

the Problem of Evil

How to Defend Your Faith-Session 6

Atheist William Rowe (1979)

- (1) *There exist instances of intense suffering which an omnipotent, omniscient being could have prevented without thereby losing some greater good or permitting some evil equally bad or worse.*
- (2) *An omniscient, wholly good being would prevent the occurrence of any intense suffering it could, unless it could not do so without thereby losing some greater good or permitting some evil equally bad or worse.*
- (3) *There does not exist and omniscient, wholly good being."*

Questions about Evil

1. Does evil disprove God?
2. Purpose of evil?
3. the Remedy for evil

"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully." – Richard Dawkins the God Delusion

Evil Proves God Exists

Every complaint levied against God requires a objective standard for right and wrong, thus proving the necessity of God.

What is Evil?

Evil is the absence of goodness.

Examples:

(Rust) Take all the rust out of a car you have a nicer car. Take all the car out of the rust, you have nothing.

(Shadow) Light can exist without shadow, but shadow cannot exist without light. Take light away, there is no shadow.

(Cold) Cold is the absence or less heat. You don't make things cold, you remove heat. Without heat, there could be no such thing as cold.

Types of Evil

- Moral Evil
- Natural Evil

Wickedness, suffering and injustice are bad things, but are all bad things evil.

Natural Evil or just Nature

The naturalist believes all natural disasters are just the planet's mechanisms working according to natural laws. Blaming God is absurd for an atheist.

Disasters are bad. However, Natural evil is not really evil, it's just natural.

Moral Evil (Gratuitous Evil)

The Atheist says, *"There exist instances of intense suffering which an omnipotent, omniscient being could have prevented without thereby losing some greater good or permitting some evil equally bad or worse."*

"my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got the idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?" – C.S.Lewis Mere Christianity

The only way we can call something bad or evil is if we know what good, true goodness is.

Our Problem with Death

In the final analysis it really seems to be death that we see as evil or things that lead to death. But if you believe in Jesus, then you know death is only a graduation to eternity. To forever in the presence of our Lord and King Jesus.

Argument of Evil for God

Evil is the absence of goodness. No evil without goodness. Goodness comes from God. Therefore, God must exist.

Our Problem with Bad

Our perspective is the issue, not whether there is a reason or purpose.

"God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

– C.S.Lewis the Problem of Pain

Our Problem with Evil

Atheist says why would God not eliminate all evil. Question are you willing for God to start with you?

"If God would concede me His omnipotence for 24 hours, you would see how many changes I would make in the world. But if He gave me His wisdom too, I would leave things as they are."

– Jacques-Marie-Louis Monsabre

Now would an atheist be convinced by our answers. Probably not. But the fact they believe there is evil is contrary to what they say their worldview is. They show by their protests, that God must be real.
