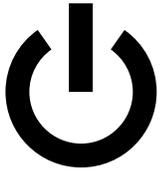


**Title:** Why Doesn't God Stop Evil?

**Speaker:** Randy Smith

**Key Verses:** Genesis 1-3; Matthew 22:34-40

**Summary:** God made us moral agents capable of loving or rejecting Him.



**Power Up:** Take a moment to prepare

Before launching into the question of evil, Randy defines *presuppositions* and *worldviews*. What is a presupposition? What is a worldview?



**Replay:** Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Randy's talk: **1)** 3 Christian presuppositions; **2)** 4 common worldviews; **3)** lessons from Genesis 1-2; **4)** love and choice at the heart of moral agency; **5)** evil as a human rejection of God's good purposes.



**Comment:** Take some time to talk

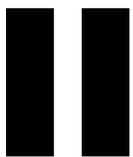
Randy asserts Christianity is based on evidence rather than opinion. **What evidence does he cite? How does it discredit rival worldviews?**

**How does the Bible differ from other ancient texts?** Give examples.

**What does Randy say is the 'biggest difference' between believers and nonbelievers? How does this go against the 'Selfie Generation'? How does the speed limit illustrate this? What was God's intention with the various commands given in the Garden?**

**Read Matthew 22:34-40:** **What is the core of Jesus' moral code? What does this tell us about moral agency and the existence of evil? How does Randy define 'evil'?** (Hint: Remember the imaginary chair.)

Using a story about horses, Randy warns that we don't always know at the time if something is good or bad. **What are personal examples of this?**



**Pause:** Take a moment to pray

Thank God for the freedom to love Him. Thank Him that He first loved us, so we could love Him in return. Ask Him for resolve to live out His good purposes for our lives rather than adding to the evil in the world.



**Take Action:** Take a step forward

Author Scot McKnight calls Matthew 22:34-40 "The Jesus Creed." He started praying daily he would love God with his whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and his neighbor as himself. "It changed my life," McKnight writes. Try praying the Jesus Creed for the next week.

## Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Randy Smith

**Power Track Summary:** Did God create evil? If not, where did it come from? If God is all-powerful, why doesn't He shut evil down? If He is good, why doesn't God stop suffering and put an end to the troubles of our world?

**About the Speaker:** Randy is a husband, father, and Teaching Pastor at Sebring Grace. He founded and instructs at Great Commission Bible Institute. He lived many years in Israel.

"We have to address presuppositions... We all have them... You're either basing your worldview on facts and evidence or strong opinion."

### 3 Christians Presuppositions:

1. We believe objective truth exists.
2. We believe you can know objective truth
3. We can know objective truth because the Creator has revealed it.

Our world does not believe moral truth is objective, but mathematical truth is! "Truth isn't what you believe. It's what matches the evidence of reality... We don't invent truth. We discover it."

### 4 Common Worldviews:

1. **Atheism** (i.e., no God): It doesn't work if there's a beginning. No start without a cause.
2. **Deism** (i.e., indifferent designer): Meticulous design doesn't align with indifference.
3. **Pantheism** (i.e., God is everything): No room for morality or purpose.
4. **Theism** (i.e., engaged designer): makes most sense of evidence.

"The Bible is the only ancient book that is cross-checkable history. There are thousands."

"The biggest difference between a believer and unbeliever is living as if God has a right to direct our lives... The law beckons me to give it a try." We like to push past limits.

Being a moral agent means I have the ability to make decisions... I have to be a moral agent to love. It's at the heart of Jesus's key command.

[God's] central command is that we would have a relationship with Him. A relationship is based on love. And love is based on choice. You cannot have love without choice. You cannot have choice without the possibility of bad choice."

"When you put love out there, you also put rejection out there."

"Evil is not a thing created... Evil is the absence of God's created purpose... You don't blame the Creator-of-Good for its absence in others."

"If you demand a world with no evil, you're demanding a world with no choice."

Before you indict God for having created evil, how about you wait until you stand in front of God, look into His eyes and see that ...embedded into His story is the story of choice. Because at the heart of that story, is that you [can] love Him."