

Correspondence About the Will of God and the Goodness of God

May 17, 2017

https://www.facebook.com/groups/552331154934653/?multi_permalinks=754450308056069&comment_id=754482224719544¬if_t=like¬if_id=1495028090381314

This was a short but meaningful exchange focusing on God's goodness, the problem of evil, the book of Job, and human freedom.

Jason Micheli's post is here: <http://tamedcynic.org/if-theres-a-reason-for-everything-theres-no-reason-to-worship-2/>

By Friday, May 19, 2017, Tanner Foster deleted his own comments so that they no longer show up.

I regret not getting all the text of Karen Cubberly's comments in these screenshots. She also later deleted some of her comments.



Fans of David Bentley Hart

Public Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

Church Awaiting a Ne... 1

Grace Christian Church ...

New Humanity Christian...

New Humanity Christ... 2

The Fellas #Rescued

Rescued Boston

Rescued Church

Progressive Asian A... 13

Fans of David Bentley H...

Biblical Christian E... 20+

See more

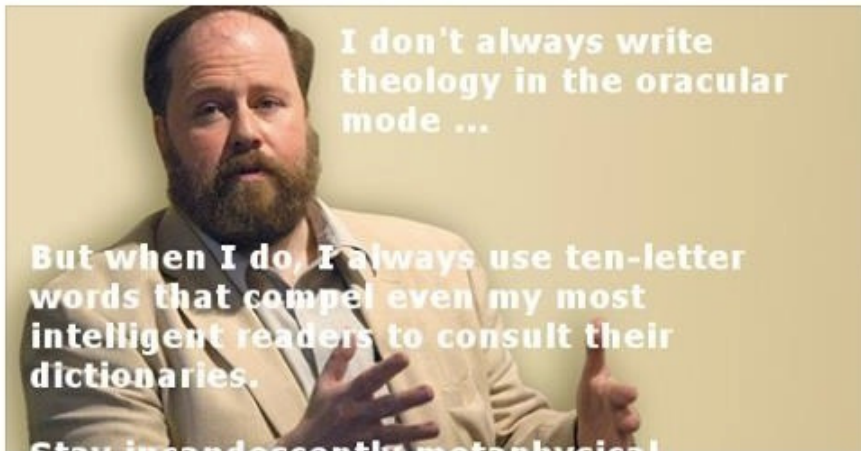


Jason Micheli shared a link.

Yesterday at 8:08am · Report story as fake

For as often as we read it at funerals, we forget: the reason Paul works to reassure in Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus is because there are Powers and Principalities in the world contending against God and working to separate us from him.

A world where everything is the direct and immediate unfolding of God's will is NOT the world as the New Testament sees it.



If There's a Reason for Everything, There's No Reason to Worship

Yesterday I spoke to Dad whose 3 year old boy somehow climbed inside his truck in the Texas summer heat and couldn't get out again. Dad was asleep taking a nap

TAMEDCYNIC.ORG

Like Comment Share

Joshua Cho, Bryon Rossi and 30 others



Kenneth Tanner My man.

Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 8:36am



Kenneth Tanner And I mean you not DBH though his Doors of the Sea changed my life.

Like · Reply · 3 · Yesterday at 8:37am



Tanner Foster This doesn't make any sense to me, especially in the light of the book of Job. This seems like modernist nonsense. Putting your good and your will over that of God's will. God has absolute rights over us as His creation. Saying that He isn't worthy of your worship if He acts in a way that isn't in accordance with your will is supreme heresy. Borders on atheism.



Fans of David Bentley Hart

Public Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

Church Awaiting a Ne... 1

Grace Christian Church ...

New Humanity Christian...

New Humanity Christ... 2

The Fellas #Rescued

Rescued Boston

Rescued Church

Progressive Asian A... 13

Fans of David Bentley H...

Biblical Christian E... 20+

See more

creation. Saying that He isn't worthy of your worship if He acts in a way that isn't in accordance with your will is supreme heresy. Borders on atheism.

As Peter Kreeft deftly says, "The entire Bible can be summed up into 2 concepts. I am God. You are not."

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:17am



Brendan Moran I am sorry, but summing the entire Bible up into those two concepts alone is more daft than deft.

