



Part 3: *The Origin of Evil*

INTRODUCTION – The Best Way to the Best World

God knew WE would eventually choose against him.
And he knew HE would suffer the most for our choice.

2 Timothy 1:9; Revelation 13:8

The Bible never claims this is the best of all possible worlds.
Only that this is the best possible way to achieve the best possible world.

DINE IN – What is Evil and How Did It Begin?

- Evil as the absence of good. (Like cold, dark, donut hole.)
- Evil as the corruption of good. (Like rust, cavity, wound.)
- Evil as the enemy of good. (Like a parasite, or cancer.)

Evil = a deprivation of some good that ought to be there.

God made evil potential. We made it actual.

- *Evil before earth...*

**Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Jude 6; Revelation 12:3-9;
1 Timothy 3:6**

- *Evil and our world...*

Genesis 1:31; 2:16-17; 3; Romans 8:18-22

Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.
~ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Now God can create free creatures, but He can't cause or determine them to do only what is right. For if He does so, then they aren't significantly free after all; they do not do what is right freely. To create creatures capable of moral good, therefore, He must create creatures capable of moral evil.
~ Alvin Plantinga, *God, Freedom, & Evil*

- *Evil and our lives...*

Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10

Mark 7:21-23

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

While we enjoy the intellectual investigation of the origin of evil, we should always bring our thoughts back to our own contribution to the problem and how we can and should repent, change course, change our minds, and return to the way of Jesus. This is best done through the powerful, relational exchange of confession and prayer.

1 John 1:8-10; James 3:2; 1 Timothy 1:15; James 5:16

CONCLUSION – Admitting Our Own Evil

James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10

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HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Review the message around these talking points...
 - a) If God is so loving, why would he create a world like ours?
 - b) Why would God put a forbidden tree in the garden? And then let a tempting serpent in? Isn't that bad planning?
 - c) What is the connection between our moral evil and the world's natural evil?
 - d) What can we do to help undo some of the effects of sin in our lives?

Look to the Book...

1. a) What do we learn about the origin of evil in **Ezekiel 28:11-19 & Isaiah 14:11-17**? Make a list. Write it out if possible. b) For each item on your list regarding evil's origin, list the implications for your own battle with evil within yourself and in your life.

So What?...

2. Review the Scriptures listed in the TAKE OUT section of these notes. Then make time to confess to and pray for each other.

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