

WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
EVIL AND
SUFFERING?



Big Deal

***The 'Problem of Evil' is
the biggest challenge
to faith***

***More people have
abandoned their faith
because of the problem of
evil than for any other
reason***

***The greatest test of
faith, the greatest
temptation to unbelief.***

***It's not just an
intellectual
objection. We feel
it. We live it.***

The Problem

If God is so good, why is his world so bad?

It's not just an intellectual objection. We feel it. We live it.

Why do bad things happen to good people?

An all-good God would desire to abolish evil; An all-powerful God would be able to abolish evil; Evil exists; Therefore, an all-good, all-powerful God cannot exist.

If an all-good, all-wise, all-loving, all-just, and all-powerful God is running the show, why does he seem to be doing such a miserable job of it?

God is the author of everything. Evil is something. Therefore, God is the author of evil.

Let's Define

What is evil?

Where did sin come from?

**What is the source of
all life and joy?**

**Is God in the past,
present or future?
Does Predestination
conflict with Free
Will?**

**Putting the theological
argument aside, what
has God practically
done about evil?**

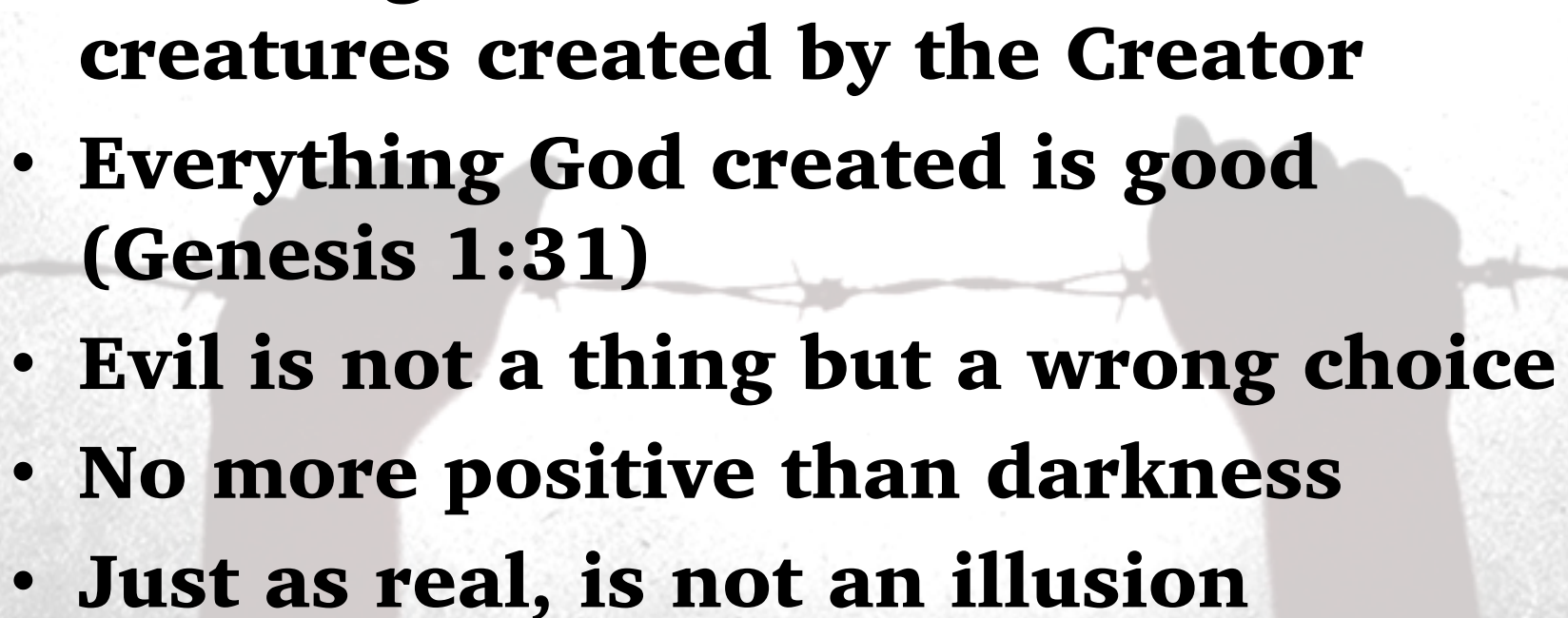
**What are God's
attributes?**



Evil is not a *thing*; it is deviation from God.



