



The Problem of Evil with Dr. David Schenk

Lesson 1: What is the Problem of Evil?

Outline:

The Problem of Evil – Three Main Arguments

- The logical version of the problem of evil: This is the one used most often today. It says that the existence of an unconditionally perfect Creator and sustainer God is flatly incompatible with the existence of any genuine evil.
 - Almost every atheist philosopher has abandoned this.
- The evidential version of the problem of evil: It contends that given an unconditionally perfect God, the existence of the evil in the world around us is screamingly unlikely.
- The classical version, the late antiquity and scholastic version of the problem of evil: That one goes back to Augustine and Anselm.

What is the “Problem of Evil”?

- What we call the “problem of evil” is an argument for the nonexistence of God from the existence of evil (that evil conflicts with the notion of God existing).

Attempted solution to the problem of evil:

- Evil is punishment for sin.
 - Sin is evil. Why does anything genuinely bad exist in the first place?
 - The heart of the problem of evil carries us into questions about origins of the fall (of Adam and Eve, and the angels).

The logical version of the problem of evil, John L. Mackie

- (1) If there is evil in the world, then either God was unable to prevent it, or He was unwilling to prevent it.
- (2) If God was unable to prevent evil, then He is not omnipotent.
- (3) If God was unwilling to prevent evil, then He is not omnibenevolent.
- (4) If God exists He is both omnipotent and omnibenevolent.
- (5) There is evil in the world (evil is not malice or spite).
- (6) Therefore, if there's evil in the world, then there is no God.
- (7) Therefore, there is no God.