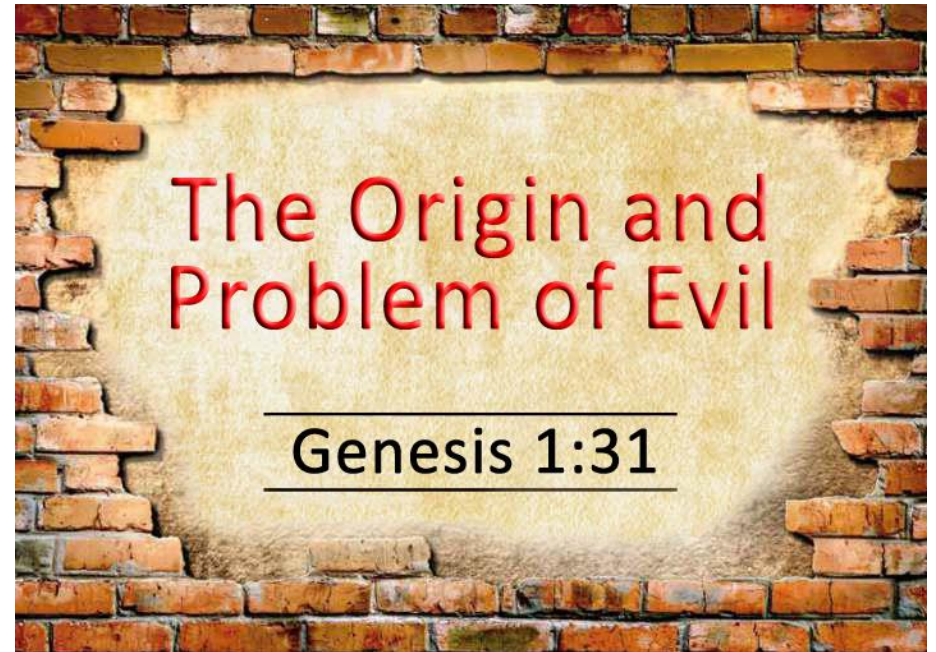


Personal Application and Conversations

1. When you experience an unkind comment or action, what would a typical reaction be? Why? **Jude 9**
2. Why is it that so many don't finish the verse, "All things work together for good..." Look up the *rest* of that verse! **Rom 8:28**
See also Prov 17:13 – "Whoever regards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house!"
3. What kind of person could possibly have every thought be continuously evil? (Gen. 6:5) "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." **Mat. 24:37**
4. Discuss the possible "good" that could come from losing a loved one or young child to a sickness or congenital mutation.
Mk 5:41; Jn 11:33,38; Jn 11:35; Lk 19:41
5. What are some of the challenges you've heard from those who question your faith? Did you feel you let the Lord down by being unprepared with an answer? **Acts 19:13-16**
6. In not wanting to offend, why is it we keep going around the issue and don't really come to the point of the gospel?
1 Cor 15:1-4
7. You are not asked to convince anyone! Only the Holy Spirit can move in a heart to allow understanding, rejection or "I will consider what you've said." Leave the results up to God!
Jn 1:12-13



Dean Ortner, Guest Speaker

May 16, 2021



Have you ever heard this: “How can you be a Christian and believe in a God when in our universe is the presence of evil, babies that die, 9/11, riots and terrorism tragedies? How can a good God who could or would permit evil, yet could destroy it, but He allows it? Why would He create a universe where men could reject Him and end up in a lake of fire for all eternity? “That is a cosmic Nazi.” I heard one guy say. Charles Baudelaire, the French atheist, in looking at the universe with its evil said, If there is a God, He is my Devil. If the universe is as the universe was and shall be, I don’t want any part of this God.

References: Is 45:7, 13; Deut 29:29; Jn 11:33, 38; Jn 11:35;
2 Pet 2:9; Rom 11:33-36; Neh 9:16-17; 1Jn 3:10; Jude 11

Four Worldly Views on the Origin of Evil

Pantheistic Monism: “Pan” *theos*, or everything is god,
“Mono” *one*, or everything is one.

Problem: *Evil is not Evil, it is God. If you were wiser you’d know you and God are one looking at it from an enlightened perception.*

Dualism: Persian source of Zoroastrianism is dualism.
A good god and an evil god, both equal and co-extensive and battle it out. Good side and Bad side of the Force.

Problem: *Can’t know which side is good or bad without a higher authority eternally good or bad declaring it. “Building hospitals, orphanages is bad!”*

Naturalism: Naturalist or evolutionist, what is evil?
Words that can no longer be in your vocabulary:
evil, guilt, sin, right or wrong, etc.

Problem: *Words redefined: evil is dysfunctional, sociological, a biochemical malfunction. Sociopath eats people. He needs to be taught to eat hamburger.*

Deist: What a deist is now is chicken atheism/religion.
God made man; man sinned so that’s origin of evil.

Problem: *Too cold, too removed. God wound up clock and left town. Morphed into transcendentalism. Can’t live in real world. Dinosaurs.*

Bible’s Revelation on the Origin of Evil

“If Christianity were not true, we must live like it is because it is the only belief that will work consistently out in the world.” --C. S. Lewis

Nature: *The problem here is the idea that evil is a “something.”*

God: Ultimate Good → Logical Hypothesis → Satan: Ultimate Evil
GOOD OPPOSITE IS EVIL ACTIVATOR

Is. 45:7 – “I **form** the light, and **create** darkness, – **Is. 14:12-15**

I **make** peace, and **create** evil.”
 (“**yatsar**”) (“**bara**”) | (“**ra**” n. or “**ra’ a’**” fig.)

Luke 10:17-20 Never existed! | Morally bad | good for nothing

God purposes to use evil in His ultimate plan for His creation.

Origin: *God is perfect, but allowed evil, therefore He’s not perfect!*

Man created innocent in God’s Image: Intellect, Emotion and Will.

Not **sovereign** in freedom, but a free agent **within boundaries**.

Now with an agent (Satan) evil is no longer a logical hypothesis, or an ontological parasite. (Ontology: “*ontas*”-“*being*”) the study of existence. God, originator by default (parity) of His opposite nature, instituted and purposed evil through the “Activator” to expose evil for what it is.

Purpose: *No good purpose for evil, therefore He can’t be a good God.*

A person’s life character is molded by pain, suffering and loss. Satan meant it for evil, God used it for good. Sugary existence lacks depth.

Our daughter played “Jesus Loves Me” on all the white keys. Nice, but shallow. With the black keys it was dissonant, but both gave depth.

Pain can keep us from far greater pain if we wander off His path.

God will not allow us to be too comfortable in this life. He wants us home.

Persistence: *If God is all powerful and good, He could and would get rid of evil. It’s still here. He must not be all powerful and good.*

Why doesn’t God get rid of evil now? Okay, let’s start with you! Or, have God change everyone into flowers or puppies, or robots. Zap goes His images and any fellowship in Heaven. You’d have no real freedom. Turn bullets into marshmallows, knives into macaroni, but no character changes. Time for repentance allowing His grace, mercy and patience to work.

“...God is ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness...” **Nehemiah 9:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9; Rom 11:33-36; Rev 6:9-11**