

The Doctrine of Evil

Written and compiled by Gary Kukis

These studies are designed for believers in Jesus Christ only. If you have exercised faith in Christ, then you are in the right place. If you have not, then you need to heed the words of our Lord, Who said, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be have eternal life! For God did not send His Son into the world so that He should judge the world, but so that the world shall be saved through Him. The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son of God.**” (John 3:16–18). “**I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through [or, by means of] Me!**” (John 14:6).

Every study of the Word of God ought to be preceded by a naming of your sins to God. This restores you to fellowship with God (1John 1:8–10). **If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness** (1John 1:9). If there are people around, you would name these sins silently. If there is no one around, then it does not matter if you name them silently or whether you speak aloud.

Preface: Evil is not sin. Evil is far more pernicious than sin. Evil is the thinking, the philosophy of Satan. In politics, evil is multiculturalism and liberalism. Evil also describes the purpose of some acts of sin and human good.

Topics

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

Many believers do not understand the concept of evil. R. B. Thieme taught this doctrine at various times (no doubt, as influenced by L. S. Chafer). This doctrine is also posted in **Psalm 21** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)) and **Job 1** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).

The Doctrine of Evil

- 1) Evil is both the thinking and policy of Satan in his desire to become God. What stands in opposition to evil is grace, which represents both the thinking and policy of God. Satan desires to use his policy of evil in order to influence and pervert the souls of mankind. Evil, therefore, can be a simple distortion of God's Word and His directives. Evil invades all aspects of thought and life as it pertains to mankind: religion, philosophy, society, etc. Evil thinking can manifest itself in apostasy, legalism, socialism and other various human panaceas, and liberalism.
- 2) Under the concept of religion, evil includes any system of religious function outside of the established church of God (the collection of those who have believed in Jesus Christ). Some religious are obviously evil, like Islam; and some are more subversively and subtly evil, like Buddhism. However, this understanding of evil means that certain denominations, movements and organizations within religion can

The Doctrine of Evil

be evil. And one of the most harmful things that can befall any believer is to become influenced by evil -- Satan's system.

- 3) Hebrews 5:14 reads: **But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.** In other words, spiritually mature believers are able to differentiate between good and evil.
- 4) According to Romans 7:19-21, a good thing done in an evil manner is evil: **For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do -- this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.**
- 5) Philippians 3:2 warns believers to beware of evil men, **"Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh."** And the saints are not to keep company with evil, and influence by evil explains why prayers are not answered: Job 35:8,9, says, **"He keeps company with evildoers; he associates with wicked men. For he says, 'It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.'"**
- 6) Ecclesiastes 9:3 makes the somber and astounding statements that false religious teachings are evil and can lead to insanity, **"This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead."**
- 7) Spiritually mature believers are protected from evil, according to the following verses: Psalm 21:11, Proverbs 1:33 2:10-14 12:12,20,21 19:23 23:4 Genesis 50:20 48:16 Psalm 37:16-19 97:10 119:101 121:7.
- 8) Within the souls of believers, the question is: Is the believer influenced by God's Word and grace, or by evil? This question is clearly asked in Proverbs 15:3; 16:6; 22:3, and 24:1-4, which says, **"Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company; for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble. By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."**
- 9) God's Word overcomes evil; Romans 12:21 says, **"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."** And Psalm 54:5 says, **"Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them."**
- 10) Apostasy is shaped by evil, according to John 3:19, **"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."** And Psalm 36:1-4 makes it even more lucid, **"An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. Even on his bed he plots evil; he commits himself to a sinful course and does not reject what is wrong." So here, then, we have the sins of arrogance and hatred included in evil, and helping to form apostasy in the believer's soul.**
- 11) Thinking evil leads to a complete reversal of standards, Isaiah 5:20, **"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." And the thinkers of evil destroy themselves (God using evil to destroy evil), according to Psalm 34:21, "Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned."**
- 12) Evil has no loyalty to anyone or anything, Psalm 35:12, **"They repay me evil for good and leave my soul forlorn."** And finally, and efficiently, James 1:13 asserts that there is no evil in God, **"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone." And God will judge evil, Isaiah 13:11, "I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless."** Here we have sin and evil mentioned as two components of the same system. 'Haughty' thinking (evil) leads to 'arrogant' actions (sin). And 'ruthlessness' (hate as a system of thought or evil) leads to 'pride' (self-esteem and self-sufficiency). **"In the present age, man proves his separation from his Creator by his spirit of self-sufficiency and positive rejection of God. The present issue between God and man is one of whether man will accept God's estimate of him, abandon his hopeless self-struggle, and cast himself only on the grace of God which alone is sufficient to accomplish his needed transformation." [10]**

This was taken from <http://www.bga.com/~wdoud/philemon/phlm02.html> (which is no longer to be found) who took notes on this in 1971 from R. B. Thieme, Jr. The Concept of Evil; from notes (possibly from the Philemon series?). Revised and altered by R. E. Radic and then revised by me. At some point in time, I would like to do this doctrine from scratch, but there are only so many hours in the day.

