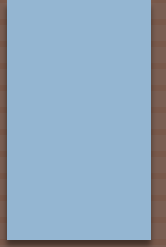




THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING



Why Does God Allow Evil?

The earth also was corrupt
before God, and the earth was
filled with violence. Gen. 6,11

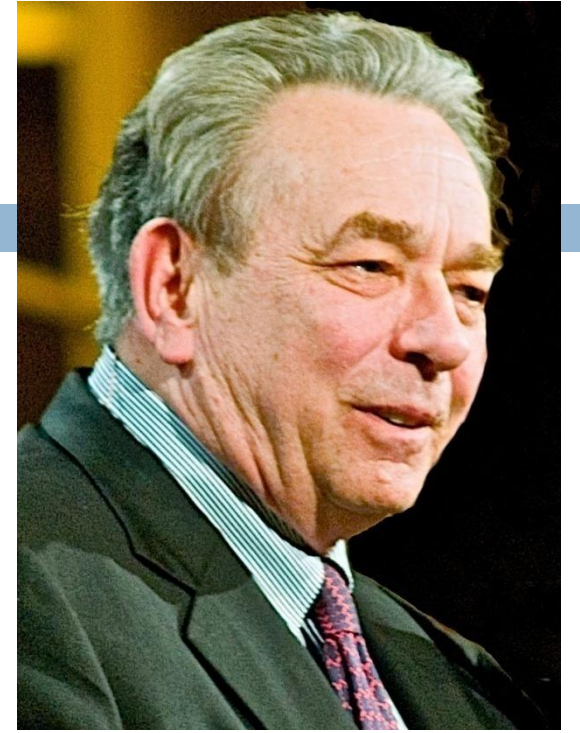
Introduction

Omayra Sánchez was a young girl (13 years old) who became trapped in debris and water when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted in Colombia in 1985. The eruption caused a massive mudslide that destroyed many homes and buildings, including Omayra's.



What is Evil?

1. Evil is not a thing or an entity.
2. Evil is an action, like force or gravity.
3. Evil is doing what is contrary to God's commands.
4. Desire (an innocent inclination to sin) is a contradiction, and does not explain the origin of evil.
5. Evil is not simply imperfection.
6. Evil is not necessary to being a creature.
7. Adam was not created fallen.

