Session 41 - Creation and Evil

Question: *What is the purpose of creation? What is evil? Did God create evil in creation? What purpose does evil serve?*

1. *What is the purpose of Creation?*
   1. The purpose of creation is to be loved by God.
      1. “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)
      2. “God is love” (1 John 4:8)
2. *What is evil?*
   1. Evil is a rejection of God and His purposes.
3. *Did God create evil in creation?*
   1. No, he created everything in six literal days and he called it all “good”.
   2. Evil comes from the will of Satan and of corrupted mankind.
      1. Satan was created good, but also with a will.
      2. He corrupted himself, much like a good fruit can become rotten though it used to be good.
      3. Augsburg Confession, Article XIX “The Cause of Sin”: “Our churches teach that although God creates and preserves nature, the cause of sin is located in the will of the wicked, that is, the devil and ungodly people. Without God’s help, this will turns itself away from God, as Christ says, ‘When he lies, he speaks out of his own character’ (John 8:44).”
   3. Evil is simply a corruption, twisting, and privation of what was created good.
4. *What purpose does evil serve?*
   1. Evil serves God’s purposes, even though God is not the author of evil.
      1. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)
      2. “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good…” (Genesis 50:20).