



Why Christianity...?
In An Evil World

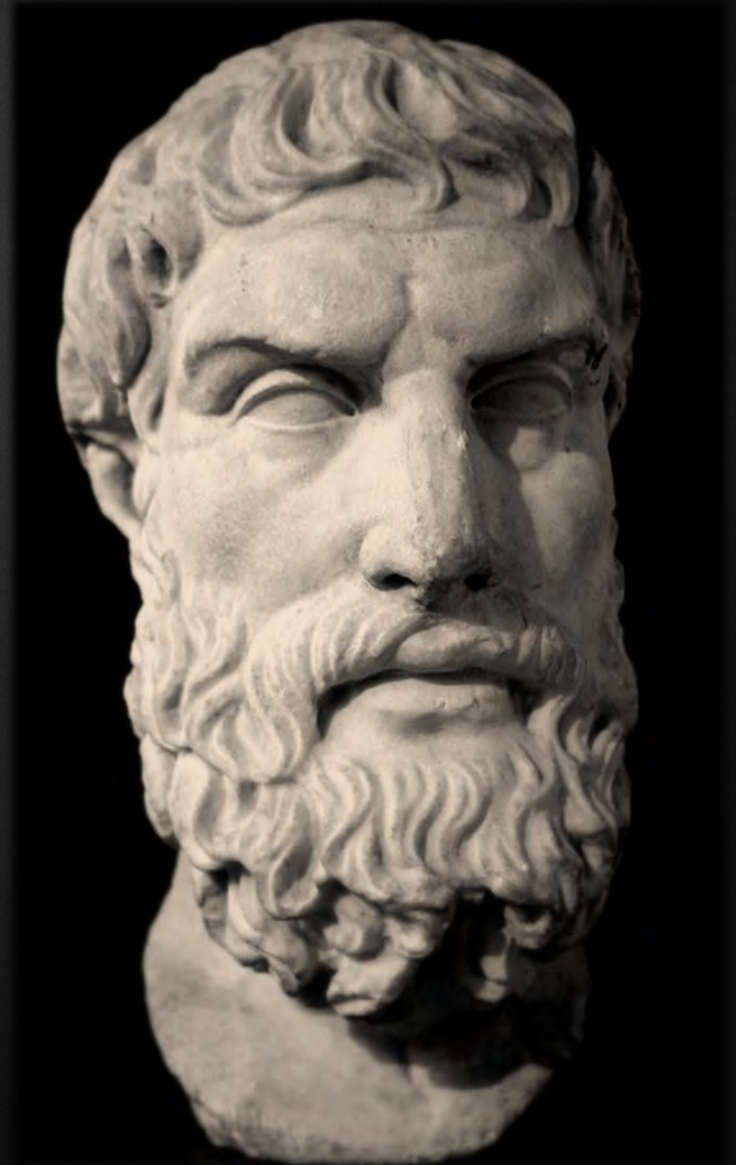
The Essentials of Apologetics

Introduction

The Problem of Evil and the Christian God

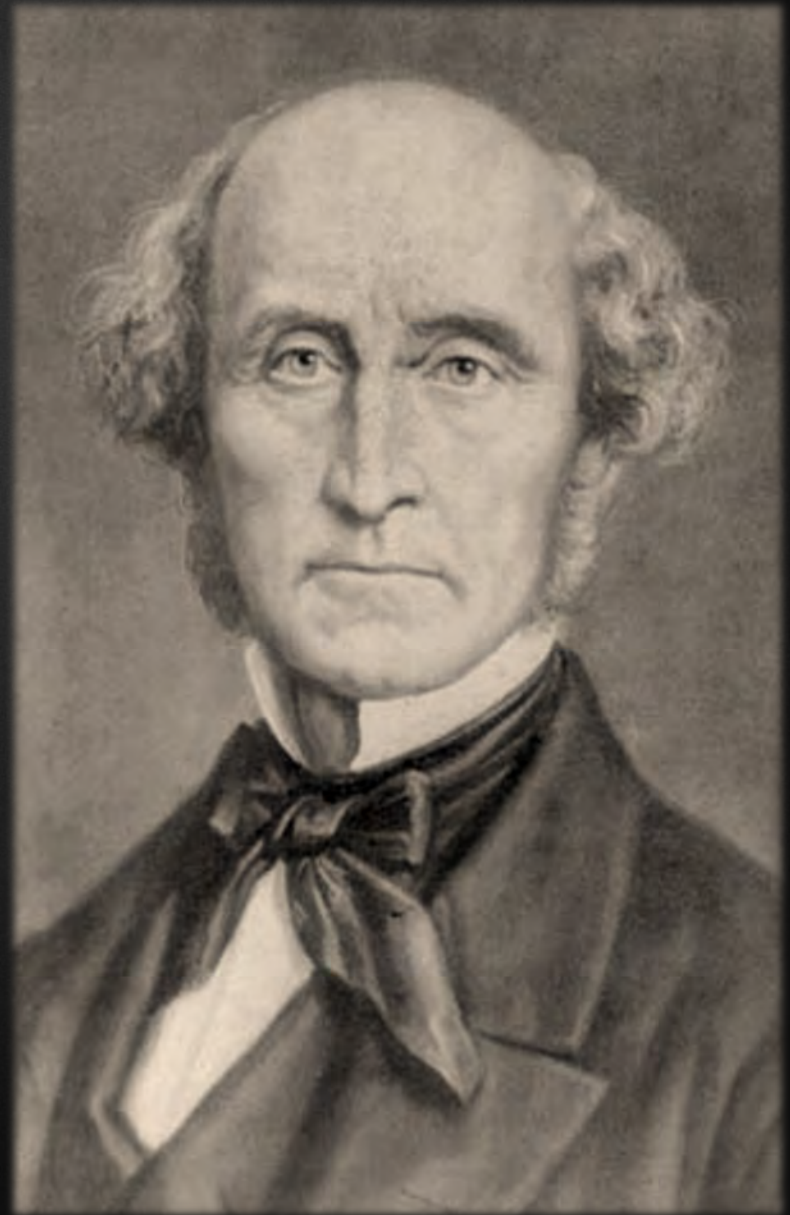


“Is He willing to prevent evil,
but not able? Then He is
impotent. Is He able, but not
willing? Then He is malevolent.
Is He both able and willing?
Whence then is evil? Is He
neither willing or able? Then
why call Him God?”
– Epicurus



- If God were all powerful, He could destroy evil
- If God were all good, He would want to destroy evil
- But evil is not destroyed
- Therefore, an all-powerful and all-good God does not exist

- J. S. Mill



But the Bible Says God is All-Powerful and Good...

- “But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases” (Psalm 115:3)
- “Also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?” (Isaiah 43:13)
- “Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You” (Jeremiah 32:17)
- “The Lord our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done” (Daniel 9:14)
- “For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong” (Isaiah 61:8)
- “Your eyes are too pure to approve evil” (Hab. 1:13)

The Problem of Evil and the Christian God

the·od·i·cy

A vindication of the divine attributes, particularly holiness and justice, in establishing or allowing the existence of physical and moral evil.



What is Evil?

What is evil and what kinds of evil exist?

Evil is a privation or corruption
that exists in something that
was originally good and
perfect.
- Augustine



Evil is signified by the
absence of good.
- Thomas Aquinas



Darkness is the absence
of light

Sickness is the absence
of health

Hate is the absence of
love



WANTED

For Violation of the Proposed Hate Crimes Law
In His Teachings And In His Book "The Bible"



