

# **VII. Theology, the Doctrine of God: The Problem of Evil**

1. The Problem- “How can an omnipotent God allow evil to exist if he did not want it?”
  - a. Possible answer #1, He is not omnipotent and he couldn’t control it.
  - b. Possible answer #2, He wanted it to exist, and therefore caused its existence.
  - c. Possible answer #3, In order for his highest creations, men and angels, to have the possibility of freely choosing God, there must be an allowance for the possibility of evil. The tree of good and evil in the Garden was placed there for that reason.
  
2. Some things to muse over, but cannot really be answered adequately:
  - a. If we are free to choose, does God know whether we will choose good or evil?
  - b. How about when we are in heaven, can we choose evil then? If not, are we free in heaven?
  - c. If God cannot choose evil himself, was God’s choice free?
  - d. God didn’t prevent evil in this world, could he prevent it in the eternal world?
  
3. One last thought- “If God is all powerful and he is all loving, then why do bad things happen to good people?”