

## The mystery of evil Part 2

It is evil that draws attention to God's goodness! This is because evil cannot exist without the good it opposes.

Evil has two aspects. First, the aspect of moral wrongdoing: things we do that God doesn't like. Second, what we suffer through our moral wrongdoing.

God hopes that this part of evil - our self-inflicted suffering - will urgently grab our attention and prompt us to repent of our moral evil.

Instead, does self-inflicted suffering provoke our strong indignation? Do we demand, "Why should we suffer like this?" To hate suffering is easy; to hate sin is not.

Yet our moral wrongdoing (our sin) is a huge offence to a good and holy and righteous God.

**First**, God isn't author of evil. He is author of a story that includes evil.

**Second**, why did he create a world with natural disasters? He didn't! He intended the universe to reflect his nature, but sin intervened and produced bad consequences. This is explained at the very beginning of the Bible.

**Third**, God's desire for meaningful relationships with his creatures requires a large degree of freedom on our part. Love requires the freedom *not* to love.

God's goodness attracts my love and I pray his goodness attracts your love too.

\* \* \*

**If we trust the Saviour God sent us, our suffering is temporary, not eternal.**

**Ken Packer**