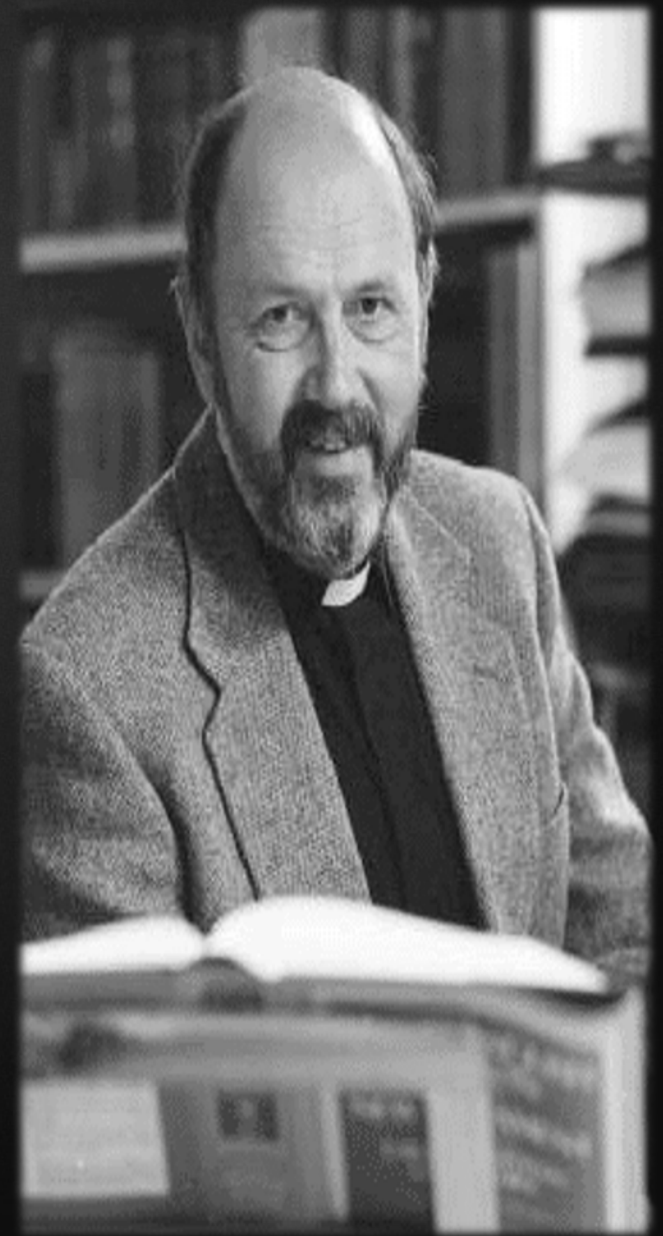
JESUS CHRIST

ALSO KNOWN AS: Lord, Savior, Redeemer, Son of God, Prince of Peace, Messiah
IDENTIFYING MARKS: Scars along forehead in the hands & feet & scar on side
KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Wanted for revealing the truth about homosexuality in "The Bible" and encouraging his followers not to offend God by committing such behavior
Oppose the so-called Hate Crimes bill because it begins to lay the legal foundation and framework to investigate, prosecute and persecute pastors, and other Christians whose actions are based upon, and reflect, the truths found in the Bible.

www.TraditionalValues.org

“This doesn’t mean it’s in any way nebulous or vague or not to be worried about. If there is a hole in the road where I expected solid stone, the fact that there is ‘nothing there’ is very dangerous whether I’m walking, cycling, or driving a car. The fact that a rung is missing halfway down the ladder into the basement is neither nebulous nor vague when I’m feeling my way around in the dark. Evil is then the moral and spiritual equivalent of a black hole.”
- N. T. Wright



WORD STUDY - EVIL

ponēros

“The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.” (Matt. 12:35)

Greek Meaning

- ① Morally or socially worthless
 - ② wicked, evil, bad, base, worthless, vicious, degenerate
 - ③ deficient in quality in a physical sense; being in an unhealthy condition physically
- Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature.

Interpretation & Application

All definitions of the term point to something that has lost its value; there appears to be nothing of worth; nothing to redeem. Part of the word meaning implies a sickness, much like a malignancy that has attached itself to something of worth and is destroying it. Scripture warns many times for a person not to be overtaken and overrun by evil, else it will destroy what goodness is there and leave the person in a state of total destitution.

What Types of Evil Exist?

