



## **How does a perfect God understand our imperfections so well? (1 John 4:16-19)**

Impact discipleship 12/30/23

The world now compared to when Christ walked the earth is very different. Life is less survival mode than it was. It is good! We can travel faster, store food easier, anything we need is just one click away shipped right to our door with money we haven't even made yet. While the world may seem advanced externally, internally many of us have become worse. Slaves to addictions humans before us never had to deal with. Why? Well unlike 2000 years ago, you want to be a glutton? Fast food is on every street corner and is cheap. buy alcohol? Easier than ever to get drunk. You don't even have to seek lust, we live in a world where lust seeks YOU! Through our phones. We don't even need to leave the house to cheat on our spouse, many people do it from their phones every night. All of this advancement. All of this corruption, yet Jesus UNDERSTANDS! He understood this would happen to you and I when he made the

decision to sacrifice himself on the cross. He knew we would be struggling with what we are struggling with when He called upon our name all those years ago. And He still loves us! If you knew that your future spouse was going to lie, cheat, steal, kill, be a drunkard, be a glutton, lust after others, leave you and then come back asking for forgiveness only to leave again, on your wedding day would you go through with it?

From the human perspective in order to truly feel like you know something or understand what someone is going through, we had to have experienced it. It's much easier to forgive someone for a mistake if you've yourself had that very same mistake. So how is it possible that God forgives us and loves us more than any human ever could and he never sinned?

This is because we were made in His image. Perfect. When did sin start? When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of KNOWLEDGE of good and evil. So by eating it they gained knowledge of something that already existed. Sin was not created out of this act, but simply made them aware of what was already there and possible. This realization would taint us all for millennium.

If Yahweh is perfectly good in every way, why create evil at all? Why create the devil at all? Wouldn't God desire everyone to just be happy and feel good all the time? Good vibes. No sin. No temptation. In Genesis 1 it states:

"The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness." Genesis 1:2-4

So the darkness was almost the default on earth before Ya shined His light down onto it. Light of the Lord and light of the Sun have much in common. Both give life. Without it we could not see what is true. They're warm, and essential. He created light, said it was good, but still choose to keep the already existing darkness. Why? We will get into that later.

We do know that the heavenly courts exist before the earth. Satan had already fallen from being an angel to using his free will to break away from Yahweh taking 1/3 of the angels with him. What made Satan fall? Pride. In Isaiah 14:13 it says Satan said in his heart:

'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights

He was given power in heaven, but was unsatisfied being a servant of the Lord, he wanted to be ABOVE the Lord. He wanted to be king. Problem with that is, Yahweh seeks our glory and praise.

God wants thankfulness the same reason why we want appreciation when giving a gift. He is giving us the gift of life and sovereignty, He wants us to appreciate this life. when we give a gift, how does it make you feel when it shrugged off and maybe even thrown out afterward, compared to when it's highly appreciated and then Utilized? Can we force someone to love a gift? We could, but it wouldn't be nearly as satisfying than if they actually loved the gift on their own free will.

Satan, once an angel, made in the likeness of God was created with a similar desire to be glorified. While all the other angels submitted to Yahweh, Satan made a decision to let his lust for power and praise take over his being. With the desire to go higher than God, he was "brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit." Isaiah 14:15

I could imagine that Satan is not too happy with the fact he wanted to take over but instead was brought down as low as one could go. What happens when a prideful bully is thrown down? he wants to

drag others down with him. This is why I believe he tempted Adam and Eve.

This year many of us went through a college course on Evangeling. Before hitting the streets we would watch a lesson from the creator of the program. The first one was comically simple. “God is good, Satan is bad” he went deeper to say “god is ALL THINGS good, Satan is ALL THINGS bad” god can’t be bad, Satan can’t be good. Yet life seems to be much less simple than this. God allows bad things to happen all the time right?

“There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.” Job 1:1

He was very fruitful and rich. He had every reason to praise the Lord for he was protected and favored.

