

## Doctrine of Evil

1. Evil is universal and has been committed by individuals in every era.
  - *Acts 7:6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.*
  - *Acts 7:19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.*
  - *Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:*
  
2. It is possible for some individuals to influence others so that their mind becomes evil [*kakoo* (kak-o'-o)] in the sense they want to hurt others.
  - *Acts 14:2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.*
  
3. Paul Speaks of those who invented evil things
  - *Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*
  
4. When the gospel is rejected the heart will cause harsh thoughts to be uttered to revile [*kakologeo* (kak-ol-og-eh'-o)] both the message and the messenger.
  - *Acts 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of That Way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.*
  
5. Evil spirits are degenerate [*poneros* (pon-ay-ros')] by nature though well informed on the person of Jesus Christ and His bonified ministers. Therefore, it is dangerous to tamper with an evil spirit for if they do not recognize authority they will turn on a person and prevail.
  - *Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*
  - *Acts 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*
  
6. The Christian is to speak respectfully of the ruler of people who ever that ruler might be. It is the will of God.
  - *Acts 23:5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil [i.e., badly, *kakos* (kak-oc'e')] of the ruler of thy people.*

7. Upon examination it is possible for a believer to be found innocent of evil or worthless behavior [*kakos* (kak-os')].
  - *Acts 23:9 And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.*
8. The Christian can and should live in such a way they invite close examination. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Write my life across the sky."
  - *Acts 24:20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council.*
9. Paul invokes a curse upon every soul that doeth evil in the form of moral depravity [*kakos* (kak-os')].
  - *Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;*
10. In order to promote grace the Christian must never advocate a life of sin or the practice of evil [*kakos* (kak-os')]. Not understanding the doctrine of grace the critics of Paul declared he was teaching people to do wrong that good might come out of it.
  - *Romans 3:8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? Whose damnation is just.*
11. The heart of the believer struggles with inward corruptions.
  - *Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil [*kakos* (kak-os')] that I would not, that I do.*
  - *Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*
12. The salvation of the soul does not depend on how much good or evil a person does but the sovereign choice of a holy, righteous and sovereign God.
  - *Romans 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)*
13. The believer is to abhor anything which is evil or influential in causing degeneracy from original virtue [*poneros* (pon-ay-ros')].
  - *Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

14. The Christian is forbidden to engage in hurtful acts as a form of retaliation.

- *Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*
- *Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.*

15. To help check the expressions of evil God has ordained government.

- *Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*
- *Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

16. The tenderhearted Christian is to help the weaker brother so that Christian freedom is not spoken of in a negative manner.

- *Romans 14:15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of.*
- *Romans 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.*

17. While some individuals are mature in evil, Paul desires the believer be innocent and even naïve in matters that pertain in what amounts to worthless [kakos (kak-os')] behavior.

- *Romans 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.*

18. The stories of the Old Testament in general and the wilderness experiences of the Hebrew people are taught to illustrate why the believer should not have intense desires after worthless evil [kakos (kak-os')] things. The toys of time such as money, food, clothing and sensual pleasures are to be enjoyed. They were never meant to enslave the soul.

- *1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*

19. Paul warns the believer not to speak in a vicious [evil, *blasphemeo* (blas-fay-meh'-o)] manner against someone who simply uses his or her Christian liberty.

- *1 Corinthians 10:30 For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?*
20. People sometimes say they “love” someone else and then speak evil of them. Whatever the words are intended to convey love is not being expressed.
- *1 Corinthians 13:5 [Love] doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no ill or harm [i.e., evil, kakos (kak-os')].*
21. The Christian is not to be deceived that words have no effect on a person’s character. They do. Because beliefs, behavior and conversation affect character, there is no secret sinning.
- *1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*
22. Paul was the victim of the tongue of the slanderer.
- *2 Corinthians 6:8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;*
23. Christians should pray for one another that they do no evil as Paul prayed for the believers in the city of Corinth.
- *2 Corinthians 13:7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.*
24. When the question is asked, “Jesus, why did you die?” part of the answer is that He might deliver some from this present evil world – for evil the world is.
- *Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*
25. Time and again the Lord commands Christians to put away evil speaking.
- *Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*
26. As the heart is evil, as the world is evil so the days are evil making it necessary to redeem the time.
- *Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are hurtful [evil ponerous (pon-ay-ros')].*
27. By the whole armour of God, without a piece being missing, the believer can stand against evil.
- *Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

28. The believer is not to be ignorant of the fact there are worthless or evil [kakos (kak-os')] workers in the world and in the church.

