

Ephesians

Why Did God Allow People To Sin?

Ephesians 2:1-7 (NIV) - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Three Ways We Sin Against God

- Emotionally - “cravings of our flesh”
- Physically - “following its desires”
- Rationally - “thoughts”

Galatians 5:16-21 - So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Why Did God Allow People To Sin?

God created the world and people not primarily to promote human happiness, but to show His glory .

Romans 9:22-23 (NLT) - Even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. ²³**He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter** on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.

- If people never sinned, there are certain aspects of God that we would not be able to know in all their fullness.

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NIV) - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

• **Because we sin, we can know His wrath**

God's divine response to sin and disobedience. The person who believes in Jesus will not suffer God's wrath for their sin, because Jesus took God's wrath toward us upon Himself when He died in our place on the cross.

John 3:36 (NIV) - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

• **Because we sin, we can know His mercy**

If we are believers in Jesus Christ, then, even though we deserve punishment, God doesn't punish us, and in fact blesses us instead with forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

• **Because we sin, we can know His grace**

God's kindness toward those who are undeserving.

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV) - For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.