1. Moral evil - manifests itself in the way humans choose or choose not to do something
2. Natural evil - realized through natural disasters and human disease and sickness



Moral Evil

“When the chips
are down these
‘civilized’ people ...
they’ll eat each
other!”



The Privation That Causes Moral Evil



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

(Galatians 5:22–23)

Natural Evil

“For the creation was subjected to **futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to **corruption** into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”
(Romans 8:20-22)

Notice how the world has been ‘corrupted’ because of sin – a word that expresses a lack or privation.



Did God Create Evil?

Since God created everything, is He the author of evil?

Did God Create Evil?

- God created every substance.
- Evil is not a substance (but a privation in a substance).
- Therefore, God did not create evil.



Did God Create Evil?

- God is perfect.
- An effect must resemble its cause.
- Evil is an imperfection
- Therefore, God could not have caused evil.



From the Westminster Confession



“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin; nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established. God the great Creator of all things does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.” – Chapter III, article I and V.

From Where Did Evil Come?

“You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created **until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, and you sinned**; therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.” (Ezekiel 28:14–16)



“And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven ” (Revelation 12:4)



“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ” (Genesis 3:6)

The Root Cause of Evil

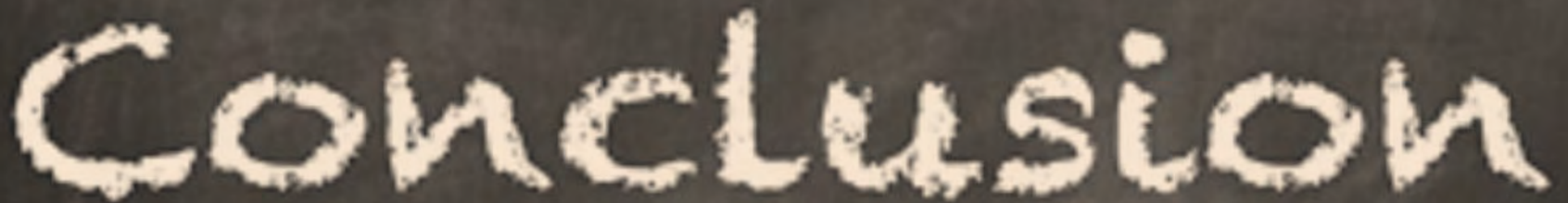


- Every drop of evil – both moral and natural – can be traced back to one thing: **the misuse of freedom**.
- God Himself is free, and He created free creatures.
- Freedom is a very good thing, however freedom allows the ability to act contrary to the good purpose of God.
- This is what Satan and Adam/Eve in a **self-determined**, free way.

Why Does God Allow Evil?

Why would a loving God permit evil to exist?

An Inescapable Conclusion



Conclusion

- An all-powerful, all-good God exists.
- Evil exists.
- Therefore, God has ordained that evil exists.



Christian: “You believe God should rid the world of evil?”

Non-Christian: “Yes, if God existed, he should remove all evil!”

Christian: “What if He starts with you?”

“Such is the generosity of God’s goodness that He has not refrained from creating even that creature which He foreknew would not only sin, but remain in the will to sin. As a runaway horse is better than a stone which does not run away because it lacks self-movement and sense perception, so the creature is more excellent which sins by free will than that which does not sin only because it has no free will.”

- Augustine



“[Let’s say] you’ve been rock climbing and have sustained injuries to your knee. You mention it to a physician friend, who predicts the pain will leave of its own accord. Meanwhile, he says, there’s nothing he can do, short of amputating your leg above the knee to remove the pain, Now the pain in your knee is an evil state of affairs. And it is within the power of your friend to eliminate this evil. Does his failure to do so mean that he is not a good person? Of course not; for he could eliminate this evil only by bringing about another, much worse evil.”
- Alvin Plantinga



Another Reason God Permits Evil

“But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say?” (Rom. 3:5)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8)

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, (Rom. 9:22–23)

“For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” (Rom. 9:17)

Another Reason God Permits Evil

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- The Bible says another reason God allows evil to exist is to demonstrate His righteousness.
- God's justice, power and wrath are made known through the existence of evil.
- God has a purpose for evil, just as in Pharaoh's case, even if we do not see it.

