

# **The Problem Of Evil/The Bible And Sex**

**Question #6: How do we explain the problem of evil or why do bad things happen (especially to good people)?**

**A. What is the problem? (theodicy: justifying the ways of God to human persons).**

1. God is all-loving so He is opposed to evil.
2. God is all-powerful (omnipotent) so He can prevent evil.
3. But there is pain and suffering; disasters, disease and death. Why?  
Philosopher David Hume: “Is he [God] willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is impotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing: where then is evil?” (*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*).

**B. What are possible responses to the issue?**

1. Maybe there is no God (Atheism).
2. Maybe God is not all good and/or all-powerful (Finite Theism).
3. But . . . why do humans even ask such questions? Animals don't. Is this sense of right and wrong, good and bad, only an accident of evolution, or is it a reflection of our being made in the image of God?! Why do we even ask right/wrong and good/bad questions?

**C. What is the answer?**

Let's be honest. This is one of the most difficult issue we face, given our belief in the God of the Bible who is perfect goodness and all-powerful.

**1. The Freewill Argument (Augustine [354-430]: “the greatest \_\_\_\_\_”)**

- a. God made us in His image as free creatures.
- b. God desires that we love Him freely. Coerced love is a contradiction.
- c. Freewill gives us the ability to choose good or evil.
- d. The gift of freewill explains, in part, why there is evil. Free beings made and make bad (evil, sinful) choices. \_\_\_\_\_ which is natural (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.) is the result of \_\_\_\_\_ in general. Thus \_\_\_\_\_ evil and \_\_\_\_\_ evil are interrelated (Rom. 8:18-25).

**2. The Soul Building Argument (Irenaeus [c.130-200]: “the greatest \_\_\_\_\_”)**

- a. God desires to develop our character into God-likeness.
- b. We learn some things and develop spiritually through evil or suffering that we could not achieve any other way. (Ex – Would I know God loves me simply because He made me? Yes. – Do I know God loves me more or less because of Christ dying for my sins? More!)

\*These may not be the best worlds \_\_\_\_\_, but they are the best worlds \_\_\_\_\_ given the good things God intended to provide and accomplish.

### **3. The Theological/Eschatological Argument.**

- a. Though all things are not good, God causes all things to work for good to them who love Him (Romans 8:28-30).
- b. In the end, God promises to make all things right and render perfect justice.

### **Question #7: What Does The Bible Really Say About Sex?**

“80% of teenagers who say they have been “born again” believe sex outside of marriage is morally wrong. However, 2/3 of them violate their own belief system in their sexual behavior” (*World*, 8-11-07, p.9).

**A. Sex was God’s idea not ours (Gen. 1:28).**

**B. God made us as sexual creatures (Gen. 1:26-27).**

**C. Sex is God’s good gift to be enjoyed between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage (Gen. 2:24-25). Thus premarital sex, extramarital sex and unnatural sex is sinful and wrong.**

**D. Sex within marriage is for the purposes of:**

1. Procreation (Gen. 1:28; 4:1)
2. Partnership (Gen. 2:24; 24:67)
3. Pleasure (Prov. 5:15-19; Song of Solomon [the whole book!])
4. Protection (Prov. 5:20; 1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5)

**E. Sex is a powerful passion that can override both the mind and will. It must be handled with great care.**

1. Guard your thought life (Prov. 23:7; Rom. 12:2).
2. Guard your eyes (Job 31:1; Prov. 20:12).
3. Watch your hands, your pelvic area and your mouth (1 Cor. 6:18).
4. Never be alone with someone of the opposite sex. Always make sure there are people around.
5. Never do anything you would not be willing to do in a room full of people.
6. Never do what you would not want done to and with your future mate.

**F. Playing with pornography is playing with fire.**

**G. The myth of "safe sex" is exactly that: a myth.**

**H. God calls us not just to abstinence, but purity (both in thought and action!)**

16% of American teenagers who say their faith is “extremely important to their lives are living morally pure lives.” (*World*, “Sex and the evangelical teen,” 8-11-07).

## **I. Follow God's guidelines for good decision-making and the "Gray" areas of life.**

### **Paul's Corinthian Principles**

1 Corinthians 6:12 – 11:1

1. Will this action edify self? (6:12)  
Will it build me up? Profit me? Help me personally?
2. Will this action enslave my soul? (6:12)  
Can it bring me into emotional/psychological (even chemical) bondage?
3. Will this action exalt the Savior? (6:13; 10:31)  
Can I glorify my Lord in this activity?
4. Will this action encourage other saints? (8:13)  
Is this a potential stumbling block to someone else?
5. Will this action evangelize sinners? (9:19, 22; 10:32-33)  
Will this help or harm my witness for Christ?
6. Will this action be an example of my Savior? (11:1)

Remember: The wrong person and the wrong time and the wrong place = the wrong thing happening!

### **Recommended Sources for Additional Study:**

Akin, Daniel. *God on Sex*. Broadman and Holman, 2003.

Arterbun, Stephen. *Every Young Man's Battle: Strategies for Victory in the Real World of Sexual Temptation*. Waterbrook, 2002.

Clark, Jeramy. *I Gave Dating a Chance*. Waterbrook, 2002.

Elliot, Elisabeth, Joshua Harris, and Ruth Bell Graham. *Passion and Learning to Bring Your Love Life Under Christ's Control*. Revell, 2002.