

# In Loss and Pain: *How to Show Sympathy and Comfort*

Ancient City Baptist Church—Fred O. Pitts  
Sunday Morning, March 13, 2022

## ***Job 1-3***

Job endured loss upon loss. His friends wanted to show sympathy and comfort. How did they do? Let's note what they did right, what they did wrong, and look to God for other insights regarding showing sympathy and comfort to our friends.

### ***What to do...***

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **along with them.** (2.12; Romans 12.15)

2. **Don't be afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ .** (2.13)

- Your \_\_\_\_\_ speaks loudly enough!
- Rule of thumb: When in doubt, \_\_\_\_\_ !

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **when you can, sharing God's comfort.**

- What is this? See 2 Corinthians 1.3-7
- Warning: Be careful of saying, "I \_\_\_\_\_ how you \_\_\_\_\_."

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **when you can't empathize.**

- What is the difference?
- One is feeling \_\_\_\_\_, the other is feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

5. **Deal carefully with questions of " \_\_\_\_\_ ???"**

*Would it really help now? BUT... "We don't always know why..."*

- ... but we trust that God will take care of us."
- "...but I *do* know that God will use this experience to grow our faith and will bring some good out of it." (Job 42.1-6; Philippians 3.10-11; Romans 5.3-5; 8.28)
- "... but God will ultimately bring an end to all evil and set things right, but right now we live in a fallen world." (Psalm 73)
- "... but if there *is* a reason from God, he will make it known. I don't believe that everything happens for a reason, but I strongly believe that God is so strong that he *puts* reason in everything that happens." (Romans 8.28)

***To sum it up:* \_\_\_\_\_, and speak with care.**

***What NOT to do...***

**1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ to mixed emotions expressed.**

- Job 3

**2. Don't turn \_\_\_\_\_ into absolutes.**

- This can make a person \_\_\_\_\_.
- It can also serve to \_\_\_\_\_ his or her faith in God.
- See Psalm 73 for one among many clear passages of Scripture: What does it teach?

**3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ clear sin.**

- Lead them to God, for only he can \_\_\_\_\_.

**4. Be careful in saying, "It was \_\_\_\_\_."**

- Many things happen in this world that are not his desire!
- We must admit that we do not know everything.
- When we don't understand, we must learn to \_\_\_\_\_ God.

***Caregiving in times of loss and pain is full of pitfalls, but it is also a vitally needed ministry. Let's all ask God to give us the wisdom to help those in need of care!***