

WHY GOD IS **WHO HE IS**

Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?
Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing?
Then he is malevolent.
Is he both able and willing?
Then whence cometh evil?
Is he neither able nor willing?
Then why call him God?

EPICURUS, ~ 310 B.C.

Would God prevent evil if he could, but not able to? Then He is not an all powerful being, or God.

Is He able to stop evil, but doesn't want to? Then He is evil.

Is He able to stop evil and would if he could? Then where does evil come from?

Can He not stop evil and doesn't care? Then why call him God?

- 1 God is not limited or finite. He is infinite in all his attributes, including goodness. [Mark 10.27] Yet there is at least one thing He cannot do. [Hebrews 6.18, Titus 1.2]
- 2 "Omnipotent" does not accurately describe God. *Being able to do anything* doesn't work. God can do anything that *does not violate his righteousness*. [James 1.17]
- 3 God cannot directly will evil on anyone. [James 1.13-18]
- 4 God had two choices when He made us - **free or not free**. God created man and woman to be free and morally autonomous. Meaning: **we are free to do quite literally whatever we want, because we are individuals.**
- 5 God doesn't ever *not* care about us. [2 Peter 3.9]
- 6 We are not "bad Christians" for thinking or asking questions like Epicurus did. [1 John 4.1, Romans 12.2]

1 PETER 3.14-16