

THE WHY SERIES

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Deuteronomy 30:19

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Why Is There A Good And Evil?

Deuteronomy 30:19

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

As we continue on in our WHY SERIES tonight we come to what might be the single oldest question ever asked.

In fact we can trace this question back to a time when the created-physical universe – existed together in a symbiotic state.

It is somewhat of a great mystery to us how the realm of the spirit cohabitated with a physical world.

When man and God walked together.

Genesis 3:8

Tells us that God and Mankind walked together in the cool of the day = *the refreshing or rejuvenating day*) and conversed together in what we understand to be a transcendent relationship – a divinely established, God to Man interface.

And it was in that perfect environment, that perfect, beautiful atmosphere of Harmony with God himself – that the first homicide was committed.

Of course we’re talking about the manifestation of evil. But to begin this consideration – we first have to recognize a “forensic reality” or a “systematic chronology.” to what came first.

It's kind of like the debate over what came first, the chicken or the egg? It is a fact; you can't have an egg without a chicken laying that egg. But then where did the first chicken come from? – the most reasonable and logical answer, of course, to that is - - it was created a chicken with the needed reproductive capabilities to produce more chickens - chickens that come from eggs.

Why Is There A Good and Evil?

1.) Because we know that good exists?

The Issue of the Absolute

Our first hurdle in this 21st Century is not even if there is a good or an evil - but can anything be absolute?

Today many people are being taught that there are no absolutes: “that nothing is absolute, that nothing can be known for sure, and that what is real or unreal cannot exactly be known for sure.”

(These, of course, are absolute statements but we will not go there now)

...and God said it was good

6 times in the Bible, during creation God said, “It was good.”

1 time God said, “it was very good.”

1 time God said, “it is not good.”

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” :2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” :4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows (it's too bad He withheld that from you) that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, (He left you off not quite finished) and you will be like God (wouldn't it be nice to be like God?), knowing good and evil.”

(Innocence can be so boring – am I right?)

The power of choosing good and evil
is within the reach of all.

Origen

We must immediately refresh our thinking.

We have put ourselves through great and unnecessary confusion and suffering because we have believed that good and evil are equal opposites. They are not. One has always been. The other is the perversion of the one. Evil could have never been known as evil unless good exposed it first.

The Human Standard of Right and Wrong.

It is a universal testimony to our moral connectivity to God.

Hebrews 10:16

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

Every human being possesses an undeniable morality. (true or false)

"When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less."

C.S. Lewis

Imagine Working for JPL or NASA

and you're talking to a scientist and you're about to enter inside a spaceship with hopes of arriving at the moon. "You know," says the scientist, "this spaceship may or may not exist and the moon that you're going to may or may not exist - we'll just have to see how all of this turns out and then we can decide if this conversation did exist."

Even if we were a blind person, unable to see the beautiful good things that surround us in life - - we would still have the internal witness of goodness.

- The use of kind and gentle words = is goodness.
- A gentle caress or the holding of a hand = is goodness.
- The aromas and ingestion of good and flavorful food = is goodness.

When Jesus said that He was and is

"I am the good shepherd.

John 10:11

Was He suggesting that there is room for one better?

The reality of “Good”, by nature, must be
the source by which Evil exists.
Evil is good gone bad.

“A good apple left to rot becomes a bad apple.
A bad apple left to become good only gets worse.”

Once something is polluted, it is either destroyed or
it is in need of purification. So is humanity.

Why Is There A Good and Evil?

2.) Because we know that evil exists?

I know of no other writing, no other communication, that addresses
the issue of evil and good as the Bible does.

The Bible teaches that all sin is evil,
and that doing evil is the committing of sin.

These Are The 10 Commandments

- 1.) I am the Lord your God: you shalt not have strange Gods before me
- 2.) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
- 3.) You shall remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
- 4.) You shall Honor your father and your mother
- 5.) You shall not murder
- 6.) You shall not commit adultery
- 7.) You shall not steal
- 8.) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
- 9.) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
- 10.) You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions

We All Have Our Internal Moral Anchor.

Romans 1:18-32

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19
because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it
to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly
seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power

and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. :24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. :26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. :28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

1 Peter 3:8-12

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning **evil** for **evil** or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For “He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from **evil** and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do **evil**.”

Why Is There A Good and Evil?

3.) Because God has gifted man with a free will

Consider This Fact:

The LORD God who created all things good (us), watched as we became proud and self-determined. He saw our desire to have our own “right to choose” and so we did. He could have left us in the hopeless condition but chose to reach down into our mess.

He Came Here Himself to be Hurt and to Suffer in the World that We've Created.

I'll offer you tonight an option for consideration and choice.

Behind Door #1

Option number one is for you to believe that there is no God, that there is no real right or wrong – good or evil. That it is an evolutionary world and it is the survival of the bully, the powerful, the wealthy, the shrewd, or the most violent. There is no hope for Justice and Right the wrongs of life.

Behind Door #2

Is the option to believe in God. That whatever world this is, it's a world that has gone bad. Something has dramatically changed it and not for the better. But when I observe the existence of good and evil, they reveal that there is a purpose behind it all, that the good in the world is the better of the two which causes me to embrace that good, and that all of life skills and injustices will someday be answered by an all-knowing, all-loving, and all-caring God.

I would like to put this proposal before you.

When you look to see who was born in Bethlehem, the one who lived in Nazareth and in Jerusalem – when you look to him and his words, what is it that you see?

Is it meanness that you see?
Is it a harsh, angry and maniacal god that is revealed in the Bible?

Where did this perfect example of goodness come? This Jesus Christ.

End of Study

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