



Tough Questions

The Journey – Fall 2017

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Christian Life Assembly



Tough Question #22



Tough Questions

- **Is divorce okay?**
- **Divorce is always tragic, but it is permissible under certain circumstances.**
- **Malachi 2:16 “For I hate divorce!” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”**



Tough Questions

- **Matt 5:31** “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, *unless she has been unfaithful*, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.
- **One scriptural ground for divorce is unfaithfulness by one of the partners – it is not to be understood as “you must divorce if you are cheated on”, but as “you may”.**



Tough Questions

- **1st Cor 7:15** But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.
- A second scriptural ground applies to a believer who is abandoned by an unbelieving spouse.
- Again, this not a “you must divorce”, but is a “you may divorce” if abandoned.



Tough Questions

- **So what about physical or sexual abuse inflicted on the wife, husband, or children?**
- **There are no scriptures that directly call for divorce for spousal abuse, but I believe we would be on solid scriptural grounds to at least separate for reasons of abuse.**
- **1st Cor 6:19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.**



Tough Questions

- **We have a responsibility as stewards of our bodies and if one spouse is abusing the other it would be hard to imagine God not wanting safety for the abused.**
- **Everything in my flesh wants it to be true that I am in the will of God to divorce an abusive spouse, and that may well be the case.**
- **But, since there are no scriptures that draw that straight line between abuse and divorce, my advice would be for the abused to separate and then pray for God's direction.**



Tough Questions

- **Col 3:15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.**
- **When you have peace about a decision you generally have God's direction.**
- **When in doubt, don't.**



Tough Questions

- **What about re-marriage after a divorce?**
- **Without getting into a lengthy debate about Luke 16:18, I will state what ought to be obvious – divorce is not the unpardonable sin.**
- **A pastoral joke – better to murder your wife than divorce her because the church will allow repentant murderers to pastor, but not divorcees.**



Tough Question #23



Tough Questions

- **Why did God allow the Holocaust? The death of so many innocent babies and children - was it just another event to awaken the Jews spiritually?**
- **This is probably one of thousands of “why does God allow evil to run rampant?” questions.**
- **Ultimately, He allows it for His glory, but that is not all that we need to know about the subject.**



Tough Questions

- **As for the holocaust itself – many believe it is the primary reason why the nation of Israel was reborn in Palestine in 1948.**
- **It took something as horrible as the killing of 6 million Jews to force the end of the “White Paper of 1939” that mandated that only 75,000 Jews could migrate to Palestine in a 5 year period.**
- **With that law rescinded, as many Jews as wanted to migrate to Palestine could do so.**



Tough Questions

- **As for the larger question of “why does God allow evil?” – I ask you to consider life in this world, with our sin natures in tact, without the peril that comes with evil.**
- **I contend that because God allows evil in this world many are more inclined to seek God because with evil in the world comes uncertainty of life.**
- **If good health and safety for our persons were not in question (without uncertainty), people would be far less inclined to seek after God to find a remedy for their sins.**



Tough Questions

- **Every time a child dies, or a young person is hit by a car, or a 50 year old contracts cancer and dies, we are being told that life is uncertain.**
- **When my life is uncertain, I am more open to the things of God and more likely to worship Him.**
- **So, I believe there is validity in what I said to start – evil is allowed so that God can be glorified.**



Tough Questions

- **John 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**
- **Blind for 38 years all for the purpose of magnifying God.**
- **One must value God greatly to even begin to understand the grace and wisdom of God in this equation.**



Tough Question #24



Tough Questions

- I've seen notes about Mark 16:8 and I believe I've seen it at least one other time but couldn't find it now, does the New International Version of the Bible say "The most reliable early manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20"? Are we not to add or take away from the Bible. If it wasn't in the most "reliable" manuscripts, why is it there?
- It is a matter of how much weight you assign to "oldest" versus "most" manuscripts.



Tough Questions

- **Most of the later manuscripts contain versus 9-20 of Mark's 16th chapter.**
- **However, the oldest manuscripts, which would have been written closer in time to Mark's original writings do not include versus 9-20.**
- **It seems that those who translated versions like the KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV, and the NLT all chose to add notes of some kind to sort of "hedge their bets" on the worthiness of the verses being included in their translations.**



Tough Questions

- **The verses do seem a little out of place – verses 1-8 are a narrative about the women going to the tomb on resurrection morning.**
- **Verses 9-20 take an odd turn to other subjects.**
- **Interestingly enough, verses 9-20 contain some weird things that have led to “snake handling” and drinking of poison with these verses as the justification for same.**



Tough Questions

- For the most part there is nothing out of harmony with the rest of scripture other than what I just mentioned.
- Here is the problematic portion - 17 And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.



Tough Question #25



Tough Questions

- If Jesus died and paid the price for our sins, why do we need to accept Him?
- John 1:10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 *But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.* 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.



Tough Questions

- **The biblical standard for claiming salvation is to believe that Jesus is the Christ.**
- **1st John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God.**
- **So why does John say, “believed him and accepted him” in his gospel and then uses a different phrase in in his epistle?**



Tough Questions

- **John 3:16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.**
- **And then John gives us another phrase, “everyone who believes in Him”.**
- **Wait, what? Which one of the phrases should I use if I want to be saved?**



Tough Questions

- **Acts 16:30** And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **31** So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
- I believe it is quite obvious that all of these phrases point to the same thing – an expression of faith in the finished work of Christ.
- So does that answer the question of “why must I accept Him?”.



Tough Questions

- **One must accept Christ as Savior because that is God's chosen methodology.**
- **To accept the price that was paid for one's sins is to acknowledge that it is desired, and valuable.**
- **It seems to me that for God to apply the payment of Calvary to one's sins who has no interest in His sacrifice would be a gross miscarriage of justice.**



Tough Questions

- **To me, the biggest point to make is that the words you use to receive (accept) Christ are all but irrelevant.**
- **The "sinner's prayer" does not appear in the Bible – no scripture that I know of ever shows someone asking to be saved.**
- **You can be saved without saying a word, but you cannot be saved without believing His word.**



Tough Question #26



Tough Questions

- If deacons and elders were required to be “the husband of one wife”, does that mean it is okay to have more than one spouse if you have no desire to be a deacon or elder?
- No
- **1st Tim 3:1** This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife



Tough Questions

- **The verse that gives us “the husband of one wife” is not a prohibition on polygamy.**
- **It is intended to be a desired life attribute for elders, in particular, and deacons by extension.**
- **The attribute is that of being a “one woman” man – in other words, not a womanizer.**



Tough Questions

- **Getting back to polygamy – although God seemed to tolerate it in the O.T., I believe the Bible does forbid it because of the Genesis record.**
- **Gen 2:23 “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’” 24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.**