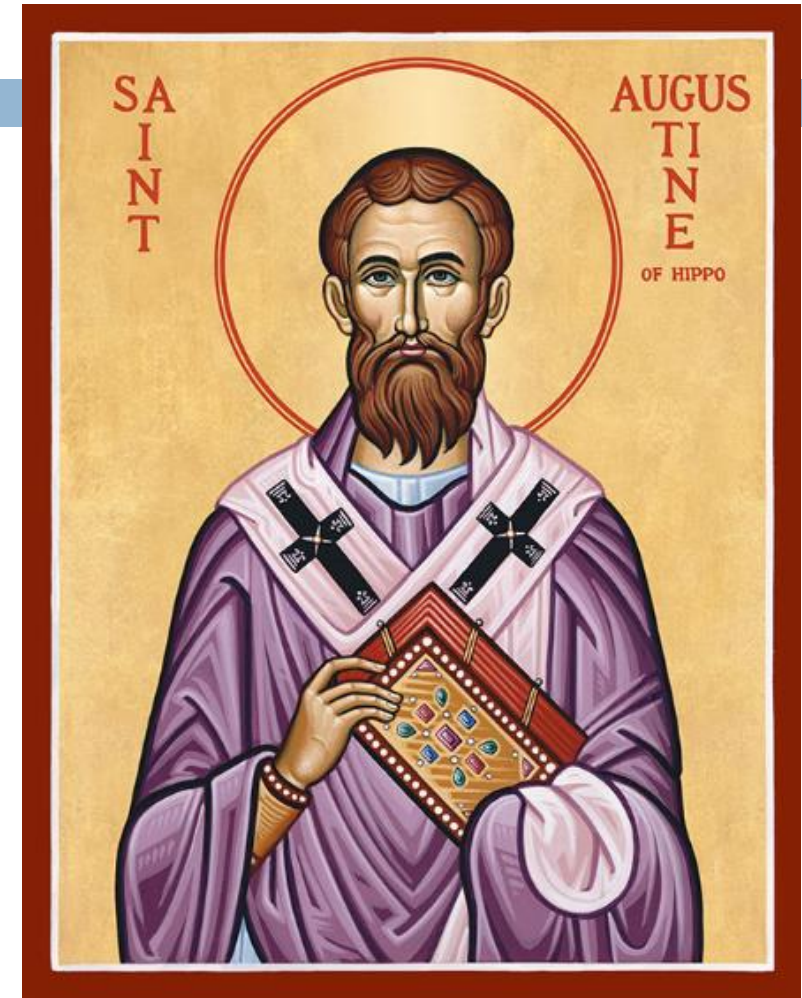


Dr. **R.C. Sproul** was founder of Ligonier Ministries, first minister of preaching and teaching at Saint Andrew's Chapel in Sanford, Fla.

The Evil comes out of a man

- And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these **evil** things come from within and defile a man.” Mark, 7:20-23

- Evil cannot exist without good; however, good can exist without the presence of evil. For good to be diminished is evil.
- Since God is the highest good, he would not allow any evil to exist in his works unless his omnipotence and goodness were such as to bring good even out of evil.



Saint Augustine

Types of Evil



	Natural Evil	Moral Evil
What is it?	Evil not caused by human actions	Evil caused by human actions
Examples	➤ Hurricanes ➤ Epidemics ➤ Tsunamis ➤ Earthquakes	➤ Moral Evil; Like Malice, Jealousy, Hatred, Partiality ➤ Physical Action; Hurting, Murdering, Stealing , ..etc

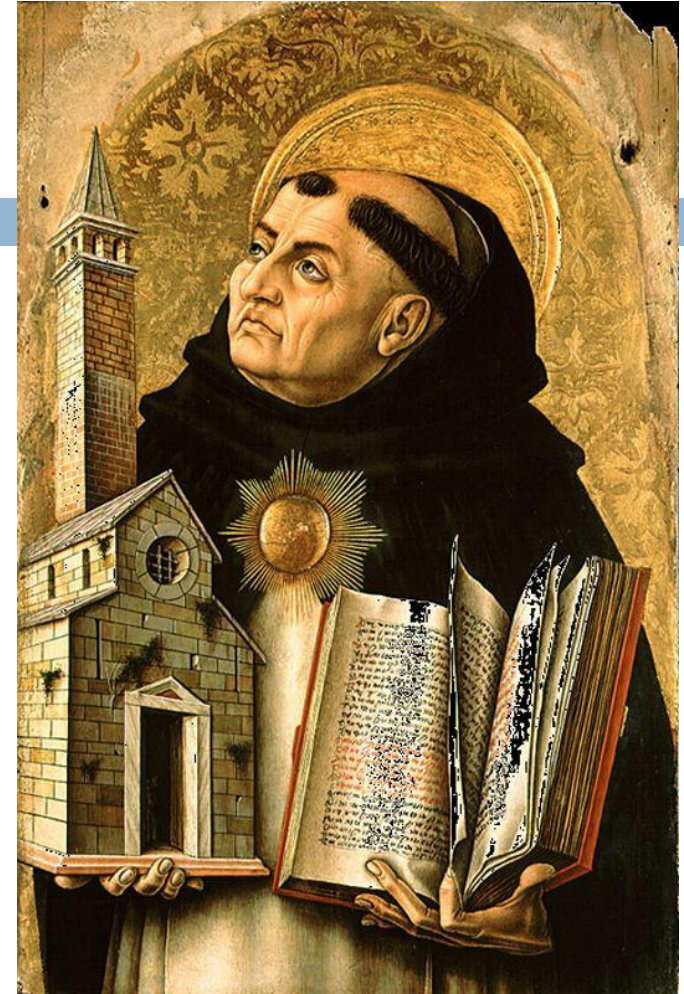


GOD'S **RESPONSE** TO HUMAN EVIL

- ▶ **Reset** as in the Flood
- ▶ **Restore** as He did with the Israelis in Sinai
- ▶ **Rehabilitate** as in Captivity
- ▶ **Repentance** as in Nineveh
- ▶ Finally His **Redemption**

God himself would not permit evil in this world if good did not come of it for the benefit and harmony of the universe.

