

THE PROBLEM *of* EVIL

August 6 – Colossians 1:15-17

August 13 – Romans 8:28-30

August 27 – How to Respond

Romans 8:18–24

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

1. This is a difficult issue, and there is much I don't understand.
2. Have you had experiences that make this issue especially tough for you?
3. How long have people struggled with this issue?

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

4. Have you considered the alternatives?
 - God is all good but not almighty.
 - God is almighty but not all good.
 - God is neither all good nor almighty.
5. Have you considered the atheistic alternative?

Atheists have their own problem of evil, which is worse than mine: If there is no God, there is no evil (except what people decide is evil).

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

6. Have you considered the implications if we have a creator?

“The problem of evil only exists if there is not a compensating reason for all the suffering, and it’s an arrogant position that says there could never be.... Just because you can’t see or imagine a good reason why God might allow something to happen doesn’t mean there can’t be one.”

— *Tim Keller*

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

6. Have you considered the implications if we have a creator?
7. What is God's relationship with the evil in this world?

“I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain.”

— *John Stott*

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

6. Have you considered the implications if we have a creator?
7. What is God's relationship with the evil in this world?
8. How do you deal with the problem of grace?

“On the face of it, living in a perfectly fair world appeals to me. But deeper reflection makes me wonder. In such a world I might never experience tragedy; but neither would I experience grace.”

— *Jerry Sittser*

Ten Ways to Respond

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

9. Do you like movies or books that don't have any problems?
10. What experience could make you forget your trials?

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

— *Paul in Romans 8:18*