

WHAT IS "THE PROBLEM OF EVIL"

I. INTRODUCTION

Descriptions of the problem of pain, or the problem of evil.

John Stuart Mill: *"If God desires there to be evil in the world, then he is not _____.* *If He does not desire there to be evil, yet evil exists, then He is not _____.*

II. COMMON SOLUTION: THEODICY

A. Evil is _____ – just an illusion

Charge: Evil is an illusion (Buddhist and Eastern Mysticism).

B. Evil is just good in _____.

C. Dualism: God vs. Satan

Charge: God really wants good, but Satan thwarts his purposes and wants evil.

Response: Satan is not equal in power to God; in fact, he is subject to God
(Ps 115:3, 135:6; Job 1:9-12)

D. We must have evil in order to appreciate _____.

E. Evil is just _____ (post modern)

F. Open Theism ("Christian" compromise)

III. THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE

1. **God is indeed sovereign**

Ps 115:3. Ps 135:6

2. **God is perfectly just and righteous**

Deut 32:4.

3. **Evil is entirely within the sovereignty of God**

Ex 10:1. Acts 2:22-24.

4. **The complete full answer has not been revealed to us by God**

V. WE CAN TRUST GOD AS HE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US

1) **God is the all-powerful _____ of His Universe**

Psalm 115:3. Genesis.

2) **God is in control of *every* aspect of His _____**

Ephesians 1. Colossians 1. Psalm 33:15.

3) **God even orchestrates the _____ of man to glorify himself (yet is not tainted by them)**

Exodus 4:21. The actions of Judas. Pharisees. Pilate.

4) **God is _____ blameworthy for evil that occurs.**

Those who _____ are to blame.

James 1:13-14.

5) **For God is good and holy, and he hates evil**

Habakkuk 1:13. Revelation 4.

6) **God judges us. We do not judge God.**

Romans 9:19-21. Job chapters 38, 39, 40, 41.

7) God will use evil for an _____ purpose

Genesis 50:20. Cross of Jesus.

8) The Bible does sometimes show how God has used evil to advance His purposes:

- Displaying His _____

Romans 3:26, Romans 5:8, Romans 5:20-21, Romans 9:17

- Judgment of evil _____ and _____.

Matthew 23:35, John 5:14. (Job; Luke 13:1-5)

- _____ – Christ’s sufferings on our behalf.

Christ (1 Peter 3:18), Paul (Col 1:24), Believers (2 Tim 3:12)

- Shock value to _____ to gain their attention and change their heart.

Deuteronomy Chapter 8

C.S. Lewis

Zech 13:7-9, Luke 13:1-5, John 9

- Fatherly _____ of believers

Romans 5. Hebrews 12. Luke 13: 1-4

VI. WE SHOULD TRUST THE GOD WHO HAS REVEALED HIMSELF

1.) God Will One Day Put An End To Pain, Suffering & Evil

Revelation 21:1-4:

2.) ****Christians “Answer” to The “Problem of Pain” is Found in Jesus’ Death on the Cross****

His answer is the _____.

John Stott: "I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross...In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?.....There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross which symbolizes divine suffering."¹

3.) God Will Vindicate Himself

- Romans 3:26.
- Ps 73, Ps 37.
- Isa 40:1; Matt 25; Luke 1:51

4.) God Will Never Let His Children Go

Romans 8:28, 35-39

VII. CONCLUSION

For Further Reading

What is the origin of sin? God created all things and they were good. God gave humans (and angels) free will. Sin is rebellion against God – responding to God’s call and promises in a sinful way. God did not create evil but allows evil. There is no external cause of sin, okay, outside the creature. There's no force floating out there that God created. There is no deterministic cause and effect; that is to say, some fatalism. It's just choice. Within God's decree, he allowed for that choice, knew those choices would be made the way they were made, planned that into the decree in order to display both his grace, his wrath, and to put a final and eternal end to sin. Excellent article: <http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/90-235.htm>