WHAT IS EVIL

- All beings are either Creator or creatures created by the Creator
 - Everything God created is good (Genesis 1:31)
 - Evil is not a thing but a wrong choice
 - No more positive than darkness
 - Just as real, is not an illusion
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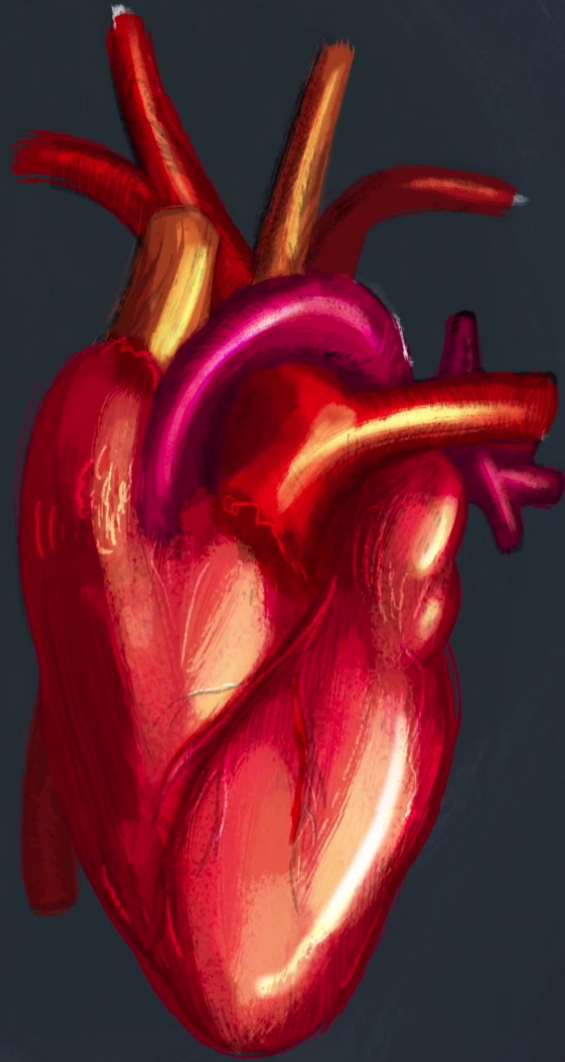


WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?

**Sin is a consequence of free
will**

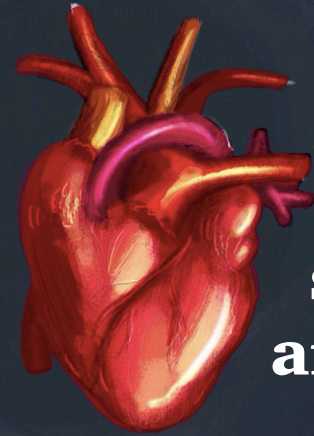


- **God did not create evil**
- **He created freedom to do good or evil: free will**
- **Spiritual and physical sin are linked**
- **Evil is not a thing but a wrong choice**
- **No more positive than darkness**
- **Just as real, is not an illusion**
- **Does the misdeed of a child originate at the parent?**



WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE AND JOY?

