

*[Follow up question] ...Why would God tempt someone with sin? Everything could have stayed perfect if he didn't set up the tree in the garden. Why put them in that place if I know the outcome? The sacrifice and sin could have been avoided. Even if we were robotic at least we'd live harmony. Isn't this a bit selfish to go through all of this just so that you can be the center of attention?*

Whereas man's heart is evil (Jer 17:9), God's heart is good (Ps 31:19). When one sins, he is drawn away by his own lust (Jas 1:14).

Parents lay down house rules for their kids and God does the same for his children for their good and the good of the household (Is 9:6, Jas 1:17). God tests the heart (Jer 12:3). Men must overcome: the world, the flesh and the devil (Eph 2:1-3).

God chose to give man a will because love is the most valuable thing in the universe—it must be freely given (Ge 2:17). God will not force an individual to love him (Josh 24:15).

Jesus prayed to the Father: "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will (Mt 26:39)." This was the way that the triune God decided men would be saved. Love kept the Lord on the cross for man's redemption (v. 53). Jesus suffered because of the joy he knew would be his (He 12:2c).

God had a perfect relationship within the Godhead (Ge 1:1–3, 26). He did not need mankind. He loves each person; but he will live without one who will not humble himself before him (Is 57:15).

Worship is the natural response to knowing God. He is: living, personal, relational, good and loving.

David wrote:

With the merciful you show yourself merciful;  
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;  
with the purified you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. Ps 18:25–26

Lange and Moll wrote:

God deals with men according to their character; or that He will adapt His providential dealings to the conduct of men. They will find Him to be such towards them as they have shown themselves to be towards Him." Delitzsch: "The truth here expressed, is not that the idea which man forms of God is constantly the mirror of his soul, but that the dealing of God with men is the mirror of the relation in which God puts Himself to him."—C. A. B.]<sup>1</sup>

All that God does is right (Ps 89:14) and good (Ps 31:19).

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<sup>1</sup> Lange, J. P., Schaff, P., Moll, C. B., Briggs, C. A., Forsyth, J., Hammond, J. B., ... Conant, T. J. (2008). A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Psalms (p. 143). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.