

I. Introduction – The Problem of Evil and Who is man?

- a. Primary doctrine – Who is man? Who is God? The answers to these two questions form the foundation of everyone’s worldview.
- b. The cosmic battle within – Galatians 5:16-17, Romans 15-16, 6:12, 8:5-14 – Our sinful nature is in constant conflict with God’s Spirit.

II. Man’s Essence

- a. States of man
 - i. Innocence – Gen 1:27
 - ii. Fallen – Hell - Revelation 20:15, Hebrew 9:27
 - iii. Redeemed – Revelation 5:9
 1. Glorified – 1 Corinthians 15:42
- b. Dualistic or monistic – Both flesh and spirit or purely material?
- c. Naturalistic Philosophy Implications – no gods or purposeful forces, no foundation for ethics, no free will, no life after death, no meaning in life.

III. Man’s moral state and Man’s needs

- a. Abraham Maslow – Hierarchy of Needs – man’s ultimate objective is self-actualization – The Pernicious lie – getting in touch with your inner nature.
- b. Basically good or sinful? - Depravity of man – Man’s propensity for evil.
- c. Carl Rogers – “I do not find that evil is inherent in human nature.”
- d. Scriptural Truth – Put to death your earthly nature – Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5-10.

IV. If evil is not inherent in man, then where does evil come from?

- a. Abraham Maslow – “Sick people are made by a sick culture...”

- b. Carl Rogers – “... experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors.”
 - c. Social institutions and authority structures are blamed for man’s evil actions – provides basis for understanding the battleground over social institutions today.
- V. **Why should “evil” bother someone with a secular worldview? – the question of evil is more difficult for them than us.**