

## THE PROBLEM OF EVIL IS A PROBLEM:

If God is good then why does He permit evil and human suffering?  
i.e. the corona virus

Reference: **miscellaneous Scripture**

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According to research from the evangelical pollster organization, the Barna Group, the number one question on people's minds is: why does all this evil and suffering exist? One of the most often mentioned arguments against Christianity is this problem of evil and human suffering.

The age-old conundrum: Either God wants to stop evil and suffering, but He \_\_\_\_\_; or else God could stop evil and suffering, but He \_\_\_\_\_.

QUESTION: If there is a good God then why does evil exist? If God is so good then why doesn't He stop evil?

Consider these three axioms to help us answer this question:

STATEMENT ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

Most Christian apologists divide evil into two separate classifications: \_\_\_\_\_ Evil and \_\_\_\_\_ Evil.

**Definition: Moral evil** is evilness (resulting in human suffering) from \_\_\_\_\_ acting as free moral agents, meaning people **choose** to do evil things.

One argument states that, since God created all things, then God must have created evil. NO! God can only act consistent with Himself and His essential nature as God, and God is the ultimate good.

References: **Genesis 1:31, Psalm 5:4, James 1:13; Psalm 31:19, 34:8, 100:5, 106:1, 119:68** (see screen)

God had two options:

- God could have created robotic creatures that \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
- God could create non-robotic creatures that are free to \_\_\_\_\_ to sin or \_\_\_\_\_ not to sin.

God chose to create creatures that are **free to choose** because, unless a creature is **free to choose**, then he cannot experience God in a meaningful relational sense!  
Reference: **I John 4:8** (see screen)

The problem is the capacity to choose includes the capacity to choose \_\_\_\_\_.

Examples: Lucifer (Satan), Adam and Eve, and us

Reference: **I John 4:4** (see screen)

**Definition: Natural evil** is evilness (that results in human suffering) from \_\_\_\_\_ that is most often **independent** from man.

Both moral evil and natural evil are a consequence from \_\_\_\_\_ **sin**.

Reference: **Romans 8:22**

**Definition: Supernatural evil** is evilness from \_\_\_\_\_ and his demonic entities (that result in human suffering).

References: **I John 5:19** (see screen)

**Definition: Eternal evil** is all the evilness that will exist in the eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

STATEMENT TWO: \_\_\_\_\_ exists.

Some people argue that the fact that evil and human suffering exist is actual proof that God doesn't exist. This is the premise for that deductive argument:

ARGUMENT:

**One:** IF God is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (omnibenevolent), then God **would** prevent evil and suffering.

**Two:** IF God is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (omnipotent), then God **could** prevent evil and suffering.

**Three:** IF God is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (omniscient), then God **knows** how to prevent evil and suffering.

**Four:** BUT evil \_\_\_\_\_.

**Five:** THEREFORE, either God is **not** all-good (or) God is **not** all-powerful (or) God is **not** all-knowing, OR else God \_\_\_\_\_!

People so often mention the problem of evil as an argument against God's existence; but, then those same people *never consider the evil in themselves*.

Reference: **Mark 7:20-23** (see screen)

I contend that God does exist. God is all good, and God is all powerful, and God is all knowledgeable; but for reasons primarily known to Him (except those reasons He had revealed to us in Scripture), God chooses to permit evil and human suffering to exist. Because God exists, God is Himself the \_\_\_\_\_ that determines good and evil.

**PREMISE:** Unless there is an infinite reference point that describes good, then it is impossible to differentiate between good and evil.

The argument from atheists is that the problem of evil negates the existence of God: but it doesn't. The problem of evil actually does just the exact opposite. The problem of evil is evidence that God does exist because we wouldn't know evil was evil if God didn't exist.

**Question:** If God doesn't exist, then how do we determine what is evil and what isn't evil?

**Answer:** If there is no God, then our personal subjective \_\_\_\_\_ are the only basis we have to object to that suffering; and if we're upset, then we're upset because we just don't like it. Every moral judgment presupposes a moral standard, and atheists don't have that moral standard.

STATEMENT THREE: God is \_\_\_\_\_, and He permits evil to exist; and sometimes He uses that evil to fulfill His purposes.

To be sovereign of something means to be in complete \_\_\_\_\_ of that something. God is the sovereign ruler of this universe, and that means He is in complete and absolute control of all that happens in this entire universe.

References: **Job 23:13; Psalm 103:19; Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 14:27; Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:35** (see screen)

**Definition:** God is sovereign means all that happens in this universe God \_\_\_\_\_ it to happen in a direct sense, or God \_\_\_\_\_ it to happen in an indirect sense; and in both cases **God controls it all**.

**Question:** Why are we going through this pandemic?

**Answer:** God is \_\_\_\_\_ this evil corona virus to do something **good**.

God is sovereign, and He permits evil to exist; and He uses that very evil to fulfill His purposes.

References: **Genesis 6:5, 13, 17; Acts 2:22-23** (see screen)