

ThinkCube 1: Why Does God Allow Evil?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Read ThinkCube 1, “Why Does God Allow Evil?” Use the article and its Scripture references to answer each question. Circle the best answer and complete the written reflections. This is a learning exercise, not a closed-book test.

Premise 1 — Evil Is Not a “Thing” in Itself

1. According to Augustine, what is evil?

- A. A substance God created alongside goodness.
- B. The absence or corruption of something good.
- C. A physical energy that can be measured.
- D. A force equal in power to God.

2. Which illustration helps explain the idea of evil as a privation?

- A. Darkness is the absence of light.
- B. A mountain is taller than a hill.
- C. Water freezes below a certain temperature.
- D. Rain forms from clouds.

3. What does Genesis 1:31 say about what God created?

- A. Everything was already corrupted.
- B. Some things were inherently evil.
- C. It was very good.
- D. Creation had no moral significance.

4. According to the article, how did evil enter the world?

- A. God created evil as an independent substance.
- B. Through the rebellion and misuse of freedom by created beings.
- C. Because matter is inherently evil.
- D. Through a force more powerful than God.

Premise 2 — Not All Suffering Is Moral Evil

5. What important distinction does the article make?

- A. All pain is the result of intentional wrongdoing.
- B. Moral evil and suffering are always identical.
- C. Suffering can occur without an act of moral evil.
- D. Natural disasters always involve moral guilt.

6. Which example best illustrates suffering without moral wrongdoing?

- A. Deliberate fraud.
- B. An earthquake causing injury.
- C. Premeditated murder.
- D. Intentional exploitation.

7. Why might a tragic mistake differ from deliberate moral evil?

- A. Mistakes never cause real suffering.
- B. The consequences of mistakes are always minor.
- C. Human error can occur without malicious intent.
- D. No one is responsible for preventable harm.

8. What question should we ask before labeling suffering “evil”?

- A. Was it caused by moral wrongdoing, natural causes, or human error?
- B. Did it hurt someone? If so, it must be morally evil.
- C. Could it have been avoided by denying God?
- D. Was it immediately followed by something good?

Premise 3 — Evil Is Not Just a Problem for Christians

9. What broader question does the problem of evil raise for every worldview?

- A. Whether people ever experience pain.
- B. How we ground moral judgments and ultimate justice.
- C. Whether natural disasters are predictable.
- D. Whether all societies agree on every law.

10. What is meant by an objective moral standard?

- A. A rule that changes whenever a culture changes.
- B. A preference held by the majority.
- C. A standard of right and wrong not dependent solely on individual opinion.
- D. A personal feeling that cannot be questioned.

11. What is the article’s argument about our outrage at injustice?

- A. It can point toward a moral standard beyond human preference.
- B. It proves nobody has ever done wrong.
- C. It eliminates the need for reasoned discussion.
- D. It means pain and moral evil are the same.

12. How does the article contrast Christianity with naturalism regarding ultimate justice?

- A. Both guarantee that every wrong will be judged.
- B. Christianity teaches God will ultimately judge evil; naturalism offers no guaranteed final judgment.
- C. Christianity says injustice is an illusion.
- D. Naturalism says every wrongdoer is punished during life.

BE PREPARED TO SHARE — Written Reflections

13. In two or three sentences, explain Augustine’s view that evil is a corruption or absence of good. Include one everyday illustration.

14. Explain the difference between moral evil and suffering caused by natural events or unintended human error. Give an example of each.

15. A friend asks, “If God is good, why does He allow evil?” Write a thoughtful response using at least one idea from this ThinkCube and a Scripture reference.

16. Why does the article argue that the problem of evil raises questions for atheistic or naturalistic worldviews as well?

17. Memory Verse: Read Genesis 1:31, James 1:13-14, or Romans 5:12. Write the reference and explain its message in your own words.

Personal Takeaway

What is one truth from this ThinkCube you want to remember when talking with someone who struggles with the problem of evil?

ANSWER KEY & DISCUSSION GUIDE

Multiple Choice: 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. C 6. B

7. C 8. A 9. B 10. C 11. A 12. B

Suggested Responses for Written Reflections

13. Evil is a privation or corruption of good, not a separately created substance. Darkness without light or rot in an apple illustrates this idea.

14. Moral evil involves wrongdoing; suffering may also arise from non-moral causes such as earthquakes or unintended mistakes. Not every painful event is itself an act of evil.

15. Responses should distinguish God's good creation from creatures' misuse of freedom and recognize that God opposes evil. Possible passages: Genesis 1:31; James 1:13-14; Romans 5:12.

16. All worldviews must address suffering and explain the basis for moral condemnation and the possibility of ultimate justice. The article argues that theism offers a grounding for objective moral standards.

17. Answers vary. Look for an accurate summary of the chosen Scripture.

Core Truth to Remember

Evil is not an independent thing God created; it is the corruption of what is good. Not all suffering is moral evil, and every worldview must account for moral judgment and the reality of injustice.

Source reading: thinkcube.info/thinkcube-1-why-does-god-allow-evil/