

Problems in Philosophy: Does Christianity have the answers?

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The Free Offer

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A professional academic philosopher said recently:

These questions would be much easier if we took the traditional Christian viewpoint

Quote

For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong.

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2. “Fits in” all the relevant data
3. A really good solution also solves other problems

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- But they are related somehow: using my mind I can move my body, my body can produce ideas in my mind (via the senses).
- How are they related?

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- If my mind is an illusion: who is being fooled by this illusion?

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- Descartes' proof of the reality of the physical world: because God exists and God is not a deceiver, we can trust the data from our senses

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It is presumption to say that we will *never* understand something — even in this life

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- Mind and body are parts that constitute one whole human being.

Mind and Body in the Bible

1 Cor 15:42-44 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

2 Cor 5:1-5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Determinism, Sovereignty and Free Will

Determinism: everything is determined by the Laws of Nature

Sovereignty: everything is determined by the Will of God

Free Will: we have the ability to choose between different actions and so affect the course of nature.

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2. How can God claim to be just in judging us for actions over which we have no control? (He is justified, because He created us, but in what sense is this justice?)
3. In this view, all evil is *directly* caused by God, not just permitted

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5. Therefore: determinism does not contradict free will

God's Love

To love someone is to make them free.

Ps 145:9 The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Luke 2:10 I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people

1 Tim 2:4 God desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

Conclusion

1 John 3:1–2 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.