

Doctrine of God

The Problem of Evil

1. Christianity has been objected to by the presence of evil.
2. The argument is that Christianity presents God as omnipotent and good. Nevertheless, there is evil. "How can this be?"
3. If God is omnipotent and good, surely He would do something about evil.
4. Since evil persists, either God is not good, because He allows it, or, God is not omnipotent, and cannot do anything to stop evil.
5. The flaw in this argument is evident. The Bible teaches that evil entered into the world because of sin.
 - *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
6. Sin was no surprise to God. Sin, and the evil it produces, is part of the plan of God. The proof of God's omniscience concerning sin, and His sovereignty over sin, and evil, is found in the Biblical revelation that before the foundation of the world, it was decreed that Christ would die a substitutionary death. Christ was "slain", in the Plan of God, before the foundation of the world.
 - *1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*
 - *Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*
7. The goodness, justice, and righteousness of God are set forth in Scripture, along with the promise to redeem the world to come.
 - *2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*
 - *Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

8. Pain and suffering is but for a short period of time. It does not compare to the glory that is to come.
- *Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
9. Concerning the origin of evil, or how evil entered into a moral universe, that remains a mystery.
10. Why God has allowed sin has not been revealed. What is revealed is that the thoughts and ways of God are way beyond human comprehension.
- *Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
11. What is certain is that God anticipated it, incorporated it into His decrees, and uses it for a greater end. The principle of Romans 8:28 is sustained.
- *Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
12. What is certain is that God will triumphant over evil, for Christ already has defeated evil, manifested in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension into heaven, session, and eternal reign.
- *Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
13. The critics of Christianity look at the Crusades, the Inquisition, the persecution of Galileo, and dismiss it.
14. However, on the other side of the ledge is the good that Christianity has done, reflected in the hospital movement, the charity of the church, the education movement, the orphanages, the abolition of slavery, the exaltation of women, the reform movements against drunkenness, child abuse, pornography, and abortion. Much of the scientific revelation was produced through men of faith.
- Nicholas Copernicus 1473 – 1543
 - Sir Francis Bacon 1561 – 1627
 - Johannes Kepler 1571 – 1630
 - Galileo Galilei 1564 – 1642
 - Rene Descartes 1596 – 1650
 - Blaise Pascal 1623 – 1662

- Isaac Newton 1642 – 1727
- Robert Boyle 1791 – 1867
- Michael Faraday 1791 – 1867

15. There is a huge difference to be seen between the influence of Christianity on culture, and the influence of barbarians on culture.