

1. Good and evil are independent entities.
2. Good and evil are defined subjectively.
3. The outcome of the struggle between good and evil is uncertain.

DEFINING EVIL: NATURALISM

- 1. Only the observable natural world exists.
- 2. No standard for delineating good and evil exists.
- 3. There is no objective evil. This contradicts the universal inherent human sense of right and wrong.

THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF EVIL

- 1. Real love requires real choice. God really loves us but our real choices have real consequences.
- 2. There is purpose to our pain. God uses suffering to achieve his good purpose.
- 3. There will be a time when evil and suffering no longer exist.

THE NATURE OF LOVE

- 1. God is love.
- 2. You cannot have love without the choice to reject love. God has given us that choice (Gen 2:8-9).
- 3. The choice not to love God is sin.
- 4. Evil and suffering are the result of sin.

GOD DID NOT CREATE EVIL;
HE CREATED A SYSTEM IN WHICH EVIL IS A POSSIBILITY.

PURPOSE TO OUR PAIN

1. Pain protects us from ourselves when we won't listen to Him.

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Prov 3:11-12

PURPOSE TO OUR PAIN

1. Pain protects us from ourselves when we won't listen to Him.
2. Pain can draw us closer to God.

I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

Phil 3:10

PURPOSE TO OUR PAIN

1. Pain protects us from ourselves when we won't listen to Him.
2. Pain can draw us closer to God.
3. Pain can deepen our character.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

PURPOSE TO OUR PAIN

1. Pain protects us from ourselves when we won't listen to Him.
2. Pain can draw us closer to God.
3. Pain can deepen our character.
4. Pain can be a part of a story that ultimately glorifies God.

"... this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

John 9:3

GOD WINS

1. God will conquer evil.

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Rev 11:15

GOD WINS

1. God will conquer evil.
2. God will conquer evil in his time, not ours.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Pet 3:8-9

GOD WINS

1. God will conquer evil.
2. God will conquer evil in his time, not ours.
3. Creation will be restored.

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Rev 21:3-4

HE IS WITH US

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

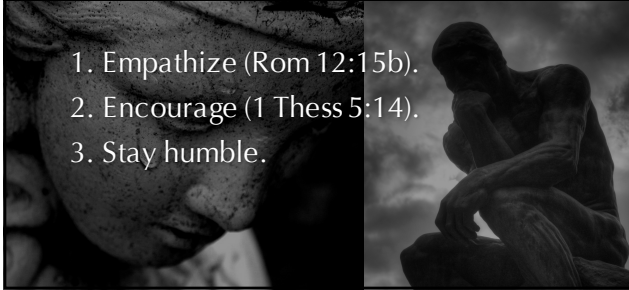
Heb 2:14-18

HE IS WITH US

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Heb 4:14-16

A PROPER RESPONSE



1. Empathize (Rom 12:15b).
2. Encourage (1 Thess 5:14).
3. Stay humble.

WHAT ABOUT HELL?



1. What is Hell?
2. A History of Hell
3. Why did God create Hell?

http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/47082000/jpg/_47082512_blake_8.jpg

WHAT IS HELL?

1. Terminology
2. Jesus' Definition

WHAT IS HELL? TERMINOLOGY

- 1. Sheol: Originally meant grave, yet in certain passages it suggests a place of judgment
- 2. Hades: Literally means *unseen place*; same meaning as Sheol
- 3. Tartarus: A dungeon for demons until the time of the Tribulation or Great Judgment
- 4. Gehenna: A transliteration of the Hebrew *Ge-Hinnom*; a desecrated place of burning waste

GEHENNA

They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech, though I never commanded, nor did it enter My mind; that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.

Jeremiah 32:35



WHAT IS HELL? JESUS' DEFINITION

A place outside of the Kingdom of God that God originally prepared for the Devil and his angels, but that will also be the final destination for evildoers who reject God's gracious invitation of salvation. Hell is a place of eternal fire, darkness, and weeping and gnashing of teeth.

A HISTORY OF HELL


1. New Testament Authors
2. Origen's Error
3. Heterodox Views

A HISTORY OF HELL: NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORS

1. Gospel Writers
2. Paul (2 Thessalonians 1:6–10)
3. James (James 3:6)
4. Jude (Jude 6–7)
5. Author of Hebrews (Hebrews 9:27)

A HISTORY OF HELL: ORIGEN'S ERROR

Universalism:
The belief that all will be saved



A HISTORY OF HELL: HETERODOX VIEWS

1. Postmortem Evangelism
2. Purgatory
3. Annihilationism

WHY DID GOD CREATE HELL?

1. For Satan and His Angels
2. As a Just Punishment
3. Trinitarian Love and Wrath
