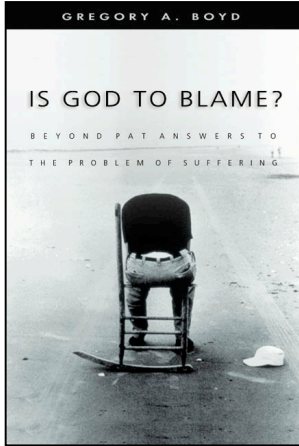


BEYOND PAT ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING



"Boyd argues forcefully that, for Christians, the deepest revelation of God's character has to be the cross of Christ, where God's glory is revealed not as compelling power but as sacrificial love. . . . For Boyd, the mystery of suffering resides not in God's inscrutable will or a possible 'dark streak' in God's character, but in the complexity of a universe where freedom and risk are realities that even God must experience. Always compassionate, sometimes cantankerous, and capturing biblical concepts with memorable clarity, this challenging book should be a valued resource for pastors, counselors, support groups, and individual study."

—Publishers Weekly Starred Review

In *Is God to Blame: Beyond Pat Answers to the Problem of Suffering* Gregory A. Boyd tackles the tough questions of suffering and God's power:

- If God doesn't put us through hard times, who does?
- If God is all-powerful and seeks to deliver us from tragic situations, why aren't we delivered?
- If God is all-powerful, why is creation filled with suffering in the first place?
- How can God be all-powerful and not always get his way?

Boyd explores the pervasive Christian assumption that there is a specific divine reason for *everything* that happens (blueprint worldview) and then goes on to outline an alternative way of understanding God and his relationship to the world (the warfare worldview). Boyd gets to the heart of the question—why me?—by looking into the book of Job. He then attempts to show that a creation, which includes free agents capable of love, cannot be one in which God can guarantee his will is always done. Boyd concludes by explaining how to live in the midst of evil, and addresses objections to this warfare worldview.

"For people not sure about the Christian faith, my hope is that this book will present a picture of God that is more attractive and more believable than other pictures they have been exposed to," writes Boyd. "It avoids what has for many people been the central objection to accepting the Christian God, namely, the idea that ever atrocious event in world history is somehow a result of his plan—his divine blueprint."

**TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH GREGORY BOYD, CONTACT KRISTA CARNET,
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