

Why Do Christians Believe in a Duel Deity?

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The recognition and glorification of God *as God* is the basic qualification for the mental understanding of truth. If we deny God's divinity or devise a **dual deity**--the idea that God is responsible for good and Satan is responsible for evil--our minds will falter and we will not be able to grasp God's revelation of Himself, either in nature or in His Word.

The apostle Paul tells us that those who do not hold to the recognition of God become **mentally disqualified** and they have no proper premise for logical reasoning. Their deductions are vain and their heart is dark.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to an unqualified mind, to do those things which are not fitting,

"filled with all injustice, wickedness, evil, greed, distended with envy, murder, strife, guile, depravity, gossipers, vilifiers, detesters of God, outragers, proud, ostentatious, inventors of evil things, stubborn to parents, **unintelligent**, treacherous, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:." Romans 1:28-32

That's a perfect description of the U.S. government, organized medicine, most well-known televangelists, and many in organized religion.

"ALL is out of God. . ."

The basis of all sane and satisfactory thinking is the great truth that:

"All is out of God, and through God, and for God." Romans 11:36

If you deny this, the foundation of a sound mental structure is lacking. It will affect all your thought processes. This is the problem that afflicts the "wise" men of today. They are unable to think properly.

The moment we learn that **God is the source of all**, reason reigns and revelation explains.

“All if through God. . .”

The same is true when we begin to realize that **all is through God**. The present perplexing chaos is not resolved by the injection of another God (Satan) to account for evil. This explanation has paralyzed reason and darkened intelligence. It denies that ALL came out of God, and that ALL is for Him.

God says:

“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and **I create evil**: I the Lord, do all these things.” Isa 45:7

“I created the waster to destroy.” Isaiah 54:16

God freely admits that He creates “evil” (calamity) and that He created Satan to do exactly what he is doing – “destroying.”

What is the role of the Adversary in God’s purpose?

In order to understand Satan’s purpose, we must understand his origin, the reasons for his existence, and finally, his judgment. All of this is undertaken with great care, for the basic reason behind our inquiry is to establish the wisdom, might and righteousness of Satan’s Creator.

It is true that Satan has wrought much suffering among humanity. But, if we exercise the spiritual perception granted to us through God’s spirit in understanding why Satan exists, then we will be guarded most effectively against his lies and deception.

Jesus spoke plainly in the sanctuary about Satan. He declared

“He was a murderer (man-killer) from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, for truth is not in him. Whenever he may be speaking a lie, he is speaking of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44

Jesus was stating a fact. And who could know more about Satan than Jesus?

As we learn of Satan, it should not generate fear, but respect for one placed by God for a necessary purpose. Michael, the arch angel, fully understood this when, not daring to bring a reviling accusation against Satan, said, “May the Lord rebuke you.” Jude 1:9

Above all else, we must recognize the status of Satan. In opposing God, he must be very mighty indeed!

“All is out of God.”

“He that practices sin is of the devil; **for the devil sinneth from the beginning.** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might (has the authority to) destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

The question is: “from the beginning of what?”

Some respond that Satan started sinning in the Garden of Eden. But that was not Satan’s “beginning.” We find Satan’s origin in Isaiah 45:6,7:

“That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the Lord and there is none else.

“I from the light and I created darkness: I am the maker of good, and the Creator of evil: I the Lord do all these things.”

Again, the basic truth of divine revelation is that “ALL is of God” Romans 11:36. But this is so severe a strain on the faith of Christendom, that men instinctively reject it, excusing their lack of faith on the ground that it is repulsive to their spiritual nature. They seek to shelve it by making the devil the source of all evil, yet they fail to tell us how the enemy could originate it, unless the power or capacity were given him by his Creator.

Many shrink from associating evil with God because their conception of evil and sin is such that they cannot belie God’s plain statements concerning them. Therefore, it is necessary that we must further search the Scriptures on this subject.

