

God's mercy

Why doesn't God remove all evil from the world?

First, in his mercy he hasn't done that. If he did, it would mean getting rid of *us*! That's because “all the world stands hushed and guilty before Almighty God.” Romans 3.19 (Living Bible).

Second, we humans want to be rid of the *presence* of evil and the *power* of evil in the world, but God says we must first deal with the *guilt* of evil. To achieve this he has given us a saviour – an all-powerful one! Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing.” John 15.5.

So, **third**, since God's offer of forgiveness is freely available, this puts the onus on us to do three things – (1) admit we are guilty sinners in God's sight; (2) recognise Jesus whom God has provided as the world's Saviour from sin; (3) repent of our sin.

Fourth, but why doesn't God do more to reduce sin's awful impact? Well, perhaps he wonders why we don't do that ourselves. Wars, crime, and every other human evil are all self-inflicted.

We could accept God's long-standing offer: “Turn to me, your Lord, and I will come and pour out blessings upon you.” Hosea 10.12 (Good News Bible).

Ken Packer