

Introduction to Apologetics

SESSION 6: WHAT ABOUT EVIL?

6C: Answering the Problem of Evil (Part 2)

1. Peckham's Theodicy of Love is a response to both the Evidential and Logical Problems of Evil.
2. Presuppositions of the Theodicy of Love
 - a. God created two families, the unseen (elohim) and seen (humans).
 - b. God endowed both families with libertarian freedom and the potential for change.
 - c. God is self-limiting based on His self-derived moral constraints.
3. Process of the Theodicy of Love
 - a. God created the unseen and seen realms good and with true freedom.
 - b. The first and second falls happened through a misuse of freedom.
 - c. Those fallen in the unseen realm (especially Satan) targeted the seen realm as a means to denigrate God's goodness and love.
 - d. Satan initiated a cosmic conflict which God agreed to fight.
 - e. Satan's contention is that God would not be loved by the seen realm without coercion.
 - f. God chose to fight.
 - g. God agreed to fight based upon rules that would mean His self-limitation at times and the allowance of consequence bringing natural and moral evil.
 - h. God's decision to fight according to the rules rather than simply eradicate evil immediately was to show that He is love.
 - i. God's promise to send forth the "seed of the woman" was the beginning of His longsuffering demonstration of love.
 - j. Instances of evil over the course of history after the falls of the unseen and seen realms are part of the cosmic conflict between God and Satan.
 - k. God's limited actions and perceived absence is based on His agreement to rules of the cosmic conflict (cf. Job).
 - l. At the cross of Calvary, God dealt the decisive blow to secure His victory in the cosmic conflict.
4. Promise of the Theodicy of Love
 - a. God is sovereign and controlling all things in a morally upright and free-will respecting way.
 - b. God chooses to love through self-sacrifice and shared suffering (e.g., the incarnation and passion of Jesus).
 - c. God works all things now and eventually forever for the good of those who choose to love Him.
 - d. God will eventually complete the victory over evil and demonstrate His perfect goodness and love once for all to the praise of His glory in the saints and the unfallen unseen realm.

