

"Whatever happens on this planet is allowed by God, nothing has ever caught God by surprise" - Dr. Bruce A. Little

(I) THE QUESTION

(A) If God is an _____(1) God and all-loving God why didn't God _____(2) in some way?

(II) THE FACTS

(A) God gave man the _____(3) to choose good or evil.

(B) Free agency is a mark of human beings as such. All humans are free agents in the sense that they make their own decisions as to what they will do, choosing as they please in the light of their sense of right and wrong and the inclinations they feel. Thus they are moral agents, answerable to God and each other for their voluntary choices. (J.I. Packer, Concise Theology)

(III) THE OPTIONS

(A) To avoid evil, man could no longer _____(4).

(B) If there was no choice there would be no _____(5).

(C) If someone is _____(6) to say "I love you" we all know that's not love

(D) Love is a _____(7)

The sin, of men, was rendered possible by the fact that God gave them free will: this surrendering of a portion of His omnipotence ... because He saw that from a world of free creatures, even though they fell, He could work out ... a deeper happiness and a fuller splendour than any world of automata would admit (C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

If God is all-knowing and all-powerful what should our response be to Him?

Hint: Deuteronomy 6:5

If we respond incorrectly to God is this evil?

Hint: James 2:10, Romans 3:10-18

What is the penalty for an evil action?

Hint: Romans 6:23

Should God allow or overlook our evil actions?

Hint: Proverbs 11:21, Psalm 5:5

How is God justified in demonstrating grace and forgiving evil men?

Hint: Romans 3:23-26

RECOMMENDED FUTURE READING:

If God, Why Evil?: A New Way to Think about the Question by *Norman L. Geisler*

Deliver Us from Evil: Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrating Culture by *Ravi Zacharias*

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism by *Timothy Keller*

Suffering and the Sovereignty of God by *John Piper and Justin Taylor*

1. All-knowing
2. Intervene
3. Power
4. Choose
5. Love
6. Forced
7. Choice