



Thinking Like a Christian January-March 2021 Zooming in on the Cross
14th February 2016

6. The Sufferings of the Cross

Which Christians have been a great example to you?

Why do people see suffering as a problem for Christians?

The cross is, obviously, very much about suffering. It was designed as an extraordinarily cruel punishment; one that combined torture and execution in one.

1. The magnitude of Christ's Sufferings

Lamentations: a song of suffering

1:10-12 There is no sorrow like his sorrow

The infinite sufferings of the God-man

Luke 22:39-46 How does Luke draw our attention to Jesus' suffering?

Why do you think Jesus was in so much agony?

Mark 15:16-37 List all the different kinds of sufferings that Jesus endured.

2. Suffering is a judgment from God for sin

Genesis 3:16-19 Pain childbearing

eating of the ground – thorns and thistles and sweat

Not usually specific

But always in some sense Luke 13:1-5; John 3:36

3. God in Christ suffered like no other, to redeem from sin & save from suffering

Jesus pain brought forth children for God

sweat became blood (Luke 22:44)

Thorns laid on his head (Mark 15:17)

Isaiah 53 v3-4

v10-12

Revelation 5:9-10 Jesus the slain Lamb, who has ransomed people for God

7:9-17

Those washed in the blood of the Lamb will have no more pain

21:4

4. What Christ's sufferings means for our sufferings

Suffering is a reality for all in this life; and for Christians often more than many others.

But we serve a saviour who has suffered for us, and that changes everything.

Because Christ has been crucified for us, our sufferings:

- are temporary, not ever-increasing 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- are light, compared to the glory to be revealed Romans 8:18
- cannot separate us from the love of God Romans 8:35
- are no longer punishment, but fatherly discipline Hebrews 12:7-11
- are not misery but a privilege 1 Peter 4:12-14

How could you answer someone who said, 'I can't believe in a God who allowed such a terrible thing to happen to me?'