

Dealing with evil in our world

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Since the Biblical story of Adam and Eve, we have the reality of good and evil present in our human world. When one looks around the local community or the world, we see examples of good and evil everyday. On some days as you read the paper or watch the news on television, the horrific stories of mistreatment of one human by another is placed in front of us. Why does this occur? Is a question many ask.

The philosophers and theologians have pondered this question for centuries and postulated their answers in books and papers. My concern is not the origination of evil, but how do we in our culture deal with evil. It seems there are at least three positions being taken concerning evil from our culture and society today. At one end of the continuum you have a group that sees evil simply as part of the nature of humani-

ty, group one. At the other end, group two; you have a group that sees evil as a battle between the forces of evil and the forces of good. In the middle is the third group that really has no interest in discussing good and evil. Obviously, I am aligned with the second group.

Being pragmatist on most issues of life, I want to know how to deal with evil. Simply stated from my point of view, evil seeks to destroy everything that is good, therefore, the first defense is to make sure we are strong in our good. This means that we do the right thing for the right reason every day of our life. I realize there will be some debate on what is the right thing. Each person will have to establish the standard given the input from the sources of the ages (laws, ethics, axioms, etc.). To me the primary source for input comes from the Bible.

The Bible provides a few insights in dealing with evil that I want to mention:

1 Thessalonians 5.22- "avoid every

kind of evil";

James 4.7- "resist the devil and he will flee from you";

Romans 12.9- "hate what is evil".

The Bible also provides some additional behavioral instruction:

Matthew 22:37-39- "loving God and neighbor with heart, soul, and mind";

Ephesians 4.29- "do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up..."

It seems to me that most evil is motivated by greed or hate. If the individual can eliminate these two as dominant forces in his/her life, then the opportunity of resisting evil and demonstrating good is possible.

None of us can resist evil without some help. Help comes primarily from two sources: God and fellow pilgrims in this life. My challenge to you is to develop a right relationship with God and quality relationships with fellow pilgrims. Through these efforts you will be able to be a force against evil and a force for good. Stand Strong!

Belcher

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Finally, I must tell you about my family. You have all experienced, or you will, the missed ballgames, birthday parties, holidays, or recitals because the Army needed you elsewhere. I could fill pages with the list of sacrifices my family has made. Like the time Ruth was hospitalized with kidney stones while I

was at annual training at Ft. Knox and she refused to even hear of me coming home because, "You've got a job to do there." How about when I was going through the non-resident phase of the Sergeants Major Course and I would sequester myself for two hours every night, seven days a week, with orders to the family not to disturb me unless the house was afire. The list goes on and on. I wear many ribbons on

my uniform, but I didn't earn them. Ruth, Corey, and Sarah are the ones who really deserve them.

When I sat down to write this, I was fearful that I wouldn't know what to write. Now, like my career, it is time to leave and I don't want to let go. But, it's time to close this article and my tenure with the 100th Division. It's been a great ride. Semper Fidelis and Train 'em tough!!!