OBJECTIONS TO BELIEF IN GOD

PROBLEM OF SUFFERING AND EVIL

*Intellectual Problem Emotional Problem*

“I think it is irrational that God “I don’t like a God who would

would permit suffering and evil.” permit suffering and evil.”

*Logical Version Probabilistic Version*

It’s impossible that God It’s improbable that

and evil co-exist. God and evil co-exist.

I. The Intellectual Problem of Evil

A. Logical Version

1. Statement of the Problem

2. Solution of the Problem

a. There is no proven inconsistency between God and evil.

b. We can prove that God and evil are consistent.

B. Probabilistic Version

1. Statement of the Problem

2. Solution of the Problem

a. We are not in a good position to assess the probability of whether God has

morally sufficient reasons for permitting the evils that occur.

b. The Christian faith includes doctrines that increase the probability of the co-existence of God and evil.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

c. Relative to the *full* scope of the evidence, God’s existence is probable.

(1)

(2)

(3)

II. The Emotional Problem of Evil

A. Statement of the Problem

B. Solution of the Problem