

# [RE]CONSTRUCTING

## The Problem of Suffering

Romans 5:3-5 & 8:18-21, 28

### The Problem:

If God is all-loving and all-powerful,  
why is there suffering in the world?

### God is All-Loving

Love allows for pain, because:

1. Pain can \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know  
that suffering produces perseverance;  
perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

Romans 5:3-4

2. Pain can \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*"Endure hardship as discipline: God is treating you  
as his children... No discipline seems pleasant at  
the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces  
a harvest of righteousness and peace for those  
who have been trained by it."*

Hebrews 12:7, 11

3. Pain can \_\_\_\_\_ us to God.

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures,  
speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain:  
it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

C. S. Lewis

### God is All-Powerful

*"All things are possible with God."*

Mark 10:27

### God's Promise of No More Pain

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be  
no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the  
old order of things has passed away."*

Revelation 21:4

**The problem of pain doesn't push God  
out of the picture.**

### [re]Construction Toolbox

Podcasts: "Unbelievable?" & "Sean McDowell Show"  
Right Now Media – [rmchurch.org/next-steps](http://rmchurch.org/next-steps)  
*The Problem of Life*, Mark Clark  
*The Case for Faith*, Lee Strobel

## [Re]constructing: *The Problem with Suffering*

Romans 5:3-5 & 8:18-21, 28

Questions based on the sermon from March 9, 2025

### Getting to Know Me

1. Share a high and low from your past week with your group.
2. Looking back on a time of suffering, what did you come to understand – about God, yourself, or life – that you couldn't see before?

### Digging Deeper

3. What encouraged you, challenged you, or brought up a question for you in Sunday's sermon?
4. Rephrase the classic 'problem of suffering' in your own words. What are the main parts of this objection to the faith or some of the ways you've heard people respond?
5. Pastor Phil shared that God's love sometimes allows pain. Can you think of a time when loving someone (for example, a child) meant letting them face difficulty for their growth or good?
6. Romans 5:3-5 gives us a glimpse at how God's love can coexist with pain and suffering. What do you learn from these verses?
7. Speaking of hope, read Romans 8:28. What is this verse saying and what is this verse *not* saying? While this verse isn't meant to minimize anyone's suffering, how does it offer hope in times of pain or hardship?

8. How does Paul's perspective in II Corinthians 12:8-10 & Philippians 3:10-11 help us when facing suffering?
9. What do these verses reveal about the suffering Jesus willingly endured and what his suffering accomplished for us?
  - Isaiah 53:4-6
  - Luke 24:25-26
  - Acts 3:18-20
  - Hebrews 2:10
10. As you read II Corinthians 1:3-7, consider how God relates and comforts us in our suffering, and how the comfort he offers to us can be shared *through* us.

### Making it Personal:

11. How has pain or hardship drawn you closer to God or shifted your perspective in a meaningful way?
12. How did this week's study on the Problem of Suffering help you (intellectually, spiritually, emotionally...)?
13. What questions are on your mind as we go through this series? (*Guides, please note these and pass them along to Pastor Phil as he would love to include them in the Q & A on April 6.*)

### Prayer:

Read Revelation 21:4-5 and take time to pray for one another and intercede for those who are suffering – that they may find renewed hope in God's promises. Also, pray for those who have yet to experience the hope found in Christ Jesus.

*We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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