If we finally accept that Satan’s origin as adversary is in the counsel and foreknowledge of God, then that should cause us to rely on the satisfactory and glorious outcome of the consummation – the end – when God will be “All in all.” (1 Cor 15:28)

We also must discard the degrading fable of the arrogance of “free will” or “self-determination.” It is the lack of understanding of the final goal of God’s plan that causes Christians to become helplessly confused and bewildered, repeatedly asking, “Why does God Allow. . .?”

To answer this question, we must point to the apostle’s indictment, where God describes His “wrath”:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness;

“Because that which may be known of God is apparent among them, for God manifests it to them.

“For His invisible attributes are discerned from the creation of the world, being apprehended by His achievements, besides His imperceptible power and divinity, for them to be defenseless,

“Because, when they knew God, they glorified Him NOT as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their reasonings and their unintelligent heart was darkened.

“Alleging themselves to be wise, they are made stupid, and they change the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of a corruptible human being, and (even) to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things (reptiles.)

“Wherefore God gives them over, in the lusts of their hearts, to the uncleanness of dishonoring their bodies among themselves, those who alter the truth of God into the lie, and worship the creature rather than the Creator. . .” Romans 1:18-25

In determining Satan’s origin, we must expose the lie that he was created an angel of light. As a woman travails in the pain of childbirth, so God’s hand travailed in His forming the serpent, Satan.

“By His spirit the heavens are made seemly,
His hand travailed when He formed the fugitive serpent.” Job 26:13

Why is there a need for Opposition?

In the marvelous perfection of Eden, Adam and Eve lived in a superb state. Everything around them was described by God Himself as being “good.” Never hungry, never ailing, and privileged to walk and talk with their Maker daily in such beautiful surrounding! Yet in all this splendor there is no record of any expression of thankfulness! But that’s quite understandable, for without contrast there can be no appreciation. In order to appreciate good, one must have some understanding of the opposite.

God created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and put it in the Garden of Eden. Satan used it – to achieve God’s purpose! God told Adam not to eat of it. In consequence of Adam and Eve’s disobedience, all humanity has been subjected to dying and death. With one stroke, Satan has crippled his victims!

Many of Satan's deeds were, in keeping with his character, evil, and opposed to God's revealed will. But what of God's intention?

Many are loathe to associate God with any evil, but as previously noted, God is the Maker of good, and the Creator of evil!

God uses Satan on many occasions. God ensures that human beings learn the knowledge of good and evil. And as the apostle Peter perceived, Christ was ". . . given up in the counsel and foreknowledge of God.: Acts 2:23

Judas Iscariot was described by Jesus as an "adversary" yet Jesus told him: "What you are going to do, do quickly," and this, when He knew that Satan had entered into Judas. (John 13:27)

Jesus subjected Peter and the disciples for discipline to Satan (Luke 22:13). Paul urged the Corinthians to give up one of their numbers to Satan, ". . . for the extermination of the flesh" (1 Cor 5:5).

The consummation

But all the opposition of Satan and his messengers will be transmuted into blessing. It is the background for the revelation of God's grace and love. In the case of Paul, and in the present time, evil 'angels' are needed, and physical infirmity and distress, and outrages and necessities and persecution for Christ's sake, as a background on which to display God's power. (2 Cor 12:7-10)

Will it not be superbly impressive to realize that God can save the worst sinner!! And will it not be overwhelmingly amazing that God will be able to turn around the most demonic of all – Satan, himself!

If Satan, created to oppose God, were doomed to eternal torment, then we may indeed question the justice of God. If the Adversary, formed to destroy, is finally annihilated, then indeed we may wonder if God has done right.

As long as we are held by either of these alternatives, we are almost forced to shield the character of God by falling back on the assumption that God is NOT responsible for the creation of His adversary, and thus we unconsciously drag Him from His throne.

The doctrine of the deity of the devil is the rational recoil from God's supposed inability to bring His entire creation to a successful consummation.

Will God be the loser? And Satan the winner?

Will Satan be successful in permanently winning away from God the majority of God's creatures – and God will be unable to win them back to Him?

