

The Problem of EVIL

Why do bad things happen to good people?

If God is all good, why does He allow evil?

If God is all-powerful, why doesn't He destroy evil?

We often talk about:

Evil acts (**murder, rape**)....evil people (**Charles Manson**)....

Evil books (**pornography**).....evil events (**tornadoes**)....evil sickness (**cancer, blindness**)

but what makes these things evil?

How would you respond to this line of reasoning?....

1. God is the creator of everything
2. Evil is a thing
3. Therefore, God created evil

Define evil: evil is _____ a created thing. Evil is a _____ of good. It is a _____ in something that should be _____.

What makes us (or Satan) sin or commit evil? Our own _____.
Joshua 24:15 Ezekiel 28:11-17 & Isaiah 14:12-15

What about the rest of the created world....like mountains, insects, wind, animals, etc? The creation around us has become _____ to our evil.....Romans 8:19-23.....Revelation 21:1,4 & 22:3

Can evil be stopped?

How would you respond to this argument?.....

1. If God was all-good, He *would* destroy evil.
2. If God is all-powerful, He *could* destroy evil.
3. But evil is not destroyed.
4. Therefore, there is no such God.

Consider the following:

- 1) If you destroy evil, you will destroy _____.
- 2)...so we need to talk about _____ evil, not _____ it.
- 3)...just because evil isn't _____ yet, doesn't mean that it won't _____ be overcome.
- 4) Because He would have to destroy _____ & _____ with it....

What then is the purpose of evil?

- 1) We can't assume that there is no good _____ for evil just because we don't know what it is.
- 2) We know sometimes God uses evil or pain to warn us of a _____ evil or pain.
- 3) Some evil brings about a _____ good.
- 4) _____ some evil actually helps to _____ evil.
- 5) Sometimes evil is a _____ - _____ of a good thing or purpose.

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Consider these points;

- 1) Some _____ is brought on by our own free choice. The choice to abuse my body can result in sickness. The choice to choose a certain job can result in working long hours or not making much financially.
- 2) Some suffering can be brought on indirectly by free choice. _____ can result in poverty.
- 3) Some _____ to others can result from free choice, as in child or spousal abuse.
- 4) Others suffer _____ because of our free choice. Alcoholism can lead to poverty of one's children.
- 5) Some _____ evil may be a necessary byproduct of a good process. Rain, hot air & cool air are all necessary for food & life but a byproduct of these forces is a tornado. Water is necessary for life but you can drown in it.
- 6) Some physical evil may be a _____ condition for attaining a greater moral good. God uses pain to get our attention. Many have progressed morally & spiritually & have come to God thru suffering. Diamonds are formed under pressure, so is character.

How would you respond to this argument?.....

1. God knows everything.
2. God knew evil would occur when He created the world.
3. God had other non-evil possibilities. He could have ;
 - A. Not created anything
 - B. Created a world without free creatures
 - C. Created free creatures that would not sin
 - D. Created free creatures who would sin but would all be saved in the end
4. Hence, God could have created a world that did not need evil or hell.

Let's study each of these possibilities: #1 & #2 are true....

3A): This _____ assumes that _____ is better than something.

3B): There cannot be a morally good world if people don't have _____.

3C): It's hard to call a choice free when there is no _____.

3D): This assumes that God can manipulate us to choose _____.

Why then did God create this particular world?

This is not the best conceivable world, but it is the best way to the best _____ world.

The ultimate goal of a perfect world with _____ people will have been achieved, but the way to get there requires that those who abuse their freedom be separated from those who didn't.