as a straight person who repents. And a gay person that works to earn their salvation in any number of ways is just as lost as a straight person doing the same thing. The issue is not the particular sin. He is also not affirming homosexuality as a God approved lifestyle either.

Hypocrisy in the Church

Go ahead and listen to the first 35 seconds of this video to get the question.

**How would you respond to this question?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnbauJtqKF8&list=PL6A1AE952ADCB31FB&index=5>

**What does he mean by self corrective resources?**

Answer: We don’t need to leave the bible in order to criticize the church’s wrong behavior. This means that when we see evil done by the church we don’t abandon the faith but rather call others back to true Christianity.

**Why does the moderator’s question about the case in Ireland and Palestine actually miss the point?**

Answer: The response to the case of Protestants and Catholics fighting each other is still a call back to the true gospel. Not an abandonment of it. The Protestants and Catholics killing each other clearly have no idea what Christianity is really about.

Alright, so these are a few of the most common questions that many people have posed to Christians. There are a multitude of ways to respond to each one and we have just scratched the surface, but now at least you have an idea of how you can respond to these questions in a way that seeks to bring the person into the faith and not to push them even further away.