Will it turn out that Satan triumphs over God, and all God can do is burn up and bury His mistakes?

And how will God burn up a spirit being – Satan – particularly when Jesus Christ, Himself said, "Angels don't die!"

Do Angels Die?

Jesus gives the answer Himself in Luke 20:36, when the Sadducees were telling Jesus the story of the woman who married a man who subsequently died. She then married each of his six brothers, one after another, as each of the brothers died. The Sadducees asked Jesus whose wife she would be in heaven.

This is Jesus' response, in His own words:

"The children of this world marry and are given in marriage, but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage;

"Neither can they die any more; for they are equal unto the angels. .
." Luke 20:36.

Jesus said it Himself. Angels don't die! Notice that Jesus did not say, "Good angels don't die." He said, "Angels (in general) don't die." If angels don't die then Jesus could NOT have come as an angel to die for the sins of the evil angels.

This created a major problem in the thinking of the righteous angels. Since sin entered the universe when Satan sinned, how could sin ever be eliminated from the universe if angels don't die?

A question we must ourselves ponder, is: If angels don't die, as Jesus Himself has told us, then how can the evil angels be "destroyed" from the earth and from the universe at the end?

And if they cannot be destroyed, then sin will remain in the universe for eternity!

Yet Jesus came to "do away with sin!" John 1:29.

So how does this all work out?

God created a new race of individuals, humanity, individuals with flesh and blood, individuals who were capable of dying, a necessity for the plan of salvation since Jesus' plan was to come in human form and DIE for the sins of the world. But human beings would be capable of dying ONLY if they sinned. Before sin there was no death, neither in Adam and Eve, nor in all of Creation. Even Satan and the evil angels had been sinning for a long time, yet they showed no signs of deterioration in their stamina. The same is true today. Satan and his evil angels are going strong! They have no flesh and blood, which is what deteriorates as a result of sin.

If neither Adam and Eve, nor their offspring, had sinned, there would be no death. In that case, there would be no need for Jesus to die for us, since no human being would have sinned. Adam and Eve still would have been as innocent as little children. They would not have known the difference between good and evil. They would have been incapable of purposely choosing God for His goodness because they knew nothing else. It would have been impossible for them to glory in God's fabulous creation because they had no opportunity to know anything else. It would have been impossible for Adam to Eve to appreciate God's boundless love for His children, whether perfect or sinful, because Adam and Eve knew nothing of sin, calamity or utter wickedness.

It was necessary for them to know evil in order for them eventually to choose "good," intelligently and willingly.

Therefore, sin was a necessary part of the plan of salvation. Without sin, there would be no death. Without sin, Adam and Eve would never have experienced the opposite of "good," which would allow them eventually to understand and abhor evil. Every human being had to be "dipped" in sin to be able to understand first hand the ruinous consequences of sin, to understand that sin leads to death. Sin was imperative because it introduced death to the human race, a prerequisite necessary for Jesus to come in human form and DIE to redeem mankind.

It is impossible to know good without knowing evil; it is impossible to learn right without understanding what is wrong, and that often takes personal experience in wrong-doing. It is impossible to build character without having trials and tribulations. The only way we change is by having trouble. If everything is going along fine, we will NEVER change. It takes troubles, catastrophes, illness, financial upsets, severe loneliness, heartbreak, to force us to change our direction, to turn us to God!

We now see that sin was a necessary part of the plan of salvation. That means that the lead sinner, Satan, had and still has, a specific purpose. His purpose was, and still is, to be the opponent, the antagonist, the Adversary against God.

God, Himself, provides opposition to truth in order to bring attention to truth, to clarify truth and to magnify the difference between truth and lies, between good and evil. That is still happening today.

Satan was designated to be the Adversary against Christ, just as Judas was designated to be the betrayer of Christ. After all, SOMEONE had to do it! John 17:12

"The troubles of the universe originated among the celestials, among the angels, long before man was created. Humanity was an entirely separate creation, made in the image and likeness of God to be the form in which God's own Son could come to give up His life for the universe, and remedy what had gone wrong in that higher sphere.

"Thus humanity is made the vehicle through which the reconciling of the universe is to be effected, even though all efforts of humanity itself are in vain and come to nothing, and it is left to God to provide, in the person of His Son, the one effectual means by which this reconciliation is to be accomplished." The Place of Humanity in God's Purpose, J.H.Essex, pg 45

"The real reason for the creation of humanity was that it would provide a form in which it would be possible for our Lord to come and give His life for the universe. That is why man was made in the image and likeness of God—that Jesus could come in human guise and still be recognized as the Son of God." Ibid pg 67.

The Lamb was slain "from the foundation of the world" Revelation 13:8. God's purpose in every facet and detail was planned from the outset, and in no sense whatever is any part of it an improvisation to meet an emergency. He is the One Who tells "from the beginning the hereafter, and from aforetime, what has not yet been done, saying, All My counsel shall be confirmed, and all My desire will I do" Isaiah 46:10. He is "the One Who is operating ALL in accord with the counsel of **His own will**" Ephesians 1:11, and Who has purposed "to head up all in the Christ, both in the heavens and that on earth," and "through Him, to **reconcile ALL** to Him. . . **whether those on the earth or those in the heavens**" Ephesians 1:10, Colossians 1:20.

When the reconciliation of all is complete, the joy of the universe will be full. When the purpose of the All-sufficient God has reached its consummation, and He is All in all (1 Corinthians 15:28), every heart will be filled with the true laughter which accompanies the praise and adoration of Him Who is Supreme and Whose name is Love." Ibid pg 72

With a God in the background who is operating everything in the universe in accord with the counsel of His own will (Eph 1:11), we can look upon the

seeming inextricable maze and see the outlines of God's grand purpose shaping all things to His glorious end.

We can stand back, as if we are watching a movie, and see all things play out on the world's stage as God has designed them .

The only rational reaction to religious orthodoxy is insanity – to think that there is a dual deity: Satan, who can make a mess of things, and God, who though God – the Ruler of the universe – is UNABLE to completely fix the mess caused by Satan working through Adam.

If one is a thinking person, it is impossible to face the future as it is usually set forth in the churches.

A God Who will lose the greater part of His creatures is hardly a safe anchor in the storms to come. If He cannot save ALL, He may lose ALL. How can there be halfway measures with absolute deity?

But when we finally realize that “ALL is of God” then we can rejoice that, when the process of revealing Himself has been accomplished through sin and sorrow and suffering, then He will have ALL for Himself, as He has said.

Why don't Christians Believe this? What does it take to understand this?

Answer: **A renewing of the mind, so you can understand truth!**

“And be NOT conformed to (the thinking) of this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **WILL** of God.”

And what is that good, and acceptable and perfect WILL of God?

“God is NOT willing that any should perish (be lost = literal), but **that ALL should come to repentance.**” 2 Peter 3:9

God's WILL (*thelema* in Greek - not His “desire” *euchomai* in Greek) is that NONE should be lost.

“The Father loves the Son, and has given **ALL** into His hand. . . And ALL that the Father gives Me SHALL COME to Me: and him that comes to Me, I will certainly not cast out.

“For I came down from heaven, NOT to do mine own will, but the WILL of Him that sent Me.

“And THIS IS the Father’s will which has sent Me, that of ALL which He has given Me (which is ALL), I should lose NOTHING. . .” John 3:35; 6:37-39

The Human Will

“God is operating in us to WILL as well as to WORK for the sake of His delight.” Phil 2:13

It is generally taken for granted that the Bible teaches that man, being made in the image of God, is absolutely sovereign in the realm of his will. Just as God can will, without being influenced by anything about Him, so we can create a decision out of the blue, without the least reference to what we are, or to the world about us.

This nightmare, we are given to understand, is not directly taught in the Bible, but must be predicated as its background, or else we could not understand its message. It is pathetic to see the zeal with which men spring up to attack any teaching that threatens the doctrine of man’s free will. Yet they have not one line of Scripture on their side.

What is the human will?

Our text tells us. The will of believers should be due to God’s operation. It is not our action, but the result of His. So the will is a result of the operation of external factors. We are not conscious of God’s operation, so we seem to be doing what WE will. That is true of many functions of life. Our thinking, our breathing, the beating of our hearts, the operations of digestion, all these are or should be, accomplished without our conscious volition. All are maintained and formed from external supplies or impulses. We eat, we breathe, we observe, and these make us what we are.

Where does the will come from?

Do men create it out of nothing?

If God is operating in us, according to Phil 2:13, is He then interfering with the creative capacity of His creatures?

If you are wise, you know that the human will is easily influenced from without. In fact, it can be changed easily by one who understands human weaknesses. It is

manufactured out of motives. Our wills are determined by our environment, by our associates, and by our associations. Psychology has shown that a given man will react to a given situation as surely as $2 + 2 = 4$.

Is man a mere machine – an automaton? Is he subject to a blind fate from which he cannot escape?

In many ways, Man is an automaton. What would become of him if he had to supervise all of his bodily functions, or if he were even conscious of them all? How could a man who had never even heard of physiology keep his heart pumping blood and his lungs breathing air, and the stomach digesting his food, all at the same time? He would not dare to stop to take a bite to eat. He couldn't get a wink of sleep. But he would have the "pleasure" of knowing that he is not a mere automaton!

Thanks be to God that He, in His wisdom, Himself attends to our vital functions so that we may look away from them – to Him!

Our Beneficent Creator

Man is not subject to a "blind fate," but to a beneficent Creator. God provides parents, and food, and drink, and air – not blindly – but blessedly.

And as Creator, it is God who supplies us with the tendencies of our ancestors and with our surroundings and associates. These enter our brains through our sense organs and are incorporated into our mental tissue. Most of our decisions are made subconsciously, without thinking about where the sources for our decisions come from. We act upon the impulse provided by these sources without considering our course.

It is a wonderful blessing that this process is, as a rule, subconscious. If we had to stop and think and combine all these influences for every decision we make, we would be unable to act.

"Man is like an automobile, a splendid vehicle to convey the knowledge of God to the creatures of His hand. Let us suppose that an automobile had a free will of its own. Who would want to ride in it if the steering gear demanded its independence, and turned off the street to climb a tree, or insisted on diving into a pit, instead of running on the road prepared for it? If automobiles had free wills, the American people would soon be extinct.

"And if men could break away from the natural laws that guide them, they would utterly destroy one another in a month.

“The measure in which man has become lawless because of death and sin, is well within the reach of God’s protecting arm. One who has God’s spirit has a steady steering gear and a Driver Who will get him there on the well paved path.” Ibid. p 24

Too often the sinner is directed to manipulate his will, as though he could do anything with it. An evangelist is not supposed to twist and turn the human will by eloquent exhortations, but to provide divine material for the formation of God’s will in men.

What good would it be to feed the hungry with lectures on the digestive apparatus. It is just as useless to tell a man to will to come to Christ.

Give the starving food, and the digestive apparatus, complicated as it is, will do its part. Give the sinner Jesus Christ and his will will work of its own accord. Preach the Word. This is the most effective motivating power for moving the mind of man. By its means God’s spirit will bring the sinner into line with God’s will.

Men imagine they are sovereign in the realm of the will and that no one can break their resolution, not even God. But that is childish. Men have no greater control over their will than the captain of a sailing ship has over the set of his sails. If he is not demented he will spread them to suit his course, and that is determined for him by the wind.

Similarly, there are spiritual winds to which men bend their wills. These spirit forces are beyond their perception and above their control. Thus, men do the will of the flesh and obey the evil spirit powers of which they are seldom aware. These now operate in the sons of stubbornness.

“Where in time past you walked according to the age of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (stubbornness), among whom also we all conducted ourselves in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.; and were, by our own nature, the children of wrath.” Eph 2:2,3

The great movements in the world, the great leaders, can find success only when they fall in line with unseen spirit forces. The unbeliever is the sport of the spirits of evil. It is Satan who operates in them. Their wills are a compound of their soulish sensibilities of the flesh and the spirit of the world.