Like · Reply · 🗨️ 5 · Yesterday at 9:28am



Tanner Foster No.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:37am



Karen Cubberley I do suggest you read the book before you make that determination, but judging from your interpretation of the message of Job, not sure that will help. I suggest if the bottom line message of the Bible is "He is God. I am not", you may have missed the whole point of the Gospels!

Like · Reply · 20 hrs



Karen Cubberley Whatever happened to "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."?

Like · Reply · 19 hrs



Tanner Foster The fact that God is love doesn't contradict anything I have said. He knows infinitely more than us, so it isn't our place to question Him.

Like · Reply · 19 hrs



Erik Mast-Foss Peter Kreeft is much more theologically in agreement with Hart on the issue of God's will and goodness than with the Voluntarists and Calvinists Hart is refuting in his book.

Like · Reply · 18 hrs



Karen Cubberley In one way perhaps. In another, I would suggest it is a longstanding biblical tradition for the people of God to wrestle with God and question Him and His goodness, especially in the midst of tremendous suffering. (Psalms? Jacob's Ladder? Christ from t... See More

Like · Reply · 🗨️ 2 · 3 hrs · Edited



Karen Cubberley Kreeft's is not the right answer, though, to the question arising from suffering of "what kind of God* allows such suffering and evil into the world, which is the one addressed in the post and the book. Can you picture Christ (who is the most complete ... See More

Like · Reply · 🗨️ 1 · 12 hrs



Write a reply...



Jason Micheli The heresy is reducing the God revealed in the Incarnate Son to sheer will (to power) and making, as you imply, Goodness and Love ancillary attributes rather than constitutive of his very nature. And ironically, the angle you suggest, which is but a believing form of Nietzsche, is the very definition of modernism.



Fans of David Bentley Hart

Public Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group



Shortcuts

Church Awaiting a Ne... 1

Grace Christian Church ...

New Humanity Christian...

New Humanity Christ... 2

The Fellas #Rescued

Rescued Boston

Rescued Church

Progressive Asian A... 13

Fans of David Bentley H...

Biblical Christian E... 20+

See more

angle you suggest, which is but a believing form of Nietzsche, is the very definition of modernism.

Like · Reply · 14 · Yesterday at 9:22am

Tanner Foster When did I ever reduce God to sheer will. God is love. Nothing I said contradicts that. The fact that we don't understand his will doesn't mean that it isn't good.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:35am

Carsten Bryant "God has absolute rights over us as His creation" seems to me a statement of brutal power and coercion, not love.

Like · Reply · 4 · Yesterday at 9:44am

Tanner Foster That may be how you feel about it, but that doesn't change the fact that it is the truth.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:47am

Tanner Foster Do also deny that Hell exists because it makes God to be too much of a "meanie."

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:48am



Write a reply...



Kenneth Tanner Job is a tough book. Most of the responses of his friends are actually false conceptions about God. Only the youngest's version of God is vindicated.

Like · Reply · 4 · Yesterday at 9:24am



Mako Nagasawa Tanner Foster, I'd encourage you to read Eleonore Stump's segment in her book *Wandering in Darkness*, along with Robert Alter's chapter on Job in his book *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. Essentially, God did not bully Job into silence, and did not claim superior power *carte blanche*. God's argument is that He cares for life, is the midwife to every birth, and is on the side of life. That is what *wins* Job back into partnership with God, despite being at risk for being attacked by Satan because Job represents Israel, and because Satan attacks God's human covenant partner in order to thwart God's purposes on earth. So the moral of the story, as it were, is not that God is God and we are not. That is argument from raw, sheer power. The moral of the story is that God is on the side of life, and we can trust Him. Even if the full commitment of God to life is not even fully shown in Job, for that had to wait until the resurrection of Jesus. Nevertheless, Job does glimpse it: 'I know that my redeemer lives, and in my flesh I shall see Him...'

Like · Reply · 10 · Yesterday at 9:31am



Tanner Foster I disagree. I think the moral of the story is that He is God and we are not and that we shouldn't be basing whether or not we accept certain doctrines on our feelings. His will is more important than our will. This is seen throughout the bible and most notably in the lords prayer. Trying to frame things in terms of our will invites sin.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:51am



Mako Nagasawa God's will does not exist prior to His nature and His character

Like · Reply · 4 · Yesterday at 9:56am



Tanner Foster I agree. God is agape. He is goodness.



