

WHY DO YOU
BELIEVE
WHAT YOU
BELIEVE



an introduction to apologetics & defending your faith

ONE WAY

Jesus...the only way?

God's merciful judgment

Do Work

Done Serve

The Great White Throne Judgment

Judgment Seat of Christ

Rev 20:11-15

Matt 11:20-24

2 Cor 5:10

1 Cor 3:13-14



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God gives me exactly what I've chosen

Jesus...the only way?

Religion's unmerciful judgment

Religion has no answer to life's challenges

Illusionism: Evil is only an illusion, therefore nothing is really good or bad (Hinduism)

Islam: No assurance Allah will accept you no matter how well you perform

Atheism: Man is the best there is, and he has the best answers

Jesus...the only way?

Religion's unmerciful judgment

Religion's "mercy" is initiated and defined in and by the mind, which is then affected and changed as emotions, feelings, and circumstances change

Feelings are the culture's barometer for truth & judgment



Jesus...the only way?

God's merciful Judge

Jesus the merciful Judge (John 5:22-24)

Jesus the perfect and true Judge (1 Peter 1:18-19; John 14:6; John 8:31-32)

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The Problem of Evil

If God exists and God is good then why does He allow evil to exist?

Matt 19:17, "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? **there is none good but one, that is, God**: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

3 John 1:11, "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. **He that doeth good is of God**: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

The Problem of Evil

What is evil?

Two Definitions

1. That which is morally wrong or bad; immoral
2. Harmful; injurious; that which causes suffering

Two Types

1. Moral evil: acts of the will
2. Natural evil: natural disasters and accidents

One Cause

Man's disobedience (Gen 3:16-19)

Different Views of Evil

- **Atheism:** Because evil exists there is no God; defeat evil by education
- **Dualism:** Good and evil are equal. They are 2 sides of the same coin vying for control.
- **Illusionism:** Evil is an illusion. Perhaps nothing is good or bad.
- **Finite god-ism.** God is opposed to evil, but powerless to defeat it.
 - Other views related to “finitism.”
 - God is not all good (evil is part of His character).
 - God is all good, but not all-powerful and not all knowing (but works with man as a type of equal partner to bring good and overcome evil—but not guaranteed).
 - Many of these views try to preserve God’s righteousness, while denying all His other attributes.
- **Theist (Christian):**
 - God exists
 - God is all-good
 - God is all-powerful
 - Evil exists (though one day God will rid the universe of it)

Explaining Why Evil Exists

1. Man's explanation will either be incomplete or inconsistent
2. Man's free will



Explaining Why Evil Exists

Man's free will

Scripture describes free will in the beginning

Gen 2:15-17, *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”*

God does not force us to obey Him

Explaining Why Evil Exists

Man's free will

Evil's source is not God's power or lack there of, but rather God's sovereignty that allows man to have a free will and make choices.

A world created without freedom would essentially be a world without the possibility of man or love. It is important to recognize then that man loves God because God provided mankind with a free choice to do so.

The Lessons of Evil

Evil played a part in the fall of man (**Gen 3**)

Evil played a part in the redemption of man (**1 Peter 3:18**)

Evil played a part in the preaching of the Gospel (**Rev 6:9-10**)

Evil will play a part in Christ's return (**Rev 6-19**)

Evil also plays a part today, in our lives (**1 Peter 4:15-16**)

Breaks our pride

Breed humility

Reveals sin

Keeps us from something worse

Deepens our desire for God

Drives us to our knees

Matures us

Strengthens our trust in God

The End of Evil

1. Jesus Christ, our Creator allowed Himself to be murdered by His own creation
2. His murder gives victory over sin, death, and evil
3. His return will give the whole world victory over evil