

The **Problem**: Can we have a loving, good, all-powerful God and still have the horrific evil that is so evident in our world?

There are no easy answers but here are a few insights.

- First, evil does not disprove the possibility of a loving, good, all-powerful God.
 - Just because my mind can't plumb the depths of the universe for good answers to evil and suffering doesn't mean there isn't one.
 - Bears and no-see-ums illustrate the point.
 - Joseph and Job illustrate possible reasons for suffering and evil. (Gen. 37-50, Job)
- Second, evil may be evidence for God.
 - Our problem with evil and suffering shows we have an inner sense of “justice.”
 - Scripture talks about this “law” written on our hearts. (Rom. 2:14f)
- Third, apparently evil is a necessary part of the ability to choose. (Josh. 24:15)
- Fourth, much suffering is the result of evil choices people make. (E.g. Mat. 2:13-18)
- Fifth, some – but not all – suffering comes as judgment. (2 Chron. 36:15-20, Gal. 6:7f)

Is it ok to be angry with God?

- Some biblical examples of people who were angry with God
 - Seen in Job
 - Seen in Jeremiah
 - Seen in the Psalms of Lament
- But should we be angry with One who has done nothing wrong?
- How to respond to someone who is angry with God
 - Shut up and listen
 - “Weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15)
- Sixth, God Himself has met the problem of evil head on by choosing to suffer for us and with us. (Is. 53:3-5, cf. Acts 9:1-6)

Conclusion: Interpret the blurred edges of your life in light of the clarity you see at the center of history in the cross of Christ.