

The Loss of Little Ones and Continued Belief

Why Talk About This?

- Prevalence in our _____
- Generational _____
- Silence in the _____
- Threatens our _____

How Does Infant Loss Threaten our Faith?

- Threatens the parents' view of _____ and their belief in the _____
- Threatens our view of life and death and the power of our _____
- Threatens our view of God's _____ and our ongoing belief in His care
 - God's Goodness Defined
 - God's goodness is _____
(Matthew 19:16-17, Romans 11:33-36)
 - God's goodness is _____
(James 1:17, Matthew 7:11)
 - God's goodness is _____ (Psalm 31:19)
 - God's goodness is _____ (Psalm 145:9)
 - God's goodness is _____ (Psalm 107:1)
- Threatens our view of the future both in our own personal growth and in the eternal destiny of the child.
 - God is _____ in everything He does.
(Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 119:68)
 - God is _____ in how He judges. (Rom 1:18-21)
 - Truth-suppressors incur _____ (18)
 - God-recognizers have no excuses (19-20)
 - God-knowers without thanks and honor are futile, foolish and dark (21)

“Even though we human beings are under the penalty of everlasting judgment and death because of the fall..., God executes this judgment [only] on those who have the natural capacity to see His glory and understand His will, and refuse to embrace it as their treasure. Infants . . . do not yet have that capacity; and therefore, in God's inscrutable way, He brings them under the forgiving blood of His Son.”
Matt Perman

How can the couple respond?

- Grief—see Jesus responses to death John 11:35, see Eccl. 3:4
 - Like Jesus—weep and time alone
(John 11:35, Matthew 14:13)
 - Different and Together—Ephesians 5
- Ask God hard questions— (Psalm 10:1, 22:1, 44:23-26, 77)

“The Psalms create space for believing doubt.” Mark Gignilliat

How can the church respond?

- Gift of _____ - Romans 12:15
- _____ presence - Job 2:13
- _____ Ear - James 1:19
- _____ -
 - Don't say words without attempting to understand where people are. (Proverbs 10:19)
 - Don't explain God's purposes when you don't know them. (Romans 11:33-36)
 - Don't immediately quote Romans 8:28.
 - Don't ignore the Father (Ephesians 5:22-33)