

WHY WE BELIEVE in God Gen 1:27; Rom 2:15; Jn 3:16-21

The Moral Argument for God

1. **It was the killing fields of Cambodia that really opened my eyes...**
 - a. The capital fell to pol pot and the Kemer rouge in 1975.
 - b. By 1979 2 million Cambodians were killed. A quarter of the entire population.
 - c. The killing fields are still there. A friend travelled there and said you can still smell death
 - d. It was the greatest act of genocide ever inflicted in history by a people of it's own population
 2. **The existence of evil is the biggest objection many have against God...**
 - a. If God is good, then why is there evil in the world?
 - b. A good God would want to get rid of evil — a powerful God would be able to...
 - c. Yet evil remains. This is when you hear people say: "That's when I became an atheist"
 3. **But what if their argument against God—is actually the evidence for God?**
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I. THE MORAL ARGUMENT FOR GOD

A. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF MAN

1. **Our moral nature is evidence that we are created in the image of God**
 - a) We are more than just human beings—we are moral spiritual beings.
2. **Objective moral law exists and every human conscience testifies to it!**
 - a) Moral Law is not Cultural or Accidental—it is Universal across all cultures
 - b) It is Within the heart of every human being (**Romans 2:15 NKJ > 2:14-15 NLT**)
3. **Moral Law Requires a Moral Law Giver—but God is more than a law-giver**

Moral Goodness is Defined by God's very Nature...
Goodness is grounded in God's Holiness.

B. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

1. **When we face reality we are forced to admit something terrible has happened in this world... we call it the problem of evil.**
2. **As moral, spiritual beings—we are outraged by evil.**
 - a) Crimes, Fraud, Theft, kidnapping, Murder, Violence.
 - b) We have Laws, Judges, Police and Courts to protect the innocent...
but it seems like a losing battle.
 - c) There are not enough police or judges or courts to protect everyone.

C. THE MORAL OBJECTION TO GOD

1. **If God is so good then why is the world so bad?**
 - a) And if God is so powerful, then why hasn't he stopped it?
 - b) Therefore, God is either not good, or not powerful, or He does not exist.
2. **This has always been the strongest objection atheists have against God.**
 - a) That the existence of evil is proof there is no God.
 - b) And this problem of evil challenges us—the people of God as well.
 - c) Every time an act of evil is committed the question is asked: Where is God?

D. THE ATHEIST DILEMMA

There are 2 Major Problems with the atheist's moral argument against God—that the existence of Evil is proof that God does not exist.

1. FIRST: For the sake of their argument—Lets take God out of the equation

- a) Because that's what they're arguing—the existence of Evil proves God does not exist.
- b) So now we have removed God—Did that fix the problem?

Did removing God make the Evil Go Away?

c) NO! The world is still full of Evil just as bad as before! Nothing has changed...

Removing God from the equation did nothing to eliminate the problem that caused the person to doubt God in the first place!

- d) God is gone but the problem remains—the world is still broken!

So the atheist continues to be plagued with the problem he started with.

2. SECOND: Notice the Irony—now that God is removed from the equation... then there is no good or evil—only survival of the fittest—so the atheist argument against God just collapsed!

- a) the existence of evil that fueled the atheist's rage against God in the first place, is still here—but is now it is re-interpreted by their own worldview an illusion.

b) If there is no God there is no good or evil, just survival of the fittest.

- c) This is exactly what Atheist Richard Dawkins says: “In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and some people are going to get lucky; and you won't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is, and we dance to it's music.” (Richard Dawkins)

3. So the very evil that caused all the righteous indignation against God—is now excused as just an evolutionary struggle of life for survival.

E. THE CRIMES OF ATHEISTS

1. Atheists blame God for evil acts of man committed in the name of religion

- a) Such as those killed during the Crusades in the Middle Ages,
- b) or the Spanish Inquisition... or Salem witch trials.
- c) All of these were wrong—whether it was in the name of religion or of power

2. But they are curiously silent on the crimes committed by fellow atheists

- a) The impact of evil committed by atheists in just a few decades of the 20th century dwarfs any crimes committed in the name of religion in the last 500 years.

“The 20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence.”

- Alister McGrath, “The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World”

3. In the 20th century alone, over 100 million people killed by atheist regimes

- a) The killing fields of the Khmer Rouge, The Gas Chambers of Auschwitz,
- b) the Prison Camps of Soviet Communism, The Police State of North Korea & China
- c) The forced starvation of entire populations by Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot,

4. **The holocaust of 6 million jews that Hitler justified by Darwinian evolution:**
 - a) **Adolf Hitler: “I do not see why man should not be just as cruel as nature.”**
 - b) “If nature does not wish that weaker individuals should mate with the stronger, she wishes even less that a superior race should intermingle with an inferior one; because in all such cases all her efforts, through hundreds of thousands of years, to establish an evolutionary higher stage of being, may thus be rendered futile.”
5. **Notice How Hitler Used “nature” and “evolution” as his guides.**
He used Darwin’s theory of survival of the fittest to justify a master race.
 - a) But Remember This—the Zyclon B of Nazi gas chambers, the ovens of Auschwitz, the killing fields of Cambodia, Anthrax, Napalm, Mustard Gas, biological warfare, chemical warfare, nuclear warfare... NONE of them were created by the Christian Church. —Atheists are silent about the crimes against humanity of atheism
6. **If there is no God—then there is no good or evil, only survival of the fittest**
But deep in the soul—we know that Evil and Good exist.

F. THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL IS THE FATAL FLAW OF ATHEISM¹

1. **The reality of evil in the world does not help the atheist it defeats him.**
 Rather than being evidence against God—Evil in the world is evidence for God
2. **The Atheists argument against God—becomes the moral argument for God**
 - a) If there is no God—then there is no objective morality (no good or evil).
 - b) But there is objective morality (evidenced by evil in the world)
 - c) Therefore there is a God.
3. **The Problem of Evil is only a problem if evil is real.**
 - a) To call something evil is to make a moral judgement.
 - b) Moral judgments require a moral standard—a moral law.
 - c) And a Moral law requires a moral author—a moral law-giver.
 - d) If the moral law is transcendent—the law-giver must be transcendent too.
4. **CS Lewis was once an atheist who believed that evil disproved God:**
 “My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this 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? ...Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies. Thus, in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist - in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless - I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality - namely my idea of justice - was full of sense. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never have known it was dark. Dark would be without meaning.”
5. **In the end: the atheist argument against God is reduced down to:**
God doesn’t exist—but we hate Him.

¹ Gregory Koukl, Street Smarts: Using questions to answer Christianity's Toughest Challenges, p.106ff

G. THE BIBLE EXPLAINS THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL

1. Notice Jesus' Profound Parable of Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24–30)

When asked about it—Jesus gives His divine interpretation (13:36–43)

(1) **Why is Evil in the world?** An Enemy Has done this—

Satan sabotaged what was good.

(2) **Why is Evil Allowed to Continue in the World?** To uproot the bad will also uproot the good—let both grow together for a temporary period of time.

(3) **Why has God delayed the Final Judgement of Evil?**

The Problem of Evil Will Wait Until the Harvest [End of Time] To allow time for more people to be saved. (2 Peter 3:8–9)

(4) **What will happen to Evil:** It Will be Judged and banished so that God's people will never again suffer from the darkness of Evil (Revelation 20:11–15)

2. The existence of evil is not a faith problem for Christianity—it's a central part of a Biblical world-view From Genesis to Revelation—but we still have questions:

a) Augustine (ad 354-430) was a Christian thinker who wrestled with this problem of evil, initially believing that evil imputed the nature of God.

b) He was puzzled over the following argument:²

• God created all things. • Evil is a thing. • Therefore, God created evil

c) But How could God who is good—create evil?

—If the first 2 premises are true then it is inferred that He created evil.

d) But then Augustine realized the 2nd premise is NOT true.

—Even though evil is real—it is not a “thing”.

e) Evil does not exist on it's own. It can only exist if good exists.

f) EXAMPLE: Shadows Prove the Sunshine. There can be sunshine with no shadows, but there can't be shadows without sunshine.

g) MEANING: There can be good without evil, but there can't be evil without good. And there can't be good without God.

3. Evil Cannot Exist unless Good exists—Good cannot exist unless God exists

CS Lewis: “To be bad, the devil must exist and have intelligence and will. But existence, intelligence and will are in themselves good. Therefore he must have gotten these from a good power: even to be bad he must borrow or steal from his opponent. And do you now begin to see why Christianity has always said that the devil is a fallen angel? That is not a mere story for children. It is a recognition that evil is a parasite, not an original thing.

4. So Why Are We Capable of Good or Evil at all?

a) God is Eternal, God is Holy, God is Good and God is Love...

b) When God created us in His image—He created us as Free Moral Agents

c) He Gave us the Ability to Have Free-Will... Moral Free-will.

d) He could've made us Robots or machines with no moral awareness

e) But if there is no free-will then there is no love—because love requires free-will

5. Without Free-will there is no love—because love requires a free-will choice

This is The Choice You Must Make (Deuteronomy 30:15–16; 19-20)

² Frank Turek, Stealing From God, p.117

H. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- 1. The problem of evil is so terrible that we could not solve it ourselves...**
 - a) God is Holy—and our sins separated us from God—
 - b) So the Solution was Provided by God Himself
 - **“For God” – the Greatest Being**
 - **“So Loved” – the Greatest Measure**
 - **“The World” – the Greatest Need**
 - **“That He Gave” – the Greatest Grace**
 - **“His Only Begotten Son” – the Greatest Sacrifice**
 - **“That Whoever Believes on Him” – the Greatest Commitment**
 - **“Should Not Perish” – the Greatest Deliverance**
 - **“But Have Everlasting life” – the Greatest Hope (John 3:16)**
- 2. Jesus went to the cross and died for us so that we could receive the Greatest Gift of All—God Himself.**
- 3. But This Amazing Grace Still Requires You to Choose...**

Love requires the choice to love God or reject Him (John 3:16-21)

 - a) Jesus redeemed us from condemnation—and paid our debt in full at the cross
 - b) When we are Baptized into His Death—We Are Raised to New Life
 - c) and made holy by the blood of the Lamb—So we can be with God forever.

Revelation 1:5-6 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. You were created in the image of God to become a child of God
To be with Him forever!**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)
- 2. God told us How the World Began and How the World Will End.**
- 3. He knew the problem and already knew the solution before time began.**
- 4. God will defeat Evil for all time at the Judgment...**