

CONFIDENT

Walk Boldly in Your Faith
Part 5

Statement 2 - Humanity continues to **spoil** what God created

What is the origin of sin / evil?

It is first seen in **Lucifer** Ezekiel 28:12-16
Next it is seen in **Eve and Adam** Genesis 3:6-7

Did God create sin / evil?

God **allowed** for the possibility for sin/evil, but did not create it.

Does God inflict sin / evil on people? James 1:13-14, Isa. 45:5-7

God does not tempt or inflict sin / evil on people.

Why does God allow sin / evil to persist? How does He use it to fulfill His purposes and plans?

Sin/evil are used as a comparison to God's holiness/perfection

Sin/Evil exist to contrast God's **righteousness** Romans 3:5, 25
Without Sin / Evil would we understand the **perfection** and **righteousness** of God?

Sin/evil exist as a comparison to God's **love** Romans 5:8
Without Sin/Evil would we understand the **depths of God's love**?

Sin/evil exist to demonstrate **God's might** Romans 9:17
Without Sin / Evil would we understand the **power** of God?

Sin/evil exist to exhibit God's **patience** and **mercy**
Romans 9:22; 1 Timothy 1:16
Without Sin / Evil would we understand the **patience** and **mercy** of God?

What about the perpetrators and victims of sin / evil?

Isaiah 45:7
God **cares** and **comforts** the victims and brings **calamity** and **judgement** upon the perpetrators.

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 15, 2023

Ezekiel 28:15-16 *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God.*

DISCOVER

1. Where did evil come from? How did it start? It's a human tendency to want to place blame for bad things that happen. Who is to blame for evil? God? The devil? Mankind?
2. Why would God create Satan in the first place? If believers in God dwell in heaven forever, how is it that Lucifer was cast down? Compare and contrast the results of Lucifer's free will choices and man's.
3. Define "free will." Does it serve a purpose? How do our choices set the trajectory of our character?
4. What is the relationship between evil and sin? List the ways that man attempts to remove evil. How does God work to remove evil?

EXPLORE

1. What would have happened if Mary's first conception (Jesus) was by her husband, Joseph? Why was it absolutely necessary for the Holy Spirit to make Mary with child? (see Romans 5:12, 19; 6:23)
2. Read James 1:13-14. In this passage, we find that God Himself does not tempt anyone. Then why, do you think, that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil? Why didn't God protect His Son from this anguish? (see Matthew 4:1)
3. How does God use persistent evil to fulfill His plans? Why doesn't He just simply carry-out His will without the presence of evil? What does this say about His character?
4. Read Deuteronomy 32:39, 1 Samuel 2:6, John 9:1-3 and Romans 9:17. Should we then conclude that evil is necessary? Explain.
5. Why is it so important to have a full understanding of God's holiness? How does sin/evil help us to understand the perfection, righteousness, love and power of God?

EXPERIENCE

1. Satan often tempts us to believe that wrong choices will result in favorable consequences. Share an example in your life when you were induced to "cut a corner" or withhold the full truth (a "white lie"). Identify some of the possible consequences of faithfully telling "the whole truth and nothing but the truth".
2. A friend is familiar with John 3:16 but asks you to explain why God loves everyone equally. How might you use Romans 5:8 to dovetail into that verse and satisfy their curiosity?
3. Most non-believers might say something like, "God is either not real or is out-of-control because of all the discernable evil in the world today." How would you respond to this? Identify three points to emphasize.

PRAY

Pray... Father God, I pray that You would deliver us from the evil one by sparing us from those trials and testings that are beyond our ability to endure; but for those trials that You have set before us, help us to stand on Your promises, that our faith would be strengthened and Your glory revealed. Teach us, O God, how to receive the Cross; to trust You implicitly in the middle of our trials, for Your plans are to not harm us but for our good and our welfare. Have mercy, O Lord. Amen.