



Answering Our Kids' Toughest **God Question: Removing Their Biggest Stumbling Block to Faith**

"I hope that real love and truth are stronger in the end than any evil or misfortune in the world."

— Charles Dickens

In a September 5, 2019 article in *Atlantic Monthly*, Derek Thompson opened Pandora's Box with this title: [Elite Failure Has Brought Americans to the Edge of an Existential Crisis](#). His subtitle is even more provocative:

"The nuclear family, God, and national pride are a holy trinity of the American identity. What would happen if a generation gave away all three?"

Thompson cited a 1998 Wall Street Journal/NBC poll of Millennials and Gen Zs that was taken again in 2019. In just 21 years, young adults were 10% less willing to have children, and 20% less likely to value religion or patriotism. Thompson is right: we *are* at the edge of an existential crisis.

Our next generations are exiting churches in wholesale numbers. They have major problems with God, religion, the Bible and its values. In this hot button edition, I would like to share with you our kids' toughest **God** question, and how you can answer it.

1. Why is Christianity Increasingly out of favor?

There are lots of reasons Millennials and Zs are turning away from religion. The Barna Research Group lists six things they feel: 1) Churches demonize the nonreligious. 2) Most church messages aren't relevant to their life issues. 3) The Bible is out of step with science. 4) The church's expectation of sexual purity is out of touch with the world they inhabit. 5) Christianity is not inclusive enough; and 6) churches are unfriendly to those who express doubts. [Six Reasons Young Christians Leave Church.](#)

The **God** Question

"I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil and suffering in the world."

2. **Helpful Responses to a King-Sized God Question**

Be Prepared—Psalm 19:17, John 14:6, I Peter 3:15,
2 Timothy 2:145

1. **Listen to the other first.** [James 1:19]
2. **Don't be dismissive of the complaint. It's actually quite logical.**
 - 1) If God were all powerful, he *could* prevent evil and suffering.
 - 2) If God were all-loving, he *would* prevent evil and suffering.
 - 3) But evil and suffering clearly exist.
 - 4) Therefore, the God presented in the Bible is neither all-powerful, nor all-good, and probably doesn't even exist.
3. **If there is no God, we still haven't solved the issue of evil and suffering.**
4. **The Bible has the answer, and it's captured in the gospel story.**
 - **An All-Loving and All-Powerful God's Perfect Design.**
 - **Humans destroyed paradise.**
 - **The All-Loving & All-Powerful God in **Jesus**.**

- **He won't take you out of this world of evil and suffering, but he will change the way you live in it.**

5. The Biblical View of God as All-Loving and All-Powerful helps us survive and thrive in a world of evil and suffering.

- **It explains the cause of evil and suffering.**
- **It gives the remedy for evil and suffering**
- **It proves his identification with evil and suffering.**
[Hebrews 4:15, Isaiah 53:4, Hebrews 7:25]
- **As believers, He will turn our sufferings into our good.**
[Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20]
- **Because he is All-Loving, God doesn't punish evil the way we want him to, or as quickly.** [2 Peter 3:9]
- **The All-Powerful God who keeps an evil world from imploding until all of his lost sons and daughters come back to him. And that same All-Powerful God also makes his saved sons and daughters better in the midst of [and because of] the evil sufferings in this world.**
- **God has a plan to end evil and suffering.**

A Final Word

But, before you share these truths from God's Word, you must believe and embrace them yourself. Our beliefs are caught more than they are taught. Our claims will be more believable to our next generation loved ones if they see us living them out with integrity in our own lives.