



Class 5A: Does God Exist if Evil Exists?



Two primary
ways of thinking
through evil and
suffering



Emotional

Intellectual: the foundation



A). Evil and suffering affect people in two primary ways:

- 1. Drives you away from God.**
- 2. Drives you to God.**



B). A question to find out if a person's struggle with suffering is an intellectual problem, or primarily emotional:

Why do you ask?



C). Evil and suffering are used against the Christian faith.

Example: Bertrand Russel said to Christians; “What are you going to say to the parents of a dying child?”

Dr. Craig: “What is Bertrand Russell going to say the parents of dying child? Better luck next time? That’s too bad?”



D). Evil and suffering is everyone's problem. Christianity offers a better answer; and hope!



Part 1: Does evil and suffering disprove God's existence?

Story of U-Mass Student;



If God is good...

If God is all knowing...

If God is all powerful...

Conclusion...



Great Question Using Tactics:

What do you mean by evil?



We know what is *wrong*, because we know what is...

Right

Incorrect...

Correct



A bad painting...

A good painting...

A crooked line...

A straight line...

A good Soccer Player...

A bad soccer player...



Evil only makes sense when comparing it to something good. Without God as the standard of real or objective good, it is hard (even impossible) to ground an event as evil, morally wrong, or a tragedy.



What is evil, then?

What if God doesn't exist?

What would a world without God and
objective good look?



Hitler: **Kill people.**

Mother Teresa: **Help people.**

Jeffrey Dahmer: **Eat people.**

Who's to know? Who cares?

No ultimate right and wrong.



Therefore, real evil in the world actually proves God, rather than disproves God.
How so?



“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?” - *C.S. Lewis*



Tooth Decay:

Evil (sin) ----- something's wrong

Perfect Tooth: --- Something right.

Good (God)



Therefore,

Anything evil is sin.

And anything sinful is evil.

Evil is sin, or sin is the definition of evil.



If someone walks away from God because of evil, they haven't stopped evil, they have only removed the source of hope.

Why, because people are the source of evil, not God.



The Moral Argument

1. Evil exists.
2. Objective good must exist.
3. Objective moral good must come from a morally good law-maker.
4. God is the good behind all objective laws.
5. Therefore, God exists.