

Is God “Stupid”?
A Biblical Answer to the President’s Theological Questions

Word

Scripture Reference

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13; Romans 5:12, 18-19

Discussion Questions

Important: Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, we highly encourage you to listen to the full sermon at www.gccp.org.ph/sermon before your group discussion in order to view the message in its full context.

1. In his June 22, 2018 speech at the opening of the 2018 National ICT Summit in Davao City, Philippine President Duterte made some controversial statements questioning the logic of God in the Biblical creation story as described in the book of Genesis. It lit up social media and the national news cycle and sparked heated discussions among Christians and non-Christians alike. What was your reaction to his statements? What reactions did you observe from people around you?
2. As Christians, we affirm the Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion ingrained in our Constitution. We are all free to say what we want to say and believe what we want to believe, but each one of us is also responsible for the consequences of what we say and believe. What does the Word of God teach us about how we need to conduct our speech, and what are some spiritual or personal implications of not being careful with what we say? (1 Peter 3:10; Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 15:28; Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 12:6-7; James 3:1-12). How seriously does God view blasphemy (Leviticus 24; Daniel 4:28-33)? Which of God’s attributes is shown when He does not immediately punish those who blaspheme Him?
3. In his statements, the President actually brings up two very important theological questions about Christianity which many Christians and non-Christians also ask, though not in such a blunt way. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you should be able to answer his questions about the Christian God and how He operates as revealed in the Bible:

- a. **Question #1: Whose fault is it that man fell into sin?** The first question is about God’s sovereignty vs. humanity’s choice. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and Genesis 3:1-13. God put Adam and Eve in a beautiful utopic land where they could enjoy everything that God was going to give them. They could eat of the fruit of any tree except those of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Does the Bible say why God put a tree in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve could possibly be tempted? Is it within God’s right to put it there? What does God’s warning to Adam and Eve demonstrate about His character? Did Adam and Eve already know the difference between right and wrong (Gen. 3:2-3)? The eating of the forbidden fruit opened Adam and Eve’s eyes to the horrors of sin. But why did God not stop them, or kill the serpent to stop it from tempting Adam and Eve? Is it God’s fault for not swooping in to stop them from disobeying, or is it man’s fault for not obeying God’s command and heeding His warnings? How would you respond to someone who blames God for the consequences of his or her own actions? Discuss.
- b. **Question #2: How is it that every human after Adam and Eve is born with a sin nature?** This second question is a question of the fairness of the Original Sin, and about salvation. Read Romans 5:12. Adam represented mankind and his decision had ramifications, and so just as Adam had two eyes, two ears, one nose, etc., his sinful traits were also passed down to the next generations. This is demonstrated by the history of mankind, where not a single person apart from Jesus Christ can claim to have never done a wrong thing in his or her life. But while the Bible is clear in teaching that all men have sinned (Romans 3:23), many people do not believe this and think that it is unfair for the Original Sin to be passed down. Because of this unfairness they refuse to believe in Jesus Christ and what the Word of God says. If a circumstance seems unfair to you, does it justify your decision to reject the truths or disregard laws? How would you respond to someone who tells you that they can’t accept a God who allows this unfairness?
4. While the inheriting of the sin nature from Adam maybe seem unfair, it is this unfairness that allowed one other Man, Jesus, to die for those sins and thus cause everyone else to be saved. Look at Romans 5:18-19. What is grace? What is mercy? Have you ever been on the receiving end of the “unfairness” of God’s grace and mercy? Share and discuss.

Walk

There are many questions we have that are simply not answered by God. He doesn't owe us a full explanation to our satisfaction, and who are we to demand an answer from Him? But He has provided us with enough truths so that we can take assurance that He is NOT a "stupid" God, but a God who is very fair and loving, and who is sovereign in ALL His ways and knows what He is doing. What truths about God do you know and take assurance in? Are you prepared to answer difficult questions about the God you believe in? Examine your walk with the Lord and consider a deeper study of Christian doctrines in your church.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, it saddens me that a lot of people have no respect or fear of You, but it saddens me more when your people do not know You enough to tell others what kind of God You really are. You are the God of grace and mercy who allowed Your Son to suffer injustice so that I can be saved, so that mankind can be saved. You are the God of patience and compassion who allows men You've put in position to mock You so that they can have a chance to ask for your forgiveness. You are the God of reason who revealed Yourself to us through Your Word, so that we may have even a small understanding of who You are. May I please you in my diligence to study Your Word. Give me the courage to stand up for You boldly, and the wisdom to know how and what to respond to those who ask about You. But grant me also the same patience, compassion, grace, and gentleness that You have demonstrated towards me, that I may reflect Your image and they may believe. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.