



Reasons Ministries



Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?

Aurora, Colorado. A Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee. Columbine. 9/11. Etc., ad nauseam.

Recently, my wife was talking with someone who asked the question, "Why would God allow such an evil thing to happen (referring to the recent shooting in Colorado)? If you are like me you have probably asked the same question, "Yes, why did God allow the man in Aurora to kill anyone?" In fact, we can ask the same question about all the evil things that occur. Why does God allow . . . (you fill in the blank)? In fact, we can start with large egregious evils (like the holocaust) and work all the way down to seeming small evils like sicknesses, accidents, etc. You see, if God should not allow the "big" evils, should he even allow any evil at all? If God stopped all mass killings, but did not stop individual killings would that be ok?

Evil is in the world. Why? Because of free will. Satan and Adam and Eve were all created with a free will and morally pure. They each, however, chose to exercise their freedom rebelling against the God who created them. Without freedom, love and relationships are impossible. You see, if Adam and Eve did not have a choice but had to love, they would have been robots. Instead God gave the them free wills enabling them to choose to love God and each other. Unfortunately, that same freedom enabled them to choose not to love God. That is the risk of freedom. We call their rebellion the fall. Due to the fall our world is full of evil. God willingly created us with this risk in mind. God knew Adam and Eve would freely choose to disobey him. Even though God created the possibility for sin, Adam and Eve actualized that possibility. Due to their rebellious choice sin entered into the world resulting in heart attacks, cancers, rapes, murders, mass murders, wars, etc. None of these evils are the fault of God but rather are the consequence of sin. Instead, God allows humans to exercise their freedom, even when that freedom embraces evil instead of good. Occasionally God intervenes, which we call miracles. The vast majority of the time, however, he allows us to act freely with all of the consequences and he allows natural processes (earthquakes, sickness, hurricanes, etc.) to occur.

In addition, by simply raising the question of good and evil a person is assuming that there is some ultimate standard of good and evil. If there is no God then there is no possibility of distinguishing between good and evil, because without an objective standard (a standard that is true for all times, all peoples, all places and one that does not change and one that is transcendent above all creation) then one person's idea of the good is not any better than some one else's idea of the good, even if their moral standards contradict. But because God is the standard of good, we know that anything that goes contrary to his nature is sin. So, even though some might want to say that the existence of evil denies the existence of God (if God really existed he would stop all evil, which by the way would mean that each of us would need to be wiped out too), the existence of evil actually does the opposite: it requires free moral creatures to actualize the potential for evil and it requires a God who is the Good, by which all things can be determined to be either good or evil.

Evil happens because we live in a fallen world filled with fallen creatures that choose to do evil. What we can take hope in is that only an all good, all powerful, all wise God can bring good from evil and one day overcome all evil. Jesus said in John 16:33, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Amen!

Reasons Ministries' Mission

The mission of Reasons Ministries is to equip believers to know what and why they believe so they can stand firm in the Christian faith, be effective tools in God's hand for reaching those that do not yet know Christ, and to be able to apply practical apologetics to everyday life.

David has been such a blessing to us at Northeast. We have an AMAZING worship service each weekend. Yet we know that for our people to continue to grow in their spiritual walk, it takes more than just engaging in a weekend experience. David's teaching has helped us satisfy that place for our mature believers to dig deeper, and at the same time challenge our younger believers to seek answers. David is always prepared and brings in many resources to aid in keeping our people engaged. After every session, there are always those who stay to discuss in more detail. Thanks David!

—Laura Wingfield, Groups Minister, Northeast Christian Church, Louisville

Got Questions??

About God and the problem of suffering?

The Bible's reliability?

The uniqueness of Christ?

What is a worldview?

Christianity vs. Other Religions?

How to Defend the Faith?

Evolution vs. Creationism?

**I can help with answers!
Give me a call or send me an email! I would love to come to your church for a weekend of ministry.**

Contact Information:

Rev. David Holdcraft
9217 Trentham Lane
Louisville, KY 40242

email:

david@reasonsministries.com
reasonsministries@bellsouth.net

Web:

www.reasonsministries.com

Twitter:

[@davidholdcraft](https://twitter.com/davidholdcraft)

Phone:

502-594-9885

If you would like to support this ministry, you may do so at:
www.reasonsministries.com



Question: Can we really know that what we believe is true?

