

# Did God Create Evil?: Gregory A. Boyd

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## Transcript - Short

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

Greg, the problem of evil is something that anybody who wants to believe in God has to deal with. How do you deal with it?

**Greg Boyd:**

It is the number one objection to theism and I would argue that every aspect of creation, ultimately that doesn't align with, that doesn't line up with God's benevolent character, is a result of some will other than God. There are angelic beings that also have free will and just as humans can use their free will for the evil, these angelic beings can use their free will for the evil. They have say so, and some of that say so affects creation itself.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

Are you talking about Satan?

**Greg Boyd:**

Satan, the devil, demons. Yeah. (Laughter)

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

To some that would sound rather anachronistic in today's world.

**Greg Boyd:**

Yeah, there are a lot of people that don't believe that there are principalities and powers and demons and those sorts of things and I realize that I am going out on a limb by bringing them up. It seems to me that an all powerful, all good God could have conceivably created a world that is free of the natural evils that we have today: malaria, AIDS, earthquakes, mud slides. And I'm not suggesting...

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

Now that's the atheistic argument.

**Greg Boyd:**

I know.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

What you are saying, if I'm not wrong, is that if I told you there was no Satan and you believe there was no Satan, no angelic powers, that it was just free will, you would then have trouble defending the existence of God?

**Greg Boyd:**

I would.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

Without Satan?

**Greg Boyd:**

On the basis of the natural evil.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

If Satan is responsible for creating evil and God is responsible for creating Satan, doesn't that make God responsible for creating evil?

**Greg Boyd:**

No. (Laughter) No.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

Where is my logic wrong?

**Greg Boyd:**

Okay, here's how I'd respond. God's responsible for making us free, for creating spiritual and human beings as free agents, but it's built on the very nature of free will, that what it means to have free will is that you can choose to go this way or that way. This way being, to be very simplistic, you're good, that way being evil. It's no different than saying that if God creates a triangle it's got to have three sides; if God creates a free agent it's got to have two possibilities

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

But why are you so worried about having God not create the evil? If God is all wise and he's omnipotent and omniscient, he didn't think out of the trillions of choices that people make there would be a few evils?

**Greg Boyd:**

Sure. I'm sure that he adequately anticipated the possibility of all evil and he...

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

The certainty.

**Greg Boyd:**

Maybe the inevitability.

**Robert Lawrence Kuhn:**

The statistical certainty.

**Greg Boyd:**

But that doesn't make him responsible for it. God has a choice to make; you can create no world or you can create a world that is programmed to always, you know, where people and angels would always make the right choices and do the right things, or you could create a world where you give free agency to human beings and angels. The advantage of creating the robotic world would be that there would be no evil. The disadvantage is that you couldn't have any moral virtue and you couldn't have genuine love. The disadvantage of creating the world that's free is that you're going to have evil; people and angels will make bad decisions, but the advantage is that you can now have a world that has love and a world that has moral virtue.