Fans of David Bentley Hart

Public Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

- Church Awaiting a Ne... 1
- Grace Christian Church ...
- New Humanity Christian...
- New Humanity Christ... 2
- The Fellas #Rescued
- Rescued Boston
- Rescued Church
- Progressive Asian A... 13
- Fans of David Bentley H..
- Biblical Christian E... 20+

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 10:01am

Karen Cubberley Think on that awhile...
Like · Reply · 1 · 19 hrs

Write a reply...

Kenneth Tanner Word.
Like · Reply · 22 hours ago

Tanner Foster I guess David Bentley Hart isn't for me. I'm more of a Thomist.
Like · Reply · 22 hours ago

Dave Andrea A lot of the language you are using is much more akin to William of ockham. God's supreme will and power and so on.
Like · Reply · 20 hrs

Tanner Foster Well you can't tell a person's entire theology from a small paragraph on Facebook.
Like · Reply · 19 hrs

Write a reply...

Kenneth Tanner Actually what you wrote is not Thomistic either.
Like · Reply · 5 · 22 hours ago

Hide 14 Replies

Tanner Foster Yes it is.
Like · Reply · 22 hours ago

Tanner Foster Aquinas specifically wrote in the summa theologiae that God allows (not wills) evil to bring about good.
Like · Reply · 22 hours ago

Kenneth Tanner God can and does transfigure evil but his allowing evil is not part of a master plan or a design, which makes God a participant in or partner with evil. God does not require evil to do good.
Like · Reply · 1 · 22 hours ago

Tanner Foster So then why is there evil?
Like · Reply · 22 hours ago

Kenneth Tanner Because there are other wills at work in creation than God's.
Like · Reply · 7 · 22 hours ago · Edited



Fans of David Bentley Hart

Public Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

- Church Awaiting a Ne... 1
- Grace Christian Church ...
- New Humanity Christian...
- New Humanity Christ... 2
- The Fellas #Rescued
- Rescued Boston
- Rescued Church
- Progressive Asian A... 13
- Fans of David Bentley H...
- Biblical Christian E... 20+

See more



Kenneth Tanner Because there are other wills at work in creation than God's.

Like · Reply · 7 · 22 hours ago · Edited



Tanner Foster Was it possible for God to create creatures who never sinned and still had the free will to do so? And if so why didn't He do that rather than create this fallen creation?

Like · Reply · 22 hours ago



Tanner Foster But God is the creator of everything. Why would He create something that could do evil?

Like · Reply · 22 hours ago



Kenneth Tanner Because he did not desire relationship with automatons, for starters. And I of course don't know the answer. We will have to await the eschaton for that one. In the meantime I am not going to make God a partner in or cause of darkness.

Like · Reply · 6 · 22 hours ago



Mako Nagasawa Perhaps because God imparts a goodness onto and into everything that He creates. Combined with the fact that He made human beings with the capacity to love freely, while He called us in such a way so as to perfect our human nature through love, that gave us the possibility of having a disordered set of loves (evil is disordered love), and introducing a disorder into human nature itself. But that fall into evil was never necessary, only possible. To render the fall into a necessity is to make God the author of evil, which, if He is good by nature, He cannot be nor do.

Like · Reply · 4 · 4 hrs · Edited



Tanner Foster I'm not saying God wills evil. That's an Islamic concept. I'm saying that He allows it since giving us free will is better than not giving us free will like you said. I don't think there is any fundamental disagreement there. I just am having trouble following the train of thought here. It seems like we agree that God doesn't will evil. I'm saying that He does allow it, because it's fairly obvious He does. I'm also saying idk why He does but that I trust Him and His will even though I do not understand.

Like · Reply · 1 · 22 hours ago



Tanner Foster I just don't think it makes one a moral cretin to tell people this sort of thing, that though we feel a certain way we shouldn't trust in God.

Like · Reply · 22 hours ago



Kenneth Tanner I would encourage you to read The Doors of the Sea.

Like · Reply · 6 · 22 hours ago



Tanner Foster I think I have it on my kindle. I will read it when I have a chance. I don't know a lot about the problem of evil. Thank you for the recommendation and God bless.

Like · Reply · 5 · 22 hours ago



Kenneth Tanner Bless you.

Like · Reply · 3 · 22 hours ago