

The
THINKING
Series

Teaching Discussion Questions
Session 4: Why is There Evil?
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Discuss these points Andy made in the video:

“Evil is not a thing in and of itself. It’s the corruption of something. Specifically, it’s the corruption of something good... For example, when I say that abandoning a child to starve to death is bad, wrong, or evil, I mean to say that the world shouldn’t be that way. But this has the implication that the world should be good, right, or correct.” (03:09 – 03:35)

 **Would you define evil differently? If so, how would you define it?**

.....

“So, what is the standard of good? Christianity teaches that goodness is an attribute, or a necessary expression, of God’s nature. God’s very essence is goodness... Christianity teaches of God as the Trinity, three persons in one essence: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is significant because it means that God embodies relationship. God demonstrates the standard of right relationship in himself. From this we get our standard for relationships, that is, the standard for moral goodness.” (04:47 – 05:26)

 **Do you think God is the standard of right relationship? If not, what would you say is?**

.....

“Why did God allow both angels and people to create evil? The truth is, we don’t know—it’s a mystery. However, there have been many suggested answers, and the one that stands out to me as the most compelling is called the Free Will Defense. It’s called a defense because its purpose is not to answer the question but merely to demonstrate that the coexistence of God and evil is not a dilemma...” (06:57 – 08:36)

 **Do you find the Free Will Defense convincing? What is attractive or unattractive about it as a possible answer?**

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The following recommended resources are available at:
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Think For a Minute videos:

- What is Evil?
- What is Good?

Apologetics Canada Podcast

- Episode AC012 – Thinking Series: Why is There Evil?

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