- *Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.*

29. It is the will of God that the believer mortify or put to death those spiritual inclinations in the heart including “evil concupiscence” [*epithumia* (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah)] which refers to an intense longing for what is forbidden. Christian responsibility for sanctification is clearly involved in the process of mortification.

- *Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

30. The life of a Christian is to be lived so there is no appearance of evil or hurtful wrongdoing.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

31. Though Christians have a responsibility in the process of sanctification, ultimately it is the Lord who will establish the heart and keep the soul from evil.

- *2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*

32. In very graphic language Paul describes the person who rejects doing God’s work God’s way and the consequences that follow.

- *1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,*

33. In his pastoral epistle Paul traces the source of much evil to an inordinate desire for money.

- *1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

34. Christians are sometimes accused of being an “evildoer” when they are innocent. Nevertheless, the believer can rejoice that the Word of God freely goes forth.

- *2 Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.*

35. There is a natural downward bend to evil so that apart from redeeming grace individuals grow worse and worse.

- *2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

36. Paul named specifically before the church individuals who did him much evil.

- *2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*

37. Paul believed that ultimately and finally the Lord would deliver him from those who wanted to hurt him, not in time but in eternity.

- *2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

38. Thoughtful non-Christians recognize the natural depravity of the human heart.

- *Titus 1:12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*

39. The Christian is to strive to live in such a way that no one may be able to say anything evil against their life and make the charge stay.

- *Titus 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*
- *1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

40. No matter how tempting or deserving harsh comments may be it is the will of the Lord to speak evil of no man.

- *Titus 3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.*
- *James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

41. The professing Christian is to take heed, to examine the heart to make sure there is no unbelief residing in it leading to a departure from the Lord.

- *Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

42. The mature believer is characterized by an ability to discern both good and evil.

- *Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

43. The blood of Christ cleanses the conscience.

- *Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

44. Because God cannot be tempted with evil He will never tempt anyone to evil. It is an attack on His holiness to suggest otherwise.

- *James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

45. Most people have a sense of right and wrong, of what is just and what is evil.

- *James 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

46. The apostle James laments how evil the tongue can be apart from sanctifying grace.

- *James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

47. From petty jealousies and strife comes many evil results.

- *James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

48. Christians are forbidden to boast and even worse to be proud of their boasting.

- *James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.*

49. In very simple language the Christian is told to take off like a garment anger, deceit, hypocrisy, jealousies and evil comments.

- *1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

50. A blessing is promised the Christian who does not return evil for evil.

- *1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

51. The way to enjoy life is to guard the lips.

- *1 Peter 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:*

- *1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.*

52. The face of God is turned against those who do evil or hurt others.

- *1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

53. Sometimes it is the will of God that a believer suffer for doing well. That is better than having to suffer for doing evil.

- *1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

54. The unconverted and the unsanctified think it is strange when the mature believer does not unite with them in unholy acts and so resort to speaking evil.

- *1 Peter 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

55. When individuals begin to act badly the first casualty is truth.

- *2 Peter 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

56. It is wrong to speak evil of those ordained of God to rule in government.

- *2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*
- *Jude 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

57. Because individuals are hostile to the gospel and to the doctrines of grace evil is spoken of the things not understood.

- *2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*
- *Jude 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.*

58. Murder lies in the heart of those whose works are evil.

- *1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

59. Christians are not to invoke the blessing of God on those who err in doctrine.

- *2 John 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

60. A sign of salvation is to forsake that which hurts others and seek to do good.

- *3 John 11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.*

61. The church is commended when it does not bear with those who are evil.

- *Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.*