



## So Your “Loving God” Created Evil?

### Our Definition of Evil is Incorrect [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) / [Romans 8:28](#)

“Is He willing to prevent evil, but not able? Well then He is impotent. Is He able and just not willing? Then he is malevolent.” Epicurean Paradox [Genesis 2:15](#)

**There Needed to be a Tree.** Evil was a necessary accompaniment of God’s good plan to make people fully human yet fully loved.

#### 1.) Identify Your Tree [Matthew 19:26](#)

*“This doctrine of God’s unmerited favor toward us is not meant to lead us into a passive life, a life unchanged, a life dismissive of the call to grow in holiness. We are saved to be Christ’s disciples. The disciple is the one who, intent on becoming Christ-like and so dwelling in his ‘faith and practice,’ systematically and progressively rearranges his affairs to that end... There is a great difference between earning and effort. There is no place for the former in the Christian life. But it’s a different story for the latter. We must act. Grace is opposed to earning not effort.”* Divine Conspiracy, Dallas Willard

#### 2.) Understand the Enemies Game Plan

*“For humans to be genuinely free, there has to be an option. The choice is to obey or disobey God. In the case of Adam and Eve, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil symbolized that choice. The serpents temptation appealed to desires that were not evil in themselves, but could be expressed and actualized in the wrong way (by disobeying God). When that was done, a twisted or distorted relationship with God resulted. Indeed, one word for sin carries the idea of being twisted. With this twist of relationship, sin has become a reality.”* Millard J. Erickson

#### 3.) Attack With a R.O.A.R.