

Reset Chapter 4 (The real God)

Questions for discussion

1. Who is God?

Each one of us has a picture of God. Even an atheist will boldly say they don't believe in anything. Why do we just have any opinion at all, if it's meaningless? Do we fight over the makeup of the Platypus? If bad things happen then why does God let it happen? Why seemingly bless some and not others? What is your picture of God?

"So far I have talked about belief, hope, faith, and love plus good and bad people. I have touched on physical, mental, verbal, and spiritual abuse by people. Can we connect those traits to God? If we are his people then why are we crushed under the weight of sin: our own and the sin of others. Where is God in all this? My answer is simple: don't blame God. Oh sure of course you would say that Patrick. Defend God when he killed my child. The problem with that logic is that we expect far too much and far too little from God." Chapter 4, p, 2

2. Should God make sin safe?

Why does God have an opinion on sin? Who cares really? Isn't our lives: our lives? How often do we have regret the things we chose? Is it possible Gods opinion might save us some grief? True, but some sinful fun would have to be sacrificed. We want our cake and eat it too. We want sin to be fair, fun, and safe. Do we put more importance in the better way or the fun way? God lets us have our way most of the time. We hate having our way because bad things happen. Should God limit our freedom in the name of safety?

"We want to do drugs freely, but we want God to make sure it's safe. There was a girl distraught after a bar killing at 2 am. Her quote was interesting "Why can't this just be a fun and safe place to party?" How about in a bar at 2 am? Should that be a safe place? In the show "The Walking Dead" Rick gets stuck in a tank while surrounded by Zombies. Over the radio he hears "Hey dumb ass in the Tank." Isn't it late at night where the bad people thrive? Have you ever seen a daytime bar killing? Maybe God should have said over a loud speaker to that young lady "Hey dumb ass in a bar at 2 am?" Question: should God make sin safe?" Chapter 4, p, 5

3. Do you want the freedom to choose?

Why do we hate freedom so much? Sure, we want freedom to do what we like but we hate it when others get freedom too. I see it all around me. One person wants freedom to do drugs while another hates that. Women want freedom to be prostitutes but hate the abuse. We want it all in a safe and reasonable way, on our terms. The problem is the terms. Who's terms do we use? We used to think in God terms, but that seemed restrictive. God never gave restrictions on freedom. He just said that every action has a

Reset Chapter 4 (The real God)

reaction like cause and effect. Are we really willing to let others have their way at the expense of ours?

“The other side is devotion. If God gave us Satan and he gave us freedom, what would happen? The choice is simple: chose Satan, God, or neither. It comes back to Job 1. God is still saying to Satan “They will choose me still, even if you are right there.” Some choose Satan and others choose neither, but what bugs Satan are those who still choose God. Satan hates freedom of choice. God is loved more by those who freely choose to love over forced devotion.” Chapter 4, p, 7

4. Should God have the freedom to be himself?


I find it strange that we want people to be just like we picture them to be. I read a book called “Love Addiction.” The most interesting part was what where addicted too. You would think its sex or drugs. We are truly addicted to a picture. I have a picture of the perfect wife. I have a picture of what is a good time. I have tons of pictures of you, me, and life. When the real world does not match our picture then we get disappointed. It’s the same with God. The picture of him is never what he is really like, and that is troubling.

“I am me. If you think that sucks then find a new friend. I am who I am. I can’t and won’t change for anybody. If I did then I’d have to change for everyone I meet. Each of us looks at the other different. I am me. In the same way God is God. He says he never changes so that we know who he is. The problem is that we and Satan don’t like it. We want God to play ball with our individual view of God. Doesn’t God have the freedom to be himself just like the freedom he gave us”? Chapter 4, p, 8

5. God is the good guy in all this mess

We chose to do life a certain way. We chose to kill or love. Why do we want God to step in when things go bad? We want him to save our bacon with our messes and other people’s bad choices. When things go wrong, and God does not save us, we get mad. Is it Gods fault things go wrong? Do you want limits on freedom of choice? Do you want limits on other people’s freedom of choice? Don’t blame God for the mess we make.

“Look at God this way. He is the principle in a school. He says to the students to play fair when you’re in the school yard. In class I will provide everything you need to learn and grow. Yet in school we cheat, play hooky, fight, and judge people around us. What is the principle to do? The school was meant to be a perfect environment for students. The principle could stop the bad kids. He knows who they are, but he is principled (pun intended). Play fair, this is a school. Sometimes he suspends but that is not his desire. He wants the students to get along.



Reset Chapter 4 (The real God)

That is God. We have been given so much to succeed. Yet we chose to pick up a gun and kill instead of hunt. We talk down to people instead of building them up. I don't have all the answers as to why this person died. Maybe it's just that simple: God took them out of this hell hole. Most of the time bad people get what's coming soon enough. Why do we talk about karma or your up and comings. What comes around does come around. Sometimes it just takes time.

God is the good guy in all this. God made this place for our good. We and Satan have turned it upside down. God gave us the ability to ask for help though prayer. We can read his word and feel his Spirit. We can keep our water and air clean. We can help rather than hinder." Chapter 4, p, 9

6. Do you blame people and God for your troubles?

We always feel God set up unfair rules or expectations. Are the Ten Commandments unfair? Should we have the right to kill and covet another person's spouse? When we chose to be mean to someone is it fair? Should we have guidelines to healthy living? We want food guidelines and driving guidelines. Do we blame the government when we get into an accident? No, but we blame God for letting it happen. What is wrong with that type of thinking?

"He gives us the same choices today. The real question should be: "What does your heart really want?" Do your actions reflect God or your own heart's desire? I am asking you to begin to believe again. I know you already did at one time. Don't blame God for what people do freely. Don't blame the church for the bad people in it. The church began as good. People begin as good, but sin and desire get in the way." Chapter 4, p, 11