

Answering Common Questions

Atheism, Science, and Evil
(Apologetics, Week 8)

Why This Matters

Questions we all hear

- How can you believe in God?
- Hasn't science disproved faith?
- Why does God allow suffering?

A Key Insight

We all see through lenses

- Same facts
- Different conclusions

Proverbs 18:13 “To answer before listening -
that is folly and shame”

Three Common Challenges

Three 'lenses'

- Atheism → *Who's in charge?*
- Scientism → *What can I trust?*
- Suffering → *Is God good?*

Challenge 1: Atheism

- “There is no evidence for God”
- Three big questions:
 - Why does anything exist?
 - Why does reason work?
 - Why does morality matter?
- Where atheism struggles:
 - Existence
 - Reason
 - Morality

Challenge 2: Science

- “Science has made God unnecessary.”
- A crucial distinction:
 - Science → *How things work*
 - Faith → *Why anything exists*
- Faith fuels discovery - the Christian view of science:
 - Order
 - Meaning
 - A rational Creator

Challenge 3: Evil and Suffering

- “If God is good, why is there suffering?”
- Two kinds of questions:
 - Logical → *Can God and evil coexist?*
 - Emotional → *Can I trust God in pain?*
- Christianity’s answer - God is not distant
 - God allows freedom
 - God redeems suffering
 - God enters suffering

The Cross Changes Everything

God is not indifferent

- Suffering is tragic
- Suffering is redeemable
- Justice and mercy meet

How We Respond Matters

- Truth with Love
 - Listen
 - Clarify
 - Affirm
 - Respond
- 1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Application and Encouragement

- These objections are common but not insurmountable.
- God invites us to love Him with heart and mind.
- Encourage confidence rooted in Christ, not cleverness.

Assignment: Read Job 1-2, Romans 8

Next Week...

Christian Morality - Objective Truth