

Why does God Allow Evil in the World?

James 1:13-17

Let no one say when he is tempted,

“I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Premise#1 - If God were all-powerful, He would be able to prevent evil.

Premise #2 - If God were all-good, He would desire to prevent evil.

Conclusion: So if God were both all-powerful and all-good, there would be no evil.

Premise #3 – But there is evil – therefore, there is no all powerful, all-good God.

If God is good and all powerful,
then why is there evil?

1. The power and influence of Satan

You are of your father the Devil...

Jn. 8:44

Satan = adversary

Lucifer= shining one

Devil = slanderer

Your will is to do your father's desires... Jn. 8:44

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the Devil for the Devil has been sinning from the beginning... 1 Jn. 3:8

He was a murderer from the beginning... Jn. 8:44

... and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. Jn. 8:44

Satan lied to-

- . Eve in the Garden (Gen 3)
- . Jesus in the wilderness (Matt 4:1)
- . God's people over and over again

Satan – beguiles, seduces, opposes, resists, deceives, lures, sows, hinders, buffets, tempts, persecutes, destroys, blasphemes, steals, kills, and divides.

Five animals that describe the work of Satan.

- . Serpent – deceives
- . Bird – sows bad seed – steals good seed
- . Wolf – hurts God's people
- . Lion – devours God's people
- . Dragon - destroys

STAND BY YOU by Rachel Platten

Even if we can't find heaven
I'm gonna stand by you.
Even if we can't find heaven
I'll walk through hell with you...
Truth is what you believe in
Faith is helping to reason

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ who is in the image of God.
2 Cor. 4:4

Let no one say when he is tempted,
"I am being tempted by God."
James 1:13

Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. Rev. 12:9

... For God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one.
James 1:13b

And the tempter came...
Matt 4:3

For each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
(14)

People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord. Prov.
19:3 (NLT)

I am not sure about an inner child, but I have an inner idiot that surfaces every now and then.

Then desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (15)

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick, who can understand it?
Jer. 17:9

Satan's power and influence is strong but sin still comes down to my choice.
Right response- God's power and victory
Wrong response – defeat & death

2. The presence of human responsibility.

See, I have set before you today, life and good, death and evil .
Deut. 30:15

Christians have made wrong choices
“in the name of Christ.”

. Crusades, Inquisition, killings at Planned Parenthood, demonstrations of hate at military funerals.

Cultures of atheism – much worse

- Stalin – 20 million killed
- Hitler – 10 million killed
- Gorbachev - 35 million killed
- Mao-Tse-Tung - 70 million killed
- Islamic extremists -? Million plus

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. (19)

... therefore choose life...

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me. Jn. 14:6

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Jn. 3:16

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. Jn. 3:36

- Not know life
- Not experience life
- Not even see life
- Not have life

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, Gal. 6:7

Turn a deaf ear toward God?
Turn your back on God?
Rebel against God?
Harden your heart toward God?

... for whatever one sows,
that will he also reap. Gal. 6:7

God may be giving us time to do something about the evil.

Richard Dawkins – atheist,
praised Christianity for its benefits to society.
“It is a bulwark against evil.
Our world needs Christianity.”
For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption.
But the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (8)

... In due season we will reap. (9)

3. The patience of God

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3:8

God is not like us
. He is timeless
. He created “time”
. He is eternal

The One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity... Isa. 57:15

The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness... (9)

- Needs an update?
- Distracted?
- Tardy?

... but is patient toward you...

The Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Ex. 34:6

You want God to stop evil?

Ok – suppose He begins with you!
Not my evil – I'm not that bad .

Ok – What degree of evil is too bad?

- God will judge all evil – in His way,
in His time!

“Patient” = makrothymeo

- vast capacity to hold anger without spilling over.

... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (9)

... desires all people to be saved.

1 Tim. 2:4

And count the patience of our Lord
as salvation (15)

- Time to repent
- Time to be saved
- Time to reach out to the lost

Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. Rom. 2:4

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience.

1 Tim. 1:16

... as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

1 Tim. 1:16

Thank you Jesus, for being patient with me!

Yes, My God is all-powerful
to destroy evil.

Yes, My God is good –
He laid down His life
to destroy evil.

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?

Died He for me, who caused His pain?

For me, who Him, to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, My God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite His grace!

Emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me.