

St Luke's Church GREYTOWN

Who Needs God Study Series Part 4

Discussion Questions:

1. Saint Augustine, an ancient Christian philosopher, once said that evil is: *privatio boni* the absence of good. Evil then is simply the lack of goodness that we feel ought to exist in any given situation. So as deeply frustrating and confounding as the problem of evil is, it's always outpaced by the "problem" of goodness namely, why goodness should even exist at all.

But here's the thing, injustice and suffering in the world isn't really an argument for or against God's existence. In fact you could argue that it's a reminder, that we actually need God.

Do you agree or disagree? Why/why not?

2. Why do we often assume that, if there is a God, that God must be and just?
3. "There is no basis for human dignity when everything is reduced to biology." Do you agree or disagree? Why/why not?
4. Lots of people balk at the idea of judgement on the behalf of God. But as Harry reminded us: "there is no justice without judgement"

In 2017 there was a horrific drought that threatened to plunge more than 24 million people across the horn of Africa into famine while we in the West produced more food than we needed so, we dumped millions of tonnes of perfectly good food while our fellow humans starved.

How can we say God is love if God then doesn't show judgement on behalf of that young woman watching her children die?

5. Harry thinks we often resist the notion of a God who exerts judgement because we all know deep down that we fall short of God's standard of goodness and justice.

But unlike other world views which offer no redemption, Christianity does. Because, before he sent a judge, God sent a saviour. He sent Jesus. Who himself said: "For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."

Instead, Christians believe that when he died Jesus took upon himself the judgement that was so rightly due to everyone who falls short of God's measure of goodness and justice and in doing so became our saviour.

How might this change your understanding or approach to the concept of judgement?