



## The Problem of Evil with Dr. David Schenk

### Lesson 3: Standard Responses: The Greater Good Argument

#### Outline:

What is the greater good argument really up to?

- Cherry Garcia contents:
  - Ice Cream – 10
  - Chocolate – 10
  - Cherry – 6
  - Summing the aesthetic value of all three ingredients = 26/30
  - Why would you put in an ingredient that is aesthetically flawed?
    - This is not a misstep.
    - Your best recipe is one that contains ingredients that by themselves, you would never want.
    - Those ingredients are not by themselves.
    - Their role is in how they fit with the other ingredients.
    - The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.
- David's Ice Cream Recipe contains:
  - Ice Cream – 10
  - Chocolate – 10
  - HOT Punjabi Curry – 10
  - Summing the aesthetic value of all three ingredients = 30/30
  - The problem here is that they don't fit together.
  - As it is in aesthetics, so it is in ethics.
- Your best totality often will be on that includes parts that by themselves are terrible. The redeeming thing about them is that they are not by themselves.

Versions of the greater good argument, the theodicies.

- Theodicy does not mean an explanation for why evil is needed, but a reason for God to permit evil that is needed (in order for redeeming greater goods to be achieved).