In the heavenly courts Satan comes back from “patrolling the earth”. Yahweh points to Job as a prime example of a human, highlighting his blamelessness and integrity. Satan responds “You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But reach out and take away everything he

has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" "all right you may test him" Job 1:10-11

HOLD UP. I thought God was all things good and Satan all things bad, why in this book are they in cahoots? Working together?

Yahweh giving permission to Satan to ruin this guys life. Why must Satan even ask Yahweh to do this? Doesn't God want what is best for His servants?

This passage and book illustrates how little power Satan truly has. God is so powerful that his hedge of protection over job is so strong Satan can not penetrate it without Yahwehs approval. Satan goes to kill Jobs family, take away all his riches and credibility, his health, everything. He is wildly confused, laments, questions what is it he had done to deserve this, even questions Gods decision but he never cursed him. In 42 chapters Never cast blame on him and turned away. In return Job received everything back and more!

"So the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. 7 more sons and 3 more daughters. Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren. Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life." Job 42:12, 16-17

One of the saddest books of the Bible ends with a very happy ending because of Job's decision to pursue righteousness even in the face of trials. One may ask themselves why God ever had to put Job through this in the first place if He KNEW that Job was a good man. We know Yahweh is everywhere and every when at once so He knows the future too. He knew Job would pass this test. Why do it to him?

God obviously has the power to destroy, send a flood to earth, take away everything Job has, send armies to completely conquer a nation killing everything down to the last herd of cattle. Yet He CHOOSES to love us. To bless us. To be the light. He's not incapable of doing, what we may consider, evil things. He chooses to be good.

To be perfect. And he wants us to choose Him too. Were these acts that are not good made out of a rash emotional rage? Were they mistakes? I say to you they are not. For all things God does is ultimately for the good even if we cannot see it. For it is the night that makes us appreciate the day so much more. It is the pain and strain that makes us all the more appreciative of the end result. "But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my

condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes. So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin." Romans 7:13-14  
NLT

"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4

If Satan can live in paradise but desire even more, thinking he can do what Yahweh has done but even better, don't you think you too would think this way? If everything was "good" all the time and life was easy, happy, and abundant do you see how you could think it was by your doing and forget about God? Were we too not made in His image seeking glory? We see it everyday. Richest people with the most access to anything they desire needing more. Doing evil to get more. Trials humble us so that we do not forget the blessings are from the Lord. Everything bad that happens, that brings us into the valley, is designed for us to turn back to God. When he blesses us, how much more appreciative are we to be wealthy when we came from poverty? How much better does food taste when we have not eaten in days?



"Accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what he has made crooked?" Ecclesiastes 7:13

"Enjoy prosperity while you can, but when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. Remember that nothing is certain in this life." Ecclesiastes 7:14

"Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled." Romans 15:4

The law is given to us to show us how to live in integrity with the way things are made. of how Yahweh designed "good" to be. The law that is placed before us in the Bible is the best chance we have at living a fulfilled and whole life, but it does not promise us happiness, abundant wealth, and nothing bad to happen. Or what we perceive as bad.

Our understanding of time is so flawed. Have you noticed that something bad that happened in your life ending up being an event that directly lead to a bigger blessing?

One can conclude that everything Yahweh does is for good, even allowing Satan to have his way here on earth. We were not made to be righteousness robots, for how much sweeter is love when it is voluntarily given out of our own will?

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first." 1 John 4:16-19 NLT

He has shown us through His choice to love us how to choose to love others. The way He showed us this love was through death of His son in a violent bloody painful way. Christ tells us:

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.". John 15:13

"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Matthew 16:25

So how does a perfect God understand our imperfections? Through His free will, lovingly has given freewill to us, so we are truly made in His image. Knowing we would abuse this freewill for our own glory, he blesses us with evil so that we turn from it and appreciate the loving goodness so much more. He designed imperfections in order to make perfection known. Beautifully genius and not obvious. The dichotomy of the Lord never ceases to amaze me. Even all that is evil and bad is designed to shine a light on ultimate good. We get to choose to be destroyed by the evil and succumb to it or allow it to refine us to properly handle the blessings to come.