

2.1 Christianity Beliefs

2.1.1 Nature of God

Omnipotent and omnibenevolent

- It is important for Christians to believe in a powerful and loving God because only such a God is worthy of worship.
- A being who is anything less than all-powerful and all-loving is not worthy of worship, and could not be the God Christians believe in.
- 'Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."' [Mark 10: 27 NIV].

The problem of evil

- For some Christians, the belief in God as omnipotent and omnibenevolent raises problems because of the evil and suffering in the world.

Monotheism and the Trinity

- Monotheism is the belief that there is only one God.
- Christians believe in one God who has revealed himself as 3 persons (the Trinity):
 - The Father.
 - The Son.
 - The Holy Spirit.

Loss of faith

- When they see suffering, some Christians wonder why God created a world with so much potential for suffering and why he doesn't stop it.
- This threatens ideas of God as omnibenevolent and omnipotent: if God was omnibenevolent then he would want to prevent evil and suffering, and if he was omnipotent then he would be able to do so.
- This can even lead to a loss of faith for some Christian believers.
- Some suffering is the evil action of human beings, such as violence and injustice: moral evil.
- Some Christians say that moral evil is the result of human free will, which God has given to all human beings. Sometimes they use this freedom to do good things and sometimes to do evil.
- They also believe that without free will humans would not be able to have a freely chosen relationship with God.