Answer: The other night I was up late as usual and somehow the TV station I landed on VH1, not a channel I watch normally. The show I was watching featured Sting and Vince Gill in concert together that was interspersed with commentary on the songs they were singing, from each one's collections. One conversation really caught my attention when Sting said that certainty about ultimate matters was not possible, which was why he was an agnostic. He said we really cannot know what is true, even though he saw the years he was in the church as positive and he spoke of the music of the church in a complementary way. Vince Gill, much to my disappointment, echoed Sting's sentiments and concurred that his travels around the world had contributed to his skepticism due to being exposed to so many different beliefs.

I was so disappointed to hear their mutual skepticism. So I went to an online Bible and searched for the words know, proofs, certainty, etc., and found that the Bible says just the opposite of what these Sting and Vince Gill were saying. Luke, for instance, tells his friend Theophilus that he has written his Gospel so that Theophilus "may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught." Luke is giving us the truth about Jesus so we can have confidence that Jesus was who he said he was. Luke records in Acts 1:3 that Jesus "showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive." Jesus did this over a period of 40 days in a variety of places before different people. Jesus knew that our tendency is to doubt, so

he sought to minimize our doubts about his resurrection. Paul appealed to these appearances of Jesus in his defense of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul even points out that the resurrected Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at once, many of whom were still alive.

John declares his purpose in writing his Gospel when he says, "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life" (John 20:31, NLT). John wrote his Gospel to give us sufficient evidence that Jesus is the eternal Son of God in human flesh (1:14). In 1 John 5:13, another of John's writings, he wrote, "I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life." The Christian faith is not a leap in the dark, it is not a great perhaps; it is faith founded upon fact! It is a historical fact that Jesus Christ existed, it can be well established that he died, was buried and that his tomb was empty. The Christian faith answers our deepest questions: it tells us where we came from, what our purpose is, the basis of morality and what our ultimate destiny will be after death. There is historical and archaeological evidence for many of the figures and events of the Old and New Testaments. There are numerous prophecies fulfilled hundreds of years after they were given (of Christ but also of many other events). When all of these pieces of evidence are brought together, they form a powerful and convincing case that Jesus is indeed who he said he was, the Savior of the world!

So why so many skeptics? Most of the time it because they refuse to look at the evidence because they do not want to see the evidence. You see it is easier to be a skeptic, because skeptics do not need to conform to the moral requirements that Jesus gives. They can admire Jesus from afar, but do not need to obey him up close.

About David



- 18 Years of Pastoral Ministry. Ordained and Licensed through the Ohio Valley District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA)
- Adjunct Professor @ Indiana Wesleyan University at the Louisville, KY Campus since 2001. Have taught 11 different courses and over 800 students (many courses were in Bible and Apologetics).
- Graduate of Toccoa Falls College with a B.A. in Missiology and Alliance Theological Seminary with a Masters in cross-cultural and theological studies.

- Additional Masters level work at TFC and Columbia International University
- Serving on Ohio Valley District Licensing Ordination & Consecration Committee and as a District Presbyter
- Started Reasons Ministries in November 2008
- Married 33 years to Beth with three adult children and two adorable grandchildren.

Prayer Needs:

- Please pray for speaking opportunities for me in fall of 2012.
- Please pray for God to provide increased financial support for the ministry.

Defending the Faith Conference:

How about hosting a Defending the Faith (Apologetics) Conference this fall at your church? I would love to come to speak to your entire church or a Sunday School class or your youth group or a combination of groups. I can be a catalyst for apologetics at your church. I can equip, challenge and whet your congregation's appetite for apologetics. Give me a call and let's see what we can do!

Great Resources:



Cross Examined

Dr. Frank Turek is a Christian Apologist, author and public speaker. His ministry,

crossexamined.org

is aimed at high school and college age kids. Dr. Turek has a TV program on DirecTV, a weekly radio program (which is podcasted at iTunes), and a website with much helpful information (video clips, articles, debates, and other resources) that will help you better defend the faith.

Dr. Turek is especially concerned about the Christian teenagers who leave the church after high school and fail to return. He points out on his website that the numbers of teens leaving church is now three out of four Christian teens.