What is Evil?

Why is there Evil in the world?

Primary Doctrine

"Of all kinds of knowledge that we can ever obtain, the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of ourselves, are the most important."


who am I? who are You? who is Man?

The Cosmic Battle Within

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Galatians 5:16-17
The Battle Over Anthropology

Who is Man?

Truth Reality VS Lie Illusion

The Pernicious Lie

The Biblical View of Man

his essence

his moral state

his need

The states of man

– or –

“modes”

The Biblical View of Man

mode 1: innocent

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;

Genesis 1:27

The Biblical View of Man

mode 2: fallen

...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:12

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 6:5

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Evil
Rebellious
Dead
Without hope
Blind
Haters of God
Deaf
Desperately Wicked
Lost
Children of the devil

"YOU CANNOT SLANDER HUMAN NATURE: IT IS WORSE THAN WORDS CAN PAINT IT."

C. H. Spurgeon

THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
Revelation 20:15

...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.
Hebrews 9:27

THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN

...with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.
Revelation 5:9

DESCRIPTIONS & NAMES OF THE NEW MAN

The redeemed
Children of God
Saints
Sons of God
Priests
Beloved
Called out ones
Wear white robes
The people of God
A holy nation
Born from above


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But We Carry Something

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Galatians 5:16-17

The Cosmic Battle Within

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Romans 7:15, 18-20

The Cosmic Battle Within

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7:24-25

The Cosmic Battle Within

this does not absolve us from responsibility!!

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 6:12
&
Romans 8:5-14

The Biblical View of Man

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable: it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

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**The Biblical View of Man**

His **essence**
- made in the image of God
- dualistic: both flesh and spirit

His **moral state**
- fallen nature

His **need**
- redemption

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**The Battle Over Anthropology**

Who is Man?

- **Truth**
  - Reality

- **Lie**
  - Illusion

**imago deo**

Dualistic, Fallen, Redemption

? —

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“**The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be.**”

*Carl Sagan*

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**The World & Corliss Lamont’s Primary Doctrine**

“The nonreality of the supernatural means, on the human level, that men do not possess supernatural and immortal souls...”

*Humanism as a Philosophy*

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**Naturalistic Philosophy Implications**

If man is but a material beast, having nothing beyond the **evolutionary cosmic particles**, then what must we conclude about man?

does he have a **purpose** beyond himself?

can he have any **meaning** in life?

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Naturalistic Philosophy Implications

Dr. William Provine

- No gods or purposive forces
- No ultimate foundation for ethics
- No free will
- No life after death
- No ultimate meaning in life

Debate with Philip Johnson, Stanford University. Summary of Implications of Modern Evolutionary Biology

Source of Truth?

Using the powerful critical tools of science and logical analysis, modern man now recognizes that the universe has no special human meaning or purpose and that man is not a special product of creation.

The Humanist Alternative

Implications from an Icon of Evolution

Haeckel's Embryos

“A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy.”

Ingrid Newkirk, President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Haeckel's Embryos

References:


The World’s View of Man

Abraham Maslow

“Hierarchy of Needs”


As far as I know we just don’t have any intrinsic instincts for evil.

Abraham Maslow

cited in David Noebel, Understanding the Times


I do not find that... evil is inherent in human nature.

Carl Rogers

cited in David Noebel, Understanding the Times

"If you think in terms of the basic needs, instincts, at least at the outset, are all 'good'...careful study of them [instincts] will provide the values we need by which better societies can evolve."


"Since this inner nature is good or neutral rather than bad, it is best to bring it out and to encourage it rather than to suppress it. If it is permitted to guide our life, we grow healthy, fruitful, and happy."


For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...

Romans 8:13

The Truth

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:5-10

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The Ol’ Garden Lie

No! Get in touch with the inner man... let him flourish... if you let him guide your life, you will be healthy, fruitful and happy.

this is self-actualization... and the consequences are huge...

What is the enemy of self-actualization?

Suppression of one’s inner desires

Who is Man?

the Truth claims

Man is created in the image of God

God-man, a product of mindless, purposeless forces

Who is Man?

the Truth claims

Man, though created perfect, rebelled against God and is now fallen, his heart desperately wicked

Man is basically good

Who is Man?

the Truth claims

Man needs divine grace, regeneration, and redemption

Man must save himself through self-oriented pursuits

46

47

48

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THE BATTLE OVER ANTHROPOLOGY

who is Man?

Truth

Reality

VS

Lie

Illusion

imago dei

Dualistic, Fallen, Redemption

imago goo

Monistic, good, self-actualization

Hmmm???

“[Man’s] inner nature is good…”

“…we just don’t have any intrinsic instincts for evil…”

“…instincts, at least at the outset, are all ‘good’…”

Hmmm???

doesn’t this raise a very obvious and important question???

if Man is instinctively and basically good, then why is there evil in the world?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau
(1712-1778)

“If man is good by nature, as I believe to have shown him to be, it follows that he stays like that as long as nothing foreign to him corrupts him.”

“Man was born free, but everywhere he is in chains!”


Carl Rogers

“For myself, though I am very well aware of the incredible amount of destructive, cruel, malevolent behavior in today’s world—from the threats of war to the senseless violence in the streets—I do not find that this evil is inherent in human nature.”

The Logical Question...
If evil doesn’t come from human nature, then where does it come from?


If Man is Good? Why is there Evil?
“Sick people are made by a sick culture; healthy people are made possible by a healthy culture.”
Abraham Maslow, Motivation and Personality


Interesting Question
the “feeling bad about evil” problem
why does evil bother you?
why do you feel bad about evil?


Our Culture’s Anthropology
Basic Assumptions
man, by nature, is good
mental health and happiness come through self-actualization and getting in touch with one’s real ‘good’ self
social institutions are responsible for man’s evil actions.
David Noebel, Understanding the Times