



## How Could He Be Good?

**This is the number one most common argument for atheism.**

- \* If a good God exists, he would **want** to end all suffering.
- \* If an all-powerful God exists, he would **be able** to end all suffering.
- \* Suffering exists.
- \* Therefore, a good, all-powerful God doesn't exist.

*(either God isn't good, he isn't all-powerful, or he doesn't exist at all)*

What do you think of that?

### Consider these Seven Answers

1. God's existence does not depend on our approval.
2. Our awareness of evil highlights the abnormality of good. (Everything tends naturally to disorder and decay. Beauty, order, and goodness are miraculous!)
3. It wasn't supposed to be this way. God's original creation was perfect and good, but the curse fell on the world when Adam and Eve sinned.
4. Our own understanding of good and evil is flawed. (We can't blame God for tragic moments in history, because we can't know all the alternatives!)
5. There are sometimes really good reasons for suffering.
6. Earthly suffering is temporary. (For believers at least, all suffering will end).
7. We are not alone in our suffering. (Jesus himself endured suffering for us and promises to be with us in the midst of our suffering).

In your opinion, do these answers adequately address the problem?

Which answer(s) do you think are most important / most compelling?  
Which are the hardest to accept?

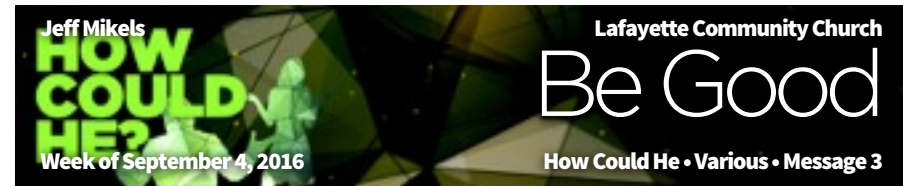
What lingering questions do you have?

What do you think of this statement:

**A good and powerful God should allow temporary suffering if it accomplishes eternal good.**

## Take it Home

When someone asks you why God allows bad things to happen to good people, what answer do you give?



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