

# CRISIS

## The Risk of Love

### *The Big Question: Why?*

Love            Freedom            Risk

**LOVE:** The Supreme Ethic (1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 139; 1 John 4:8)

How might our experience change if eternal love was not the supreme ethic?

What are some other virtues or attributes of God that He has been willing to compromise or limit in order to be loving and to preserve the possibility for us to love?

**FREEDOM:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6-7; Matthew 23:37-38

Did God give freedom to sinless creation?

How is freedom indispensable to love?

What were the possibilities, and which were loving?

...In creation? In the origin of sin? After the fall?

Human Freedom and God's Sovereignty:

- The belief in free will is in contrast with determinism. (John 6:44; Rom. 9)
- Ephesians 1:4-5, *In love* He predestined us...
- Humanity has the freedom to say "Yes" or "No".
- **Further Study:** 2 Peter 3:9; Gal.4:13; John 1:12-13; 3:16; 7:17; Josh.24:15; Mark 8:34; Rev. 3:20; 22:17; Isaiah 55:6-7; Deut. 30:19-20; Ezekiel 18:30-32; Matthew 4:17; James 1:13-16; 1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 9:30-33; 10:9-13; 11:32-36

**RISK:** The risk of love is that it will be rejected! (Isaiah 53:3; Matt. 23:37; Eccl.7:29)

- Rejecting love leaves us with sin, suffering and death. Romans 6:23
- How do the evil realities that result from the risk show us that God is love?
- Realities of sin are only possible because the risk was taken, the risk was only taken because freedom was offered, and freedom was offered because God is love!

So, why? Why all this sin and suffering? Because God is love. He loves us enough to take the risk of love to give us to freedom to love Him back!

The realities of suffering and evil demonstrate that God is ~~not~~ love.