

KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE
LESSON # 18
WHAT ABOUT EVIL

When you start to talk to people about God, one of the first objections they have is if God is a good God why is there evil and suffering in the world?

It's a good question. Let's talk about that today...

(I) THE MAIN PROBLEM IS

Before people rebelled against God there was no sin, suffering, death or sickness. These things are a result of people's rebellion against God in the garden

A) People were originally create in innocence and upright.

Ecc. 7:29

B) People had un-separated _____

1. Gen 2:15-17

Genesis 3:8-13

2. The separation we see testifies to our sinfulness.

C. People were given the _____

1. Gen. 2:19-20 (denotes ownership)

2. Gen. 1:26, 28-30

3. Gen 9:1-2 (even in this age)

D. People were created in the _____

1. Gen. 1:26, 6:9

2. I Cor. 11:7; Ja. 3:9

E. What is the image of God?

1. Moral resemblance and sharing of the unique divine attributes.

a. Capacity for justice and compassion, for love and hate.

b. Ability to relate to the past, present and future.

c. Ability to need to establish long meaningful relationship

d. Ability to communicate and "philosophize."

e. Ability to choose, ability to create.

(II) WHEN PEOPLE _____ AGAINST GOD ALL OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD

A) Eve listened to Satan rather than God.

1. She set her will against God.

a. The will is a "free" thing affected by the mind, the soul, and the spirit.

2. "Aspiration" is a key word to understanding the fall.

B) Sin effected every aspect of life

1. Everything in us fell; mind, body, emotions, spiritual capacity.

2. The appetites of the flesh became lust.

3. The will is now in bondage to Satan. (Rom. 6:6)

4. Man ceases to become upright and became a sinner.

5. Gen. 6:5

Job 14:4, 15:14-15

Isa. 1:5-6

Rom. 3:10-18;

6. Death did not exist before the fall.

7. A drastic change occurred in man's relationship with animals.

8. Sickness enters into the scene.

9. Hate, suspicion, murder, extended through ALL creation.

C) _____ ENTERED INTO THE WORLD AS A RESULT OF PEOPLE SINNING AGAINST GOD

1. It wasn't God who brought it on, but people who sinned against Him

(III) IN ORDER TO HAVE CREATURES WITH MORAL FREEDOM, GOD ALLOWED _____

A) Yet it is true that God does sometimes intervene with evil choices and does as He pleases

Psalm 115:3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

Psalm 135:6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

Daniel 4:34-35 *At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. [35] All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*

B) GOD DOES SOMETIMES PERFORM ACTS OF DELIVERENCE

C) SOMETIMES HOWEVER HE CHOOSES NOT TO. WHY?

- 1) All things have a purpose, even seemingly senseless acts of evil
- 2) Jesus going to the cross looked pointless and evil, until we understand it on the other side of the resurrection.
- 3) This doesn't make us feel any better, but does help us understand.
- 4) **Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

D) If God brought instant, perfect justice right now then everybody would instantaneously be sent to hell.

- 1) God is patient and long-suffering
- 2) Ultimate justice will come when Jesus returns.

E) Jesus said the rain falls on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45 *"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."*

(IV) WE SHOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS OF EVIL EITHER

A) We should never grow comfortable with evil

B) Evil can never be seen as an expression of God's goodness, although God can even use evil.

C) We should never assign our own evil to something outside of ourselves. We are responsible.

D) Sin is never good.

E) Evil is always an intruder.

FINALLY IN SUMMARY

A) “God does in fact weep over every sparrow and grieve over every evil and every suffering. So the suffering that Christ endured on the cross is literally unimaginable.”

“We are not supposed to live at peace with evil and sin, but we are supposed to live at peace with God. We continue to trust in His goodness, His sovereignty, His mercy, and we continue to confess our own responsibility for sin.” Robert Pyne in Humanity and Sin