- An Omnibenevolent God has a good purpose for everything
- There is some evil for which we see no good purpose
- Therefore, there is a good purpose for all evil, even if we do not see it

- Norman Geisler





“The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.” (Proverbs 16:4)

Conclusions

Final Thoughts

Does the Existence of Evil Disprove God?

"It used to be widely held that evil was incompatible with the existence of God: that no possible world contained both God and evil. So far as I am able tell, this thesis is no longer defended." - Peter Van Inwagen



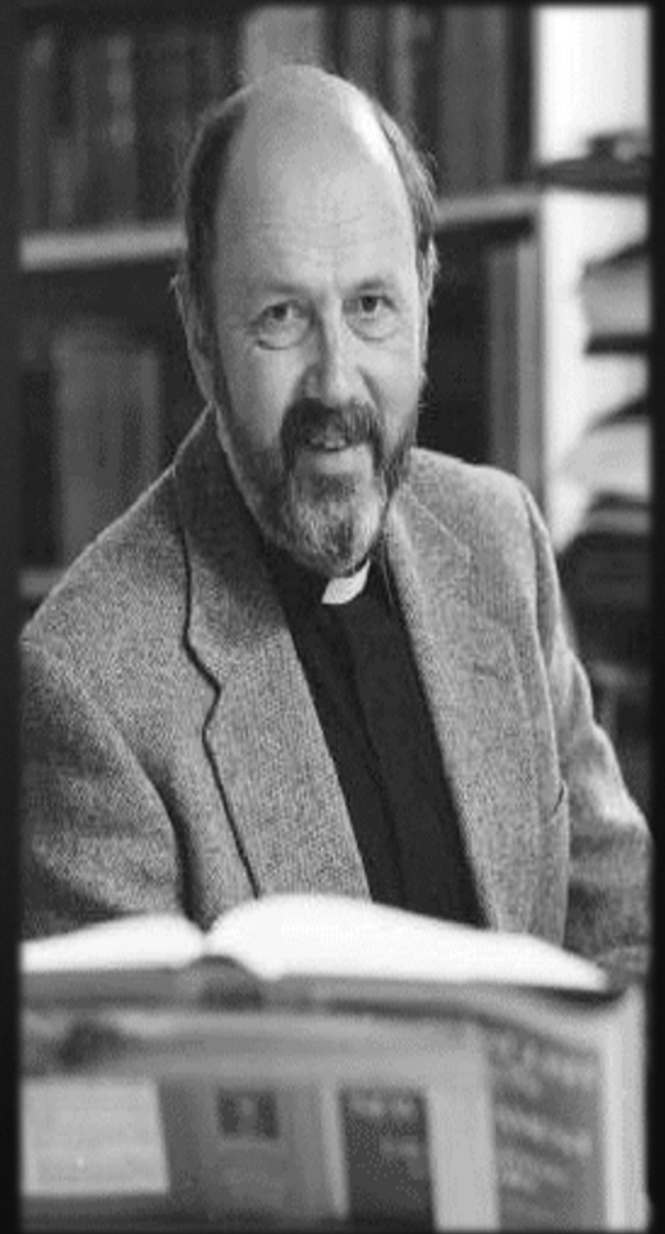
"It is now acknowledged on (almost) all sides that the logical argument [of evil] is bankrupt." – William Alston

Answering Mill and Epicurus

- If God is all-good, He wants to destroy evil
- If God is all powerful, He can destroy evil
- But evil is not destroyed - **yet**
- Therefore, one day, God will destroy evil



“It [the Bible] is written to tell the story of what God has done, is doing and will do about evil.”
- N. T. Wright



The “Why” Question Viewed From Eternity

Sometimes it only takes a few days to understand why...



God lets a man like Lazarus die...

Or an innocent man be crucified...



... but other explanations will have to wait for eternity.

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