

The Problem of Sin

LifeLab #2

Icebreaker Exercise

I'm going to list off several things and you yell out, "good" or "evil."

God, Bible, Devil, sexual abuse, famine, snow, computers, you

Why Does Evil Exist in God's World?

Three Truths

1. God is good.
His character is good (Ps 100:5)
His actions are good (Gen. 1:31)
2. God is all-powerful.
Jer. 32:18
3. The world is evil.
1 John 2:15

How can all these be true?

There is no true love without choice.

1. God is sovereign.
2. Mankind has free choice.

Three Reasons Why Evil Exists

1. God's Will: Because God allows evil.
 - a. He made a world in which evil could exist (see Genesis 3: tree of knowledge; Satan; free will)
 - A world governed by natural laws (e.g. gravity, mass, etc.)
 - A world impacted by sin
 - b. God allows evil to continue to exist.

Ps. 81:12
Lev. 5:17

2. Satan's Influence: Because Satan afflicts evil.

Satan twists that which is God's creation and seeks to use it for evil: the weather (Job), ambition, sex, speech.

Satan cannot create anything — he can only twist that which is already created.

Satan is not the opposite of God, he is a created being. Satan is powerful, but he is limited.

Satan: A Very Brief Biography

1. He was an angel in heaven (Rev. 12:3-9; 9:11).
2. He fell from heaven due to pride (Rev. 12:7-9; Is. 14:12-15).
3. He has been giving limited freedom to influence the earth (he must ask God's permission: Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Lk. 22:31).
4. He is condemned to eternal destruction (Rev. 20:10).

3. Mankind's Choice: Because We Accept Evil

- a. Evil began with them (Adam and Eve; see Gen. 2:17; 3:23; Rom. 5:12).

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

The main consequence of sin is death.

- *physical death*
- *spiritual death*

Definition of Sin:

- To miss the mark
- Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature — Wayne Grudem

The effects of sin:

- Twists our knowledge — "What is true?" "*you will not die*"
- Twists our moral standards — "What is right?" "*she saw the tree was good for food*"
- Twists our self understanding — "Who am I?" "*be like God*"
- Twists our ability to think rationally — Ps 14:1 "*there is no God*"

- b. Evil is present in me (Rom. 3:9-12).

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

We inherit a sin nature from Adam.

Ps 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties — but right through every human heart. —Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Our Sin Nature

Our Struggle with Temptation

James 1:13-15

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Romans 7:14-25

Why Does God Continue to Allow Evil?

1. He already defeated evil (1 Cor. 15:57; Col. 2:15).
2. He is patient (1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

References

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Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Holladay, Tom & Kay Warrren. *Foundations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.