

## What’s wrong with the world?

Whenever this question is considered, nobody ever says, “*There’s nothing wrong with the world.*” We all recognise instinctively—there is something wrong with the world!

## Think about what is happening in the world

- Terrorists
- Middle East conflict
- Natural disasters
- Anger
- Schoolyard bullying
- Divorce
- Abuse
- Crime rate
- Violence
- Guilt
- Cancer
- Birth defects
- Corruption
- Addiction



So, what’s the story with our world? Is it fundamentally a good world or is it basically a bad one?

The Bible reveals to us that this is a good world gone bad and that suffering shows us that something has gone wrong in God’s good world. It’s when we suffer, or see others suffering, that we say, “*Life is not meant to be like this.*”

## Symptoms versus the disease

We try to solve the problems of the world, but we focus on the things that are symptoms, not the real disease. War is a symptom; crime is a symptom; addiction is a symptom; abuse is a symptom; corruption is a symptom; violence is a symptom; terrorism is a symptom.

If that’s true, what is the disease? If behind all these problems is THE problem—if there is a deeper cause, then what is it?

Jesus Christ had an answer:

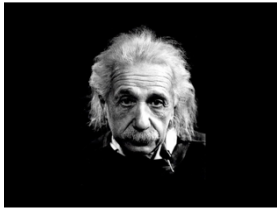
Matthew 15:19 (in the Bible)

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”

# Topic 3 – What’s wrong with the world?

Jesus said that the real problem is within the hearts of people. Our hearts are diseased and that disease is called ‘sin’.

The crime rate comes from within; murders come from within; abuse comes from within.



Einstein:

*“The true problem lies in the hearts and thoughts of men. It is not a physical problem, but an ethical one. What terrifies us is not the explosive force of the atom bomb but the power of the wickedness of the human heart—its explosive power for evil.”*

## How could a good God let this happen?

- God did not make the world like this. The Bible tells us, *“And God saw all that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”* (Genesis 1:31)
- The *potential* for evil was a good thing, because it made real love possible. Love cannot be real if there is no choice *not* to love!
- We turned the potential into reality; and that reality is the agony of life in this fallen world.
- All of creation was affected by our Fall.

When the fallenness of this world affects us personally, our instinctive reaction is to wonder “Why?” But as author Kel Richards has said, *“In this kind of [fallen] world, asking ‘Why am I suffering?’ makes no more sense than the man at the equator asking, ‘Why am I hot?’ The answer in both cases is the same: because of where you are. ...What God does about this world’s suffering is to take it upon himself. God enters this world in the form of his one and only son, Jesus Christ, and takes our suffering upon himself. He is the suffering God.”*

God knows about suffering, not just because he knows everything, but by direct personal experience.

**In the end, the only way to fix the problems of the world is to repair people’s fallenness. Only God can do that.**

## Discussion questions (pick some to discuss)

- List the greatest problems in the world. Then ask, which ones are caused by human fallenness? What can you conclude from this?
- What about locally—what are the greatest problems in our nation? What is the cost of this to our country?
- What do you think of this statement—“I’m glad I’m not part of the problem”?
- Do you think that societal problems such as tensions in the Middle East, racism, family violence, cyber crime, etc will increase or decrease as the world population grows and technology increases? Do you think that people will be able to solve these societal problems?
- As a group, create and name your own religion. *Ground rules: Assume that you do know about the existence of a God to whom we are accountable. You also recognise the problem of fallenness. Design a religion that will respond to this situation. You should also assume that you know nothing about any of the religions of the world today.*