**God is the
of all Life**

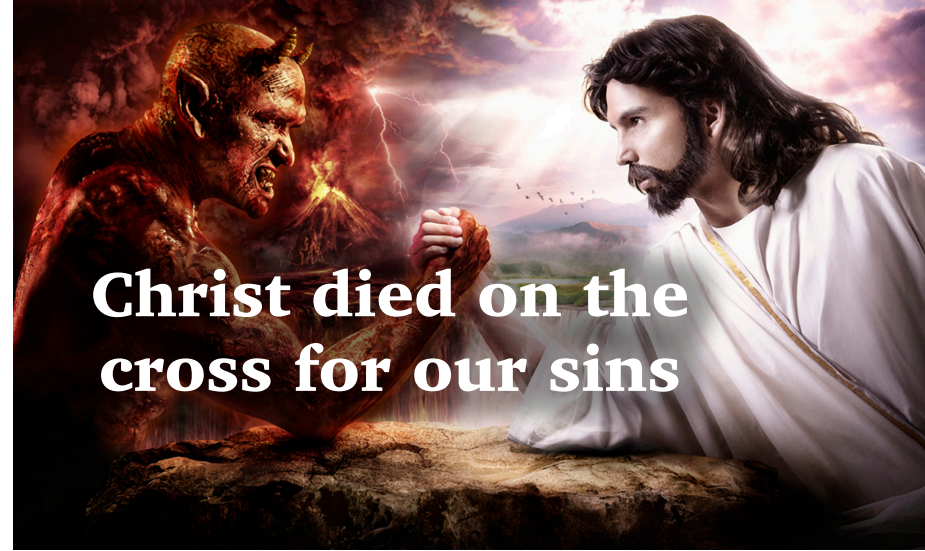


**source
and Joy**

- **When we rebel against God, the human soul loses its life and joy**
- **The Body and the soul suffer together**



WHAT HAS GOD PRACTICALLY DONE ABOUT EVIL?



- **Evil is a problem in theory but more so in life**
- **The solution is the Son**
- **Defeats the power of evil over human nature**

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



God is all-loving, all-good, all-wise, all-just, all-powerful

Why do bad things happen to good people?

If an all-good, all-wise, all-loving, all-just, and all-powerful God is running the show, why does he seem to be doing such a miserable job of it?

An all-good God would desire to abolish evil; An all-powerful God would be able to abolish evil; Evil exists; Therefore, an all-good, all-powerful God cannot exist.

It's not just an intellectual objection. We feel it. We live it.

If God is so good, why is his world so bad?

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



- **Who's to say we are good people?**
 - "Why do good things happen to bad people?"
 - Not why the glass of water is half empty but why it is half full
 - All goodness is gift
 - The best man who ever lived once said, "No one is good but God alone."

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



- **Who's to say suffering is all bad?**
 - **In His infinite wisdom, He determined the greater good could not have come about without the existence of evil.**
 - **Our Lord would not have shown His sacrificial love on the cross unless there was something to sacrifice for.**
 - **Certain virtues couldn't exist without evil**

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



• Who's to say suffering is all bad?

Even in a severe trial God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him (Rom 8:28).

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world" (C.S. Lewis)

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness (Heb 12:11).

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives (Gen 50:20).

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



- **Who's to say we have to know all God's reasons?**
 - Those things which appear evil only appear that way because of a limited context or perspective.
 - Book of Job

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



- **Who's to say we have to know all God's reasons?**
 - **A child on the tenth story of a burning building cannot see the firefighters with their safety net on the street. They call up, "Jump! We'll catch you. Trust us." The child objects, "But I can't see you." The firefighter replies, "That's all right. I can see you. We are like that child, evil is like the fire, our ignorance is like the smoke, God is like the firefighter, and Christ is like the safety net.**