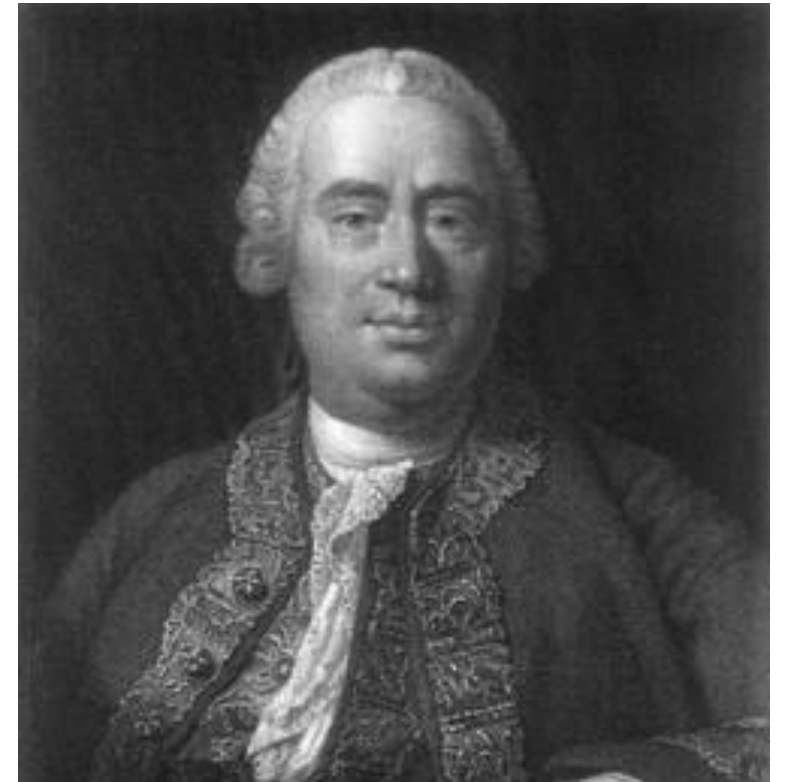
Good can exist without evil, whereas evil cannot exist without good.



Thomas Aquinas

The rock of atheism - David Hume

- If God is omnipotent, omniscient and wholly good, whence evil? If God wills to prevent evil but cannot, then He is not omnipotent. If He can prevent evil but does not, then he is not good. In either case he is not God.



David Hume; one of the most important philosophers, historian, economist, librarian in the 17th century.

