"If God is so loving, why does He allow evil and suffering?"

This is the most common question people have regarding God. Here is an interesting question for you to consider. What do you propose God should do about it? To stop evil and suffering, God would have to stop every act that causes any suffering. To do that, He would have to stop those who cause the suffering (adulterers, liars, murderers, criminals, fornicators, and so on). Wouldn't that mean He would have to put a stop to you and me too? Haven't we, by our own actions, caused some of the suffering that exists in the world? Haven't we hurt people's feelings? My friend, God has not destroyed evil because He would have to destroy us. By permitting evil and suffering to continue, God is actually showing the world mercy.

The Bible says that a day is coming when God will stop evil (2 Peter 3:7-13). He will judge sinners, put them away forever,and create a new heaven and a new earth, where there will no longer be any death, mourning, crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4). In the meantime, God is using the suffering that exists for good (Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:12). Often, when people are suffering, they turn to God and receive the kind of help they truly need.

On Suffering:

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our con-science, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), author and professor. The Problem of Pain (MacMillan, 1962), p. 93.

"Supposing you eliminated suffering, what a dreadful place the world would be! I would almost rather eliminate happiness. The world would be the most ghastly place because everything that corrects the tendency of this unspeakable little creature, man, to feel over-important and over-pleased with himself would disappear. He's bad enough now, but he would be absolutely intolerable if he never suffered."

Malcolm Muggeridge (1903-1990), British author and journalist. Jesus Rediscovered(Doubleday, 1969), pp. 199-200.