
The Paradox of Evil

Discussion:

- *What is the difference between subjective truth and objective truth?*
- *Why is it a problem to treat subjective truth as objective truth?*
- *Why is morality a problem for atheists?*

God and Evil

- “How can a _____ God exist in a world with so much _____, pain and suffering?”
 - Answer: Evil, Pain and Suffering do not _____ from the reality of God but are, in fact, _____ of his existence.
- **Main Point:** Evil is such that it can be recognized regardless of _____ because it appeals to humanity’s _____.
 - **Implications:**
 - *First*, if our understanding of evil can be described as “ought not to be,” then this implies that there is a way things “_____ to be.”
 - *Second*, there is a primacy to _____.

What is Pain and Suffering?

- Pain and suffering are categories of _____.

Discussion:

- *What is the difference between pain and suffering?*
- Pain refers to the objective reality of _____, discomfort, entropy, and brokenness
 - More generally, it is an objective manifestation of what ought _____ be.
- Suffering is the implications of pain in our understanding of the world and ourselves
 - More generally, it is a _____ manifestation of what ought not be.

- Why are we defining these things?
 - It is from our definitions of evil, pain and suffering that we can begin to create a case for our God.

Probability and Pain

- Who said it ought to be this way?
 - **Moral Truth** = The way things ought to be
 - An atheist has to come to terms with the reality that either we possess moral truth – or this sense of the way things ought to be – based on an imposed moral intent sourced in a greater _____, or based on evolutionary or analytical principles.
 - Moral truth as a result of evolutionary theory:
 - Governing Moral Truth – *Survival of the Fittest*
 - Does _____ account for the sense of “oughtness” we possess today.
 - Moral truth as a result of analytical theory:
 - Governing Moral Truth – “They Just Exist...”
 - Does _____ account for the sense of “oughtness” we possess today

The Response of Christian Theism

- First, “...the concept of moral obligation is _____ apart from the idea of God.” (Richard Taylor)
 - Rom. 12:9
- Second, _____ will necessitates the possibility of evil existing
 - cf. Genesis 3
- Third, _____ mandates that we do something about evil
 - Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 12:21
- Fourth, Evil is not _____ in the Christian Worldview
 - Gen. 3:16-17; Jer. 17:9; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23