

# What is evil?

Does evil really exist?

- What does “evil” mean to you?
- What can be (or is) evil?
- “...deliver us from evil...” Lord’s Prayer

Can good come out of evil?

- “If we do this one bad thing, many will benefit.”
- If that is the case, is it actually evil?

When was evil first unleashed? (Greek mythology: Pandora’s Box)

When will evil end? Matthew 24:3-14 (p. 1538)

Is the cross a symbol of good or evil?

## NATURAL EVIL

1. Humans, animals, etc., all die and decay.
  - Life is fragile, vulnerable, temporary.
  - Is death itself evil?
2. “Mother Nature”– Part of the order of the created world.
  - Sometimes it works to our advantage, other times against us
  - (If I jump off a cliff is it God’s fault that gravity pulls me down to earth?)

Heidelberg Catechism Question #28

**Q. How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?**

A. We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God’s hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved. (1562)

3. Human negligence
  - After years of no maintenance work, was it God’s doing that the bridge collapsed?
  - If I build a sand castle on the beach at low tide...
4. A mystery – Think about Job

Did God create natural evil?

## MORAL EVIL

- What human beings inflict on each other
- Rebellion against God
- Indifference to others
- The opposite of what were created to be

When we do evil → We become trapped and controlled by evil

Our decision vs. the devil made me do it!

Free will vs. “slaves to sin”

Did God create moral evil?

“Evil is, by definition, what God does not will and does not do.”

Christian Doctrine, Shirley Guthrie Jr.

So, how do we defeat evil?