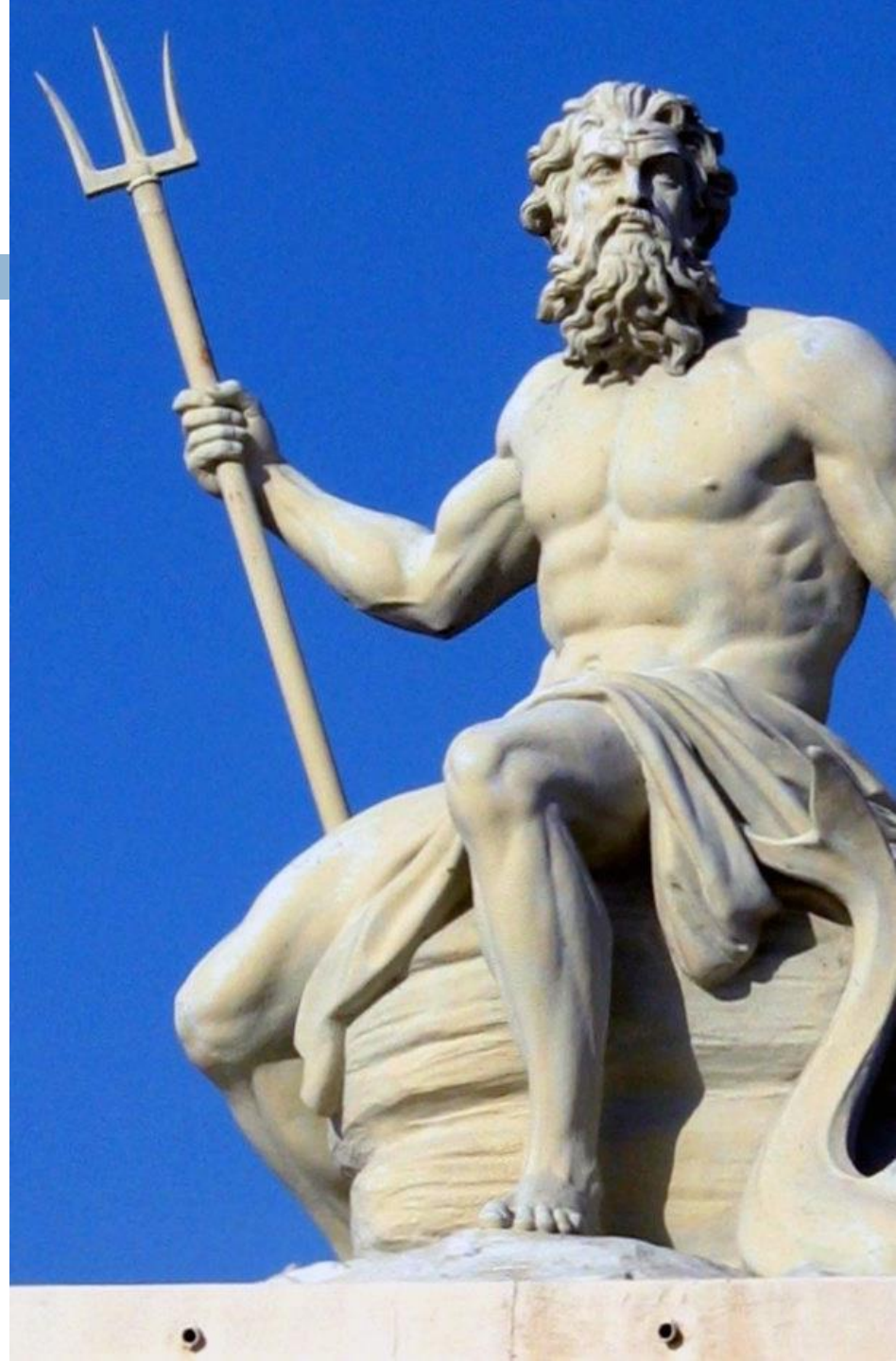
Hume's Logical Problem of Evil

- Hume argued that belief in God is irrational using four premises:
 - God is omnipotent (all-powerful);
 - God is omniscient (all-knowing);
 - God is omnibenevolent (morally perfect), and;
 - Evil exists.

- These premises are, according to Hume, inconsistent — you cannot believe them all without contradicting yourself (if you are a theist).



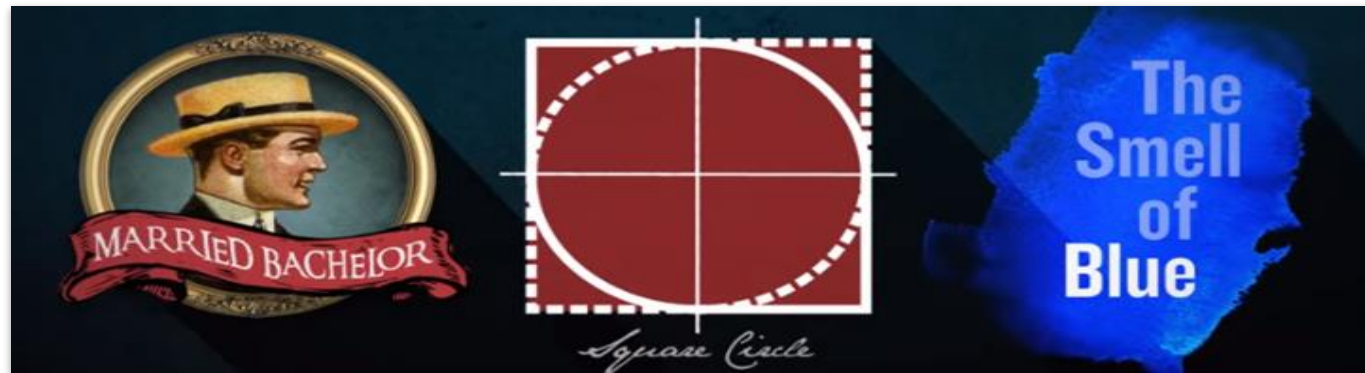
What do we think of Hume's
argument?



