

Keeping Your Kids On God's Side



40 Conversations To Help Them Build A Lasting Faith



Introduction : The World We Live In

- OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the Church to equip themselves with answers to the difficult faith questions
 - AND
- Encourage parents to talk to their children about these topics to prepare them for the world

Outcomes Of A Hostile World

61% of kids who were actively involved in church as recently as their teenage years become spiritually disengaged by their 20s - not praying, reading the Bible or attending church.

The Answer:



Grassroots Apologetics/Answers for Parents

- **What is Apologetics?**
 - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect - 1 Peter 3:15 NIV*
- **What is this program?**
 - 40 Hot Topic conversations
 - Short overview of Answers to the difficult questions
- **What this is NOT**
 - Scripted final full answers
 - Continued self education is needed

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question One

- What Evidence Is There For God's Existence?
 - How do you find God?
- Why Is Objective Evidence Needed?

“Our own experiences or feelings, although meaningful to ourselves, are useless when arguing the case for the existence of God to non-believers.”

3 Arguments As Objective Evidence For God

1) Cosmological Argument

Premise 1 - The Universe Had A Beginning

Premise 2 - Anything That Had A Beginning Must Have Been Caused By Something Else

Conclusion – Therefore The Universe Was Caused By Something Else, Which We Call GOD

Personal, Timeless, Spaceless, Immaterial, Powerful

QUESTION: What Caused God?

The Uncaused First Cause

3 Arguments As Objective Evidence For God

- 1) **Cosmological Argument**
- 2) **Design Argument**

Biology: the information in DNA is equivalent to 384 Encyclopedias. (Frank Turek, Alphabet cereal)



**Physics - the fine-tuning of the Universe
(Sean McDowell, Cabin in the woods)**



3 Arguments As Objective Evidence For God

- 1) **Cosmological Argument**
- 2) **Design Argument**
- 3) **Moral Argument**

Objective Moral Standards exist



Objection 1: Different Cultures, Different Morals

Objection 2: Morals are Personal Opinions

The Best Explanation is a Moral Lawgiver

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Two

How can a Good God allow evil and suffering?

A Perceived contradiction in the faith

“Yeah, like I don’t understand why He doesn’t just stop bad guys before they do bad stuff. Why wouldn’t He just want good things to happen?”

The Problem of Evil

1) Defining the Problem of Evil

The Heart of the Issue is:

If God is All-Good, He Would eliminate evil

If God is All-Powerful, He Could eliminate evil

But Evil Exists

How then can the Existence of Evil be reconciled with the Existence of God?

Christians Like to Refer to Genesis 3:17-19 However

- People who raise it do not believe
- It is an emotional one

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Defining the Problem of Evil
- 2) Did God Create Evil?

An Argument for Evil and Its Origins

1. God Created Everything
2. Evil is Something

Conclusion: Therefore God Created Evil

The Problem with this is Premise 2 – An Assumption

Evil is a Corruption of a Good thing

- Rot on a Tree
- Rust on a Car

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Defining the Problem of Evil
- 2) Did God Create Evil?
- 3) Where Corruption Come From?
- 4) Why God Doesn't Stop Evil

1. Human Corruption

Free Will – Not Robots
We Can Choose our Own Path

God Wants Us To Freely Love Him. A Love Forced Is No Love at All

2. God Can Do Anything? But Is This True?

- He Cannot Lie
- He Cannot Do Something Contradictory

God can't force us to freely make good choices;
He would have to destroy our freedom so He could destroy evil.

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Defining the Problem of Evil
- 2) Did God Create Evil?
- 3) Where Corruption Come From?
- 4) Why God Doesn't Stop Evil
- 5) Natural Evil?

The Most Difficult Evil That Is Addressed

Natural Evil is a By-Product of Good Process

"Our planet requires oxygen and a warming sun and water in order for us to live here, and we appreciate this, even though we recognize that people can get sunstroke and drown in the ocean. So, too, it seems that plate tectonics are... a 'central requirement for life' as we know it."

(Dinesh D'Souza, "Why We Need Earthquakes," Christianity Today (April 28, 2009))

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Defining the Problem of Evil
- 2) Did God Create Evil?
- 3) Where Corruption Come From?
- 4) Why God Doesn't Stop Evil
- 5) Natural Evil?
- 6) Tough But Overcome

Tough to Answer

Doesn't Mean there are No Answers

Moral and Natural evil can both be viewed as a by-product of God's perfectly good creation.

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Three

- Why would God command the Genocide of the Canaanites?
- The Old Testament Recounts the Conquest of Canaan
- Sceptics Argue: God Immoral for Ordering the Genocide of the Canaanites.
- THE ARGUMENT
 - If a Good God Exists, He wouldn't Order Something Immoral like Genocide
 - Therefore, God Doesn't Exist

The Problem of Evil

1) An Execution of God's Judgment

1. God Promised Abraham
2. Canaanites Inhabited the Land
3. They were Depraved
4. God Knew Canaanite Influence on Israel

The Problem of Evil

- 1) **An Execution of God's Judgment**
- 2) **Command Genocide Immoral?**

1. The Horrendous Imagery of Genocide
2. God Authority is Perfect And Absolute
3. This is an Execution of Judgment

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Four

- How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell?
- Question More Complex
 - Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?
 - Who Should Be Punished?
 - What Should The Nature Of Punishment Be?

The Problem of Evil

1) Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?

Common Objection: *"I believe in Jesus and all He taught, But I can't believe in hell. I think of how much I adore my own kids, and no matter what they did, I would never want them to be severely punished. God must love us even more than that, so how could He create hell?"*

Two Big Problems

- The Problem of Sin
- God is Both Loving and Just

The Problem of Evil

1) Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?

What is Sin?

- God's Moral Code (First Question for the Existence of God)
- Transgression of God's Laws
- Expect Punishment for Breaking God's Laws
- Must Be a Penalty For Sin

The Problem of Evil

- 1) **Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?**
- 2) **Who Should Be Punished?**

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

ALL People Should Be Punished

Best Just To Avoid Hell, But Don't Sell it Short

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?
- 2) Who Should Be Punished?
- 3) What Should The Nature Of Punishment Be?

There is agreement on Severity and Justness of Hell

The Difference is:

What Hell Is?

How Long Will it Last

LITERAL HELL

METAPHORICAL HELL

CONDITIONALIST HELL

The Problem of Evil

- 1) Why Does Good Need To Punish Anyone?
- 2) Who Should Be Punished?
- 3) What Should The Nature Of Punishment Be?
- 4) A Harsh Reality – A Choice

“There are only two kinds of people—those who say ‘Thy will be done’ to God or those to whom God in the end says, ‘Thy will be done.’ All that are in Hell choose it.”

C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain