

***Evil and the God of Love:
Addressing Today's Evil by Looking at the
Biography and Teaching of Mahatma Gandhi***

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I. The Nature of Evil

- A. The Goodness in Creation -- Everything was/is made in love and Generosity
- B. Traditional Views of the Fall and Theodicy:
Separation from God; Is God Just?
- C. How Do "We" Become Evil?
 - i. Human Nature
 - ii. Learned Motives and Behaviors -- Mimicking and Imitation
(Cheating, lying, violence, self-deception; also, decency, honesty, caring)
 - iii. Family/Community of Origin -- "Family Systems Theory"

II. Gandhi's Biographical Portrait: Important Life Experiences of Confronting Evil

**III. Gandhi's Seven Aspects of Evil and Sin ... and Virtues
(Christianity's Seven Deadly Sins: Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Envy,
Gluttony, Anger, and Sloth)**

- A. Prosperity without Participation.
- B. Enjoyment without Conscience.
- C. Knowledge without Character.
- D. Commerce without Morality.
- E. Progress without Humanity.
- F. Worship without Sacrifice.
- G. Common Good without Mutuality and Accountability.

IV. Applying These Learnings to Our Present-day

- A. *Private Choices Have Public Consequences.*
(The Rev. Alan Houghton, former Rector of Heavenly Rest, NY, wrote a book by that title)

B. The Need for Broader and Deeper Understanding of Each Other.

C. The Importance of Discipline and Boundaries -- and Freedom.

(i.e. How do we shape gun control laws which both continue the freedoms of the Constitution and also set boundaries/controls on gun purchase and use and what disciplines do we need as a society in the midst of these decisions?)

D. How should/could we promote and manifest Gandhi's "virtues" of participation, conscience, character, morality, humanity, sacrifice and mutuality/accountability in an evil world? In short, how does God's love (in Christ) inform our approach to this question.