God is **omnipotent** (all-powerful)

Are there some things that God Can not do ?

God, though omnipotent, could not be expected to do literally anything. God could not, for example, create square circles, act contrary to his nature, or, more relevantly, create beings with free will that would never choose evil.



Free Will

This answers the question you hear so often: ***“why didn't God merely create a world we're suffering and evil didn't exist?”***

The answer is: he did. Genesis says that when God created the world, it was “good”. but if God is not the author of pain or evil or death, how did they get introduced? Well, God decided to give human beings free will, which is necessary if we are to be able to express love to God and to each other.

Do you agree that the source of the world's evil is not God, but rather the result of human freedom and poor human choices?



Free Will Vs. Evil Free World

- Suppose a Father has 2 kids
 1. The first one has a free will to do everything.
 2. The second one is living in a super house equipped with everything to prevent him from Evil, but he is not allowed to go anywhere.



Alvin Plantinga's Free Will Defence

- (FW1) FW is the source of many of the world's evils;
- (FW2) (therefore) to eliminate the world's evils, God must eliminate FW;
- (FW3) To eliminate FW is a worse evil than to eliminate the world's evils.

Therefore:

- (FW4) the omniGod cannot eliminate the world's evils without bringing about a greater evil

Therefore:

- (FW5) Premises (1) – (4) of Hume's argument can be held consistently.