A far more complete doctrine in pdf format is found here: http://www.gracenotes.info/documents/TOPICS_DOC/Evil.pdf It is unclear whether or not these are also notes from R. B. Thieme, Jr. (which I assume that they are). This is 8 pages long and therefore, much more complete.

Top of the Page

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

An abbreviated way to understand this is, *Bible doctrine is the thinking of God; evil is the thinking of Satan.*

Let's look at this from Todd Kennedy's perspective. Also placed in **Psalm 21 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)** and **Job 1:1 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)**.

Todd Kennedy's Doctrine of Evil

- 1) Evil has resulted from the fall of Satan and the fall mankind. Evil sums up the worldview which Satan, the evil one (John 17:15; Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 3:12), has sponsored.
- 2) Evil refers to the ungodly presuppositions, mind-set, attitudes, plans, sayings, actions, and goals of life that stand apart from God's will, direction, and influence because of a rejection of and a lack of God's Word. Evil includes liberal theology, the social gospel, salvation by works, preoccupation with self, one-world government apart from the physical rule of Christ, ecumenism and one-world religion, moral relativity, rejection of absolute truth and the ability to know absolute truth, emotional control of the soul, rejection of authority, self-esteem based upon human good, the redistribution of wealth, the theory of evolution, post-modernism, naturalism-materialism, do-it-yourself spirituality, and many others ideas, projects, programs, and activities that Satan and fallen man believe and promote. Rebellion against proper authority is evil; laziness is evil; self-centeredness is evil; religion, defined as human works to gain something from God, is evil; emotionalism is evil; crime is evil; some wars are evil; and human good activity that ignores or seeks to replace God's will is evil.
- 3) Evil includes human viewpoint, human good, and sin. Evil is sometimes a synonym for sin, but evil is more comprehensive than sin (Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:5; Proverbs 6:14; Proverbs 8:13 Ecclesiastics 5:13-14; Matthew 15:19; Romans 7:21; 12:9, 21; 2 Corinthians 6:8; Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 5:14).
- 4) The love of money is, in the human realm, a root or beginning of all kinds of evil (1Timothy 6:8-10). The concept is this: whatever it is that you value above God, the love of that thing is evil. Money is simply an illustration.
- 5) What do we do about evil? Proverbs 3:7 advises us to fear the Lord and turn away from evil; Hebrews 5:14 teaches that by learning and practicing the Word of God we are able to discern good from evil; Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:22, tells us to stay away from every kind of evil; Peter, in 1 Peter 3:11, tells us to shun evil and, in its place, do divine good; we learn in Romans 12:21, that divine love, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, overcomes evil, and in 1 Corinthians 13:5, divine love does not think evil. Therefore in answer to the question of what to do about evil, we need to grow up in the Word of God so that we take possession of Bible doctrine and the biblical worldview. As we do this we will recognize evil as that which contradicts Bible doctrine and the biblical worldview and be able replace it with God's word, God's thinking, and God's way of life. In short, we make biblical choices-choices for God and his Word and against evil.

Todd Kennedy's Doctrine of Evil

- 6) There are a number of biblical words that are translated "evil": the Old Testament often uses the adjective [r' (bad, evil, unpleasant, harmful, wicked; Genesis 6:5; Deuteronomy 9:18), the noun [r' (evil, distress, injury, misery, calamity; Job 28:28; Proverbs 12:20; Strong 7451b), the noun h[r; (evil misery, distress, injury; Psalm 35:12; Strong 7463a), and the verb [[r; (be evil, bad, be displeasing, do wickedly; Isaiah 1:16; Strong 7489a).
- 7) Evil in the New Testament is a translation of the Greek adjective, kakov" (unserviceable, incapable, morally evil, bad, weak, ruinous; Matthew 24:48; 1 Peter 3:9; Strong 2556) and the noun, kakia; (depravity, wickedness, vice, malice, ill-will, malignity, trouble, misfortune; Romans 1:29; 1 Peter 2:16; Strong 2549). Another Greek word for evil is ponhrov" (in the physical sense poor, sick, painful and in the ethical sense wicked, bad, evil, base, worthless, degenerate, vicious; Acts 17:5; Hebrews 10:22; Strong 4190).

From: <http://www.spokanebiblechurch.com/study/Bible%20Doctrines/evil.htm> accessed October 30, 2011. Some editing has occurred.

[Top of the Page](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

Preface: The

1. In

[Topics](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

The Abbreviated Doctrine of

[Chapter Outline](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

Bibliography

[Topics](#)

[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

[Kukis Homepage](#)

[Doctrines](#)