

From Perfect to Pieces

Part 2 of Building Lives With Christian Ethics

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Read Psalm 119:68; Genesis 1:31; Romans 2:14-15



“God cannot give us a happiness, good, and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” C. S. Lewis

Last week we examined the question “what is good?” We saw God is in essence, by *nature*, good. All He made was good. By contrast, we are not good. We are fallen humanity. We also saw that everyone has a philosophy of life whether they realise it or not (*philosophy*= “*love of wisdom*”). This philosophy becomes real day-to-day in the ethics we live out.

But now, some will ask “what about all the evil in the world?” Before we get to that, let’s start with “If God is good...”

1. Where Does *Good* Come From?

- Did God just randomly decide what he will call *good* and *bad*?
- Is there a source outside of God that has declared what *good* is?

Good is the character of God. He doesn’t get it from somewhere else. He doesn’t just make it up! God is the standard for goodness, the standard of beauty, and the standard of truth.

Read Deut. 32:3-4

2. Where Does *Evil* Come From?

Re-read Genesis 1:31

- God’s original creation was without bad-ness in it
 - No sickness
 - No death
 - No suffering

Evil was not created. Where did it come from?

- Adam and Eve were made in the image of God
- With moral “innocence” and a union with God
- With a freedom to make choices (hence the warning from God to *not* eat...)

- Lucifer made the first choice of favouring self - the first “evil”
- He then deceived Adam and Eve to make the same choice he did!
- The tree of the knowledge of good and evil profoundly affected their body, soul and spirit
- Attempts at happiness outside of God is found in: possessions, pleasures, and positions

Evil is the *absence* of God and His goodness.

Read Romans 5:12

- *This* is where we find sin entered
- *Man* is responsible for evil in this world
- But, God, in His grace and in His timing, will make things all new - Read Rev. 21:4-5

3. What are the Results of Evil?

Read Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20

- A. Spiritual Brokenness - They were now at enmity with God
- B. Psychological Brokenness - Man has tried to fill the void with possessions, pleasure and position
- C. Relational Brokenness - Not only with God but with others
- D. Stewardship Brokenness - Work became hard after the curse\

4. God Has Communicated What is Good!

A. The Intuitive Moral Law - Rom. 2:14

- God placed His law in our conscience
- It is fallible and tainted with sin, however

B. The Revealed Moral Law - Rom. 7:7

- God’s Moral Law never alters and demands perfection!
- God’s moral law grants no exceptions to wealth, ethnicity, or anything else
- Mankind is utterly unable to keep either the natural law or God’s Law. It tells us to be good, but doesn’t give the ability. Only

God's Spirit can develop in us a desire to find our greatest happiness in God alone

- The Law was given to drive us in despair back to God for mercy

Questions:

1. So, if someone today asked you "If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?", how might you answer them?
2. What do people often mean when they say "If God is so powerful, why doesn't He just stop all evil and sin instead of allowing it?", what do they usually mean?

(They mean stop the sin(s) that they want stopped. We must remember God is totally holy and righteous and withholds his judgment until the right time. We must be grateful that He is allowing more time for sinners to repent and doesn't give us all what we deserved right now).

3. Why is intuitive moral law important? (No one will be able to stand before God with an excuse) What does the *revealed* moral law do for us? (Drives us in despair, because we are incapable of it, to the grace of God in Jesus Christ)

Prayer: "Father, You ARE good and the very definition of it. I praise You that You made us with an moral law inside, although tainted with sin and corruption. I praise You for giving your revealed moral law (the Bible) to us to more fully show us Your will and plan. And thank You for restoring the broken-ness that our sin had caused through Jesus Christ. Help me to live each day in Your will and in Your wisdom. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."