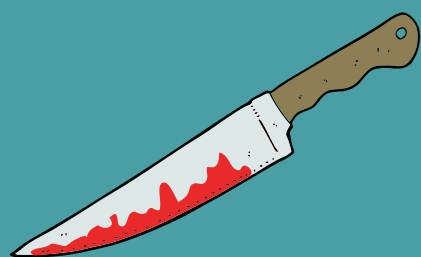


Does Evil Disprove God?

WHAT ABOUT EVIL?



NOBODY DOUBTS THAT EVIL IS REAL

We know evil when we see it.

Not only do Christians have to explain evil, but skeptics also must give an account of it. So, what do they say? What do they think is the basis of good and evil?

Charles Manson

SOME SAY EACH INDIVIDUAL DECIDES WHAT'S GOOD OR EVIL

But individuals can be really wrong about what's real evil. Just consider Charles Manson.

SOME THINK THAT SCIENCE CAN DECIDE WHAT'S GOOD OR EVIL

Science can tell us how to build a bomb, not if we should use it.

Certain moral principles are more fundamental than science, like reporting your research honestly or not plagiarizing your colleague's work. Morals precede and undergird science.

Adolf Hitler

OTHERS SAY THAT SOCIETY DECIDES WHAT'S GOOD OR EVIL

But societies can be really wrong about what's real evil. Just consider Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. (They believed what they were doing was good for humanity. But they were completely mistaken.)

SKEPTICS LACK A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR GOOD & EVIL. THAT'S A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN WHAT THE CHRISTIAN FACES.



THE FOUNDATION FOR GOOD & EVIL IS GOD

INSTEAD OF EVIL DISPROVING GOD, WE KNOW REAL EVIL BECAUSE OF GOD

Whatever reflects God's character is good.

Whatever departs from His character is evil.

He is the standard by which we measure good and evil.

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. (1 John 1:5,6, NLT)

BUT IF GOD IS SO GOOD AND POWERFUL, WHY DOESN'T HE STOP EVIL?

Here's the problem with that. We want God to end the evil that we hate, not the evil that we like.

If God jumped in and immediately punished all evil, where would that leave you?



YES, THIS IS NOT THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS

But this may be the way to the best of all possible worlds.

Jesus says: "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Here's one promise that you can count on

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

