

## Week 5 Topic The Problem of Evil and the Goodness of God

### 1. Objectives

- 1) Understand how evil can coexist with God's existence
  - 2) Defend the goodness of God from a biblical perspective
  - 3) Establish a theological understanding of suffering
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### 2. Key Questions

- 1) If God is good, why does evil exist?
  - 2) Did God create evil?
  - 3) What is the meaning of human suffering?
  - 4) How will evil ultimately be resolved?
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### 3. Definition of Evil

- 1) Moral Evil: Caused by human free will (war, murder, sin)
  - 2) Natural Evil: Natural disasters, disease
  - 3) Key Idea: Evil is not a substance but a privation of good
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### 4. Philosophical Defense

#### 1) Logical Problem of Evil

Claim: An all-powerful, all-knowing, good God cannot coexist with evil

#### 2) Free Will Defense

(1) God gave humans free will for genuine love

(2) Freedom allows the possibility of evil

(3) Conclusion: Evil is not proof against God, but a result of free will

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### 5. Biblical Perspective

#### 1) God's Goodness

(1) God is inherently good (Psalm 145:9)

(2) God is not the author of evil

#### 2) Origin of Sin

(1) The Fall of humanity (Genesis 3)

(2) Evil entered through human choice

#### 3) God's Sovereignty

(1) God permits evil but remains in control

(2) Works all things for good (Romans 8:28)

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## 6. Theological Meaning of Suffering

- 1) Spiritual Growth
- 2) Revealing God's Glory
- 3) Instrument of Redemption

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## 7. The Cross: Ultimate Answer to Evil

- 1) Greatest evil: Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- 2) Greatest good: Salvation of humanity
- 3) God does not simply eliminate evil, but uses it to accomplish greater good

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## 8. Eschatological Resolution

- 1) God will ultimately judge evil
- 2) Evil will be completely removed in the new creation

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## 9. Application & Discussion

- 1) How do I understand suffering?
- 2) How does the problem of evil affect my faith?
- 3) How can I experience God's goodness?

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## 10. Conclusion

- 1) Evil does not disprove God
- 2) God uses evil to accomplish greater good
- 3) Ultimately, God will defeat evil completely