

Theology

Religion



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

due: Theology What is sin? Sin is anything that falls short of right thinking, right speaking and right living. This means anything that falls short of righteousness is a sin. Sins are categorized as the sin of commission which involves doing a wrong thing knowingly and the sin of omission which entails failure to do what is right knowingly (Kay 18).

2. How is it possible to hope for and alive for the Kingdom of God in light of human suffering?

Despite the human suffering, there is hope for living in the Kingdom of God. This is achieved through constant prayers. By praying, we give honor to the Lord, who in turn assures us that He will always answer our prayers when we pray. By praying, we seek God's forgiveness of our sins and we in turn forgive others. This way, our human suffering, which is normally as a result of confining ourselves to our areas of operation, is reduced and we remain focused and hoping for the kingdom of God (Gibbs et al. 131).

3. According to Fischer and Hart, How does Jesus resolve the problem of suffering and evil? Briefly explain each of the four elements in his response. How does this response help us to understand what a Christian response to one who has AIDS might be?

When we are suffering, Jesus is always on our side to guide us on how to respond to the evil and suffering. Through Jesus, God intervenes in our circumstances and walks with us, showing us what to do at those moments when we feel weak. In regard to solving the problem of evil and suffering, there are four elements involved, which are (Fischer & Hart 121):

(1). Jesus forgives us our sins and calls people to get converted. He is merciful enough and is always ready to forgive everyone who seeks his mercy. He forgives us our sins and converts us to be among his chosen ones.

(2). Jesus heals us from the sufferings. When faced with all sorts of sufferings, Jesus is always ready to heal us relieving us off the burden of suffering.

(3). Jesus conquers the suffering and death in His resurrection. By dying on the cross, he conquered the suffering of death, so that our sins may be forgiven.

(4). Jesus left his twelve disciples to spread the gospel. When he resurrected from death after three days, he left his disciples to continue with the work he had started of fighting sins and evil.

Based on the above four elements, a Christian suffering from AIDS will get encouragement to fight the AIDS knowing that even Christ Jesus himself suffered so much. The Christian will have the assurance that the suffering is just for a short time while on this earth, and then inherit the eternal kingdom in the life after.

4. What do you think of Bonhoeffer's response to suffering and evil?

According to Bonhoeffer, suffering can destroy the ability to respond to God, something which he considered as a temptation, a temptation which to some extent may result from despair driving someone into committing suicide. Bonhoeffer however gives us hope from suffering by assuring us that the compassion of Christ is always with us and is enough to rescue a person who is tempted (Blackburn 178). Bonhoeffer noted that the suffering of Christ Jesus on the cross brought people closer to the Christian faith. The death of Christ meant to bring us salvation, save us from the evils and guide us towards the kingdom of God.

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