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



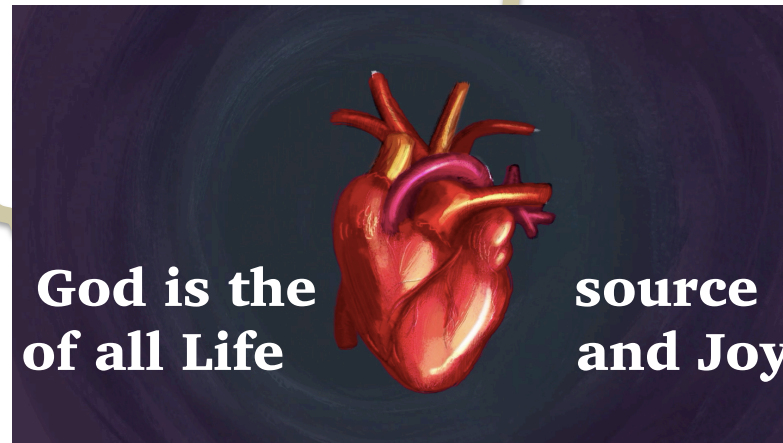
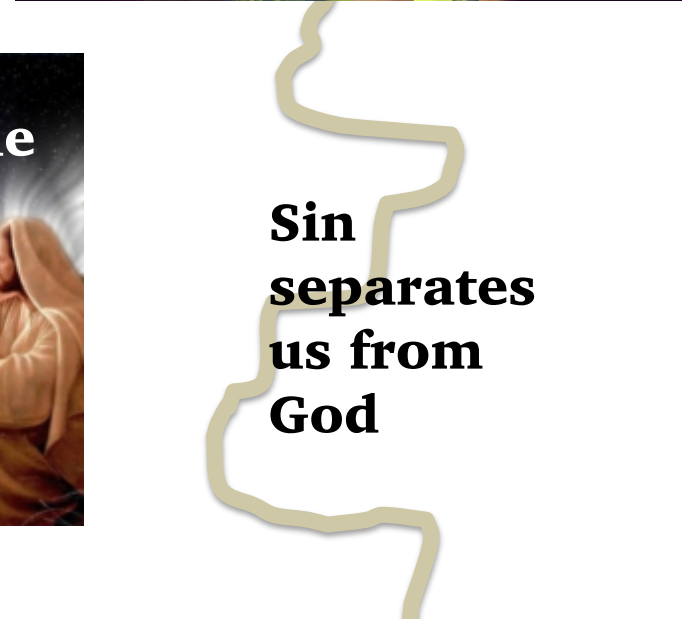
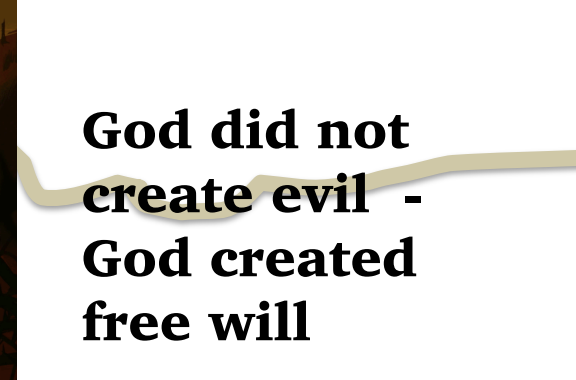
- **God's omnipotence does not mean He has the power to bring about logical contradictions.**
 - He could not create a round square or
 - God cannot "lie" (Titus 1:2)

God is outside time

FREE WILL AND PREDESTINATION



- **“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom 8:29)**
- **We were chosen, for He KNEW us before we were created that we would believe in Him.**
- **God isn't *pre* or *post* - He is present to everything**
- **If God is love we must have free will**
- **Omnipotence wants human acts done freely**



**"We cannot watch the world
as it perishes! But we must
work for its sake so long as it
is in our ability to do so."**

- H.H. Pope Shenouda III



Sources:
Lee Strobel
Peter Kreeft
HG Bishop Youssef
The Bible Project

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM?



- What about Natural Evil?
 - We live in a fallen world
 - Sin, as a result of our free will has left the world in bondage to decay (Rom 8:21).

