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.