The believer is not called upon to be passive, to “surrender,” to “yield” as is so often taught, but that is what the unbeliever unwittingly does. That is what evil spirits crave.

Intelligent subordination to God’s revealed will is the opposite of a passive reception of passing impressions. God’s spirit works only through His Word.

All true Christians will readily admit that they cannot please God apart from His operation, and they are glad to have it so. Believe the passage before us, and seek to realize its force, and then be thankful to know that even the spring of their good deeds flows from God.

The fact that we cannot independently will or work so as to please God will not disturb us in the least. In fact, quite the opposite. We will find our ALL in Him, and this is only the normal conclusion of the great goal God has set before Him -- to be ALL in us.

Who would want to have his own Freewill? Why wouldn’t every Christian **want** to do God’s will?

How are we transformed?

Our transformation is effected by the renewing of our minds. **Mental renewal** is a prime necessity if we wish to please God. That’s the **ONLY** way we can know His will. That’s the only way we can understand truth.

And be renewed (rejuvenated – literal) in the spirit of your mind.

“And that you put on the **new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Eph 4:23,24

The only way to put off the old humanity is to be rejuvenated in the spirit of our minds.

We read of men of a decadent mind:

“Perverse disputings (useless wranglings) of men of corrupt (decadent) minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that godliness is a means of gain (like televangelists and some organized churches): from such withdraw thyself.” 1 Tim 6:5,6

Those who withstand the truth are of a depraved mind, disqualified for the faith.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. . . ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, these resist the truth: men of corrupt (depraved) minds, reprobate concerning the truth.” 2 Tim 3:5,7,8.

“He opened up their mind”

The disciples had been with Jesus for a long time, yet they had failed to grasp the vital points in His message. After His resurrection He meets them again and works a special miracle to enable them to understand the Scriptures.

What does He do? What part of them does He affect? **He opens their *mind*** (Luke 24:45). After Jesus was resurrected, this is what Jesus said to His disciples:

“And Jesus said unto His disciples, These are the words that I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled that were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.

“Then He opened their **understanding**, that they might understand the Scriptures.” Luke 24:44,45

The ***mind*** is the only medium through which we can understand God’s word.

God gives over those who refuse to recognize Him to a disqualified mind (Rom 1:28). This is basic and important. The vanity of the world’s wisdom lies in the fact that it excludes God.

The truth of any system of theology is in direct ratio to its recognition of God – as God.

“All is out of Him and through Him and for Him.” Rom 11:36

This is the only rational foundation for all mental processes. Deny this, in any degree – including believing in a dual deity - and your mind will suffer. This is the great premise from which alone sane conclusions may be drawn.

It is the only proposition that can heal the mental mystification of those who claim to be believers. ALL who deny that “ALL is of God” are lost in futility and mental fog.

This is the answer to the confused or apathetically vapid, or even monstrously angry, look that is given by those who call themselves Christians, when they hear that:

God is going to save everyone,

God created Satan to do what He is doing

It was the Pharisees (who killed Christ), and not the apostles, who started the Organized church

There is no literal hellfire.

ALL God's disciplines are remedial. None are punitive.

Walking in Wisdom toward those outside

"It is wisdom to deal with men in accord with God's will and purpose concerning them. If we imagine that those outside are doomed to destruction or eternal torment, it is practically impossible to avoid a hardening of the heart in regard to them, which will lead us to think and act contrary to the basic truths of their creation and reconciliation in love.

"Thinking of them as so much waste in God's operations in turn reflects upon HIS wisdom and love. These false conceptions of God's creation and goal, make a wise walk toward those outside impossible.

"What if they are the vessels of God's indignation now? In due time, He will use them for His glory. We have no more right to His favor than those without. May this thought humble us before them." A.E. Knoch, Unsearchable Riches, Vol 105, No. 2, 2014 p 78.