

Where did sin originate or what is evil?? (work in progress...draft 1)

This is a hard question... I was presented with this question by a friend of mine. Some have looked at Satan as being the source or where sin originated. I am not sure if that is the best way to look at this issue. And here is way...

Sin by definition is, "an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine (God) law" (New American Oxford Dictionary). Also in Easton's Bible Dictionary is states, "Any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God" (1 John 3:4; Rom. 4:15), in the inward state and habit of the soul, as well as in the outward conduct of the life, whether by omission or commission (Rom. 6:12-17; 7:5-24). It is "not a mere violation of the law of our constitution, nor of the system of things, but an offense against a personal lawgiver and moral governor who vindicates his law with penalties."

I do agree that Satan (the devil) is evil and the one who tempts us to sin (which is rebellion against God). The Bible says nothing of Satan having the ability to create anything. Satan, just like us, gave into the temptation to rebel against God and God expelled Satan, along with any angel that rebelled, from his presence (2 Peter 2:4). However, sin did not enter the garden of Eden, or the world for that matter, when Satan rebelled. For the Bible states, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men (and women), because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). In the beginning we see the Bible stating that we (humans) gave into the temptation to commit sin. We have a sinful nature that is at war in our hearts to do what we should not do (that God does not want us to do). It all started when the first humans chose to give in to the temptation to sin (Gen. 3:13 & 3:17). Other verses in Romans chapter 5 state this clearly.

"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men... For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners..." (Romans 5:18-19).

Sin is in the heart of every person, because of the sinful nature. Look what Jesus said that is in the heart of every person. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony slander" (Matt. 15:19). This is not to say that there is no good in any person. That is false. God created each person (whether believer in Christ or not) in the image of God and it was very good (Gen. 1:31). There is good in every person, which is the Image of God that we were all created in. However, we have covered and marred that image by our sin.

The God of the Bible is never in the business of forcing us to do what is right, but allows us to sin if we chose to give into the temptation to do so (examples are in Ezekiel 20:23-26 & Romans 1:24). The sinful nature is raging to conquer our lives and consume us (Romans 7:5, 18, 25 & Gal. 5:16-21) to distort all that is good in us, which is the likeness of God we were created in.

I feel that the sinful nature or the human heart is the source of sin and not Satan himself. However, Satan is evil (Matt. 13:19) and the tempter (Matt. 4:3) to pull us away from God, but I would not say he is the author of sin. Satan is called, "the father of lies," (John 8:44), the accuser (Rev. 12:10) and other things as well, but not the author of sin.

It is good to note that In 1 Corinthians 5:5 & 1 Timothy 1:18-20 it states how people were given over to Satan in hopes that they would see their sinful nature for what it is (evil) and turn to God to be saved from themselves or their sinful nature. Recognizing their need for God to clean them. For no righteousness can be attained by oneself alone. When one is faced with the Law of God (in true sincerity of heart) then there is a conscience understanding that sin resides in us as Romans 3:20 states. "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

Romans 8:1-10 is the hope that all can conquer their sinful nature by trusting in the power of work of Jesus Christ on the cross to free us for the bondage of sin. "...because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death..." (Rom 8:2).

I believe this is what gives us more direction in helping people see what truly separates us for God. It is our sinful heart. The first step in coming to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is we all need to see our need for a Savior to save us for ourselves. Recognize that we are not good and sinful people.

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