



## The Problem of Evil with Dr. David Schenk

### Lesson 15: How Angels Might Fall, Justice & Autonomy

#### Outline:

##### Introduction

- We become carried away with our love for God, and we become partisan about it.
- No measure of love of God will ever be improper. That's why love needs to be enchanting and excessive. It is designed for the one and only truly proper object of all such obsession.

What loves might an angel might (conjecture) have whereby they become a devil?

- Where does pride begin?
- **Justice:** A commitment to justice, to decency, to fairness
  - Consider our commitment to justice and our outrage to injustice.
  - "That's not fair."
  - Moral partisanship exhibits extraordinary tenacity. Such a partisanship held in defense of the defenseless is fiercely unapologetic.
  - What is the driving psychology of a social justice warrior?
    - Commitment to those groups they consider marginalized.
    - They espouse skepticism of knowledge and good and evil (without good and evil there is no justice, but this passes them by), and skepticism about truth itself.
    - These activists try to forbid even the possibility of evidence against their beliefs.
    - Something that begins nobly, deforms into a rejection of truth (a hatred of evidence). By its essence, this is hatred of God.
    - They worship, at heart, only themselves.
    - That is rebellion, and we need to repent of it.
  - It might be like this (in a grander scale) with the angels that become devils. In what begins as an act of great decency and justice festers an excess of moral conviction. That yields the stubbornness necessary for rebellion.
- **Autonomy**
  - The goodness of autonomy is unequivocal.
  - God has autonomy.
  - If God's creatures also possess autonomy.
  - The angel's fall could begin with a sincere noble and honest desire to expand the scope of autonomy within God's creation.
  - They see clearly the goodness of autonomy.
  - They seek to increase it on account of it being good.



- They erroneously perceive a sign that God wants them to finish their project on their own.
- The stubbornness underlying the fall looks to them like just the thing to increase and enhance autonomy.
- Truth they cast aside for the loveliness of their own created effort.
- If it's yours, it's not truth.