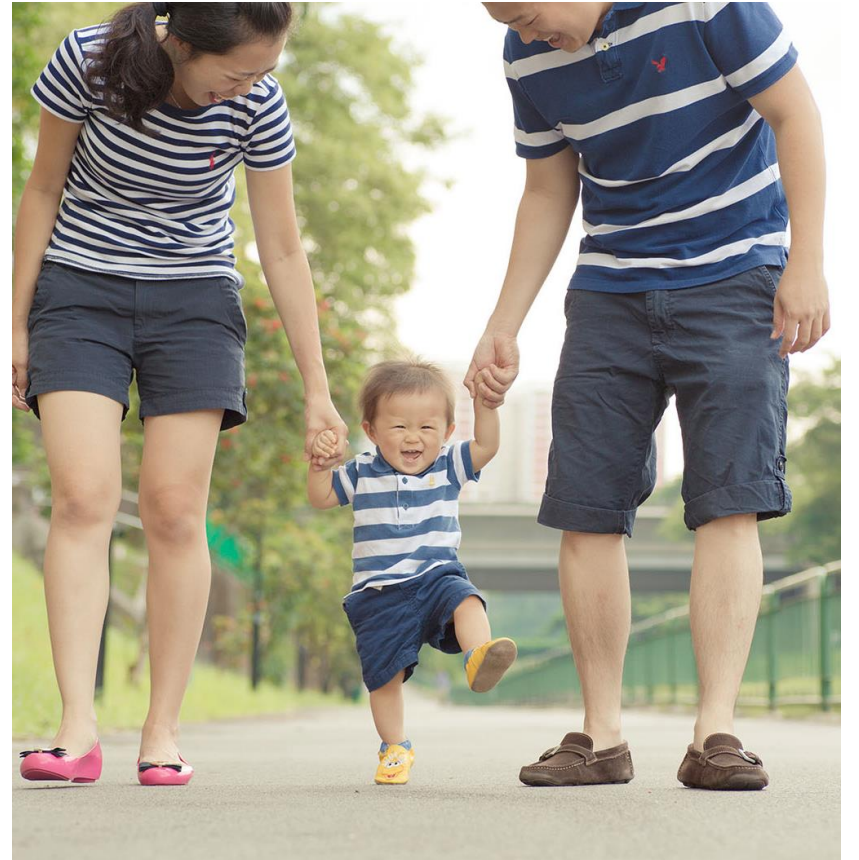


Free Will Defence: Counterargument #1

This free will defence assumes that free will is so great a good that it outweighs all moral evils. But why think this is so?

Suppose a toddler finds a gun. The toddler's father discovers the toddler with the gun, and sees that the toddler is about to pull the trigger and shoot another child in the foot. It seems reasonable to think that the father ought to intervene and violate the child's free will by taking the gun.

Is this counterargument persuasive?



Free Will Defence:

Counterargument #2

Why assume that God needs to do away with free will in order to eliminate all the world's evils?

Hume: “if God has made men such that in their free choices they sometimes prefer what is good and sometimes what is evil, why could he not have made men such that they always freely chose the good?”



God's Will

- For this is the **will of God**, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— **as free**, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 1 Peter 2:15-16

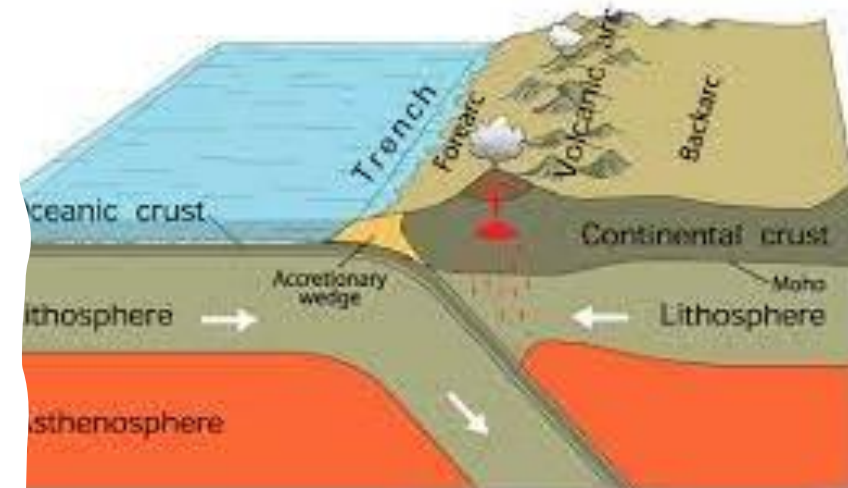
Free Will Defence: Counterargument #3

The FW argument covers *moral* evils only. It cannot explain *natural* evils like forest fires or volcanic eruptions.



Some “Natural Evil” May Be the Result of Necessity

- God may tolerate some natural evil because it is the necessary consequence of a free natural process that makes it possible for freewill creatures to thrive.
- Some Scientist-theologians suggest that God has created a universe with particular natural laws that make life on earth possible so that humans with free will can exist in the first place.
- As an example, the same weather systems that create tornadoes that kill humans also create thunderstorms that provide our environment with the water needed for human existence.
- The same plate tectonics that kill humans (in earthquakes) are necessary for regulation of soils and surface temperatures needed for human existence.



How does God react with Evil?

Reacts Immediately; God ends the Evil quickly.



Ex. Susanna and the two Elders,
Dan. 13
Mordecai and Haman's plot,
Esther 6.

God ends the Evil after some time,
hours or years.



Ex. Joseph after 12 years, Daniel
in the lions' den after several
hours.

God allows Evil without ending it on
Earth.



Ex. Kosheh massacres,
Lazarus.

Because Jesus took upon himself the consequences for every sin ever committed that has caused you pain, how might this begin to heal you? Because he chose to take the punishment you deserve for everything you have ever committed, how might this begin to **set you free** from the weight of guilt and condemnation and replace it with relief, gratitude, enjoy?

