

Did God create sin?

I suggest we try to first define sin. This will help us understand if it would be consistent with God's character to be the author/creator of sin.

The Bible describes sin as the breaking, or transgression, of God's law (1 John 3:4). The Westminster Shorter Catechism says it like this in question 14: Question: *What is sin?* Answer: *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.* (I quote Westminster because the Baptist Faith and Message doesn't define sin although it does state how sin came into the world. I like to quote the Confessions of the Christian faith because it is wise to consider the counsel of 2000 years of Christian history).

Sin is also defined as disobedience or rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7), as well as independence from God. The primary translation means "to miss the mark" of God's holy standard of righteousness (Romans 3:23).

If you think these points rightly and sufficiently define sin then we next have to ask: Is sin consistent with the character of God? Chapter Five of the Westminster Confession states that God "*neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.*" It quotes James 1:13 as a reference. Rather than the creator/author of sin, God is holy, holy, holy (the Bible didn't originally have punctuation so God repeated things to make an emphasis like an exclamation point).

It seems to me that sin is not consistent with God's character so he would not author/creator of it. This is what the Scripture teaches and the major confessions of the Christian faith have historically stated.

It is true that "God made everything" but that statement is really an incomplete statement and can cause confusion. What we mean by the statement "God made everything" is

that “God made everything that is consistent with his character.”

It’s like the question “*Can God do anything?*” We quickly want to say “yes” but really he can’t. God can’t lie. God can’t make a rock that God can’t lift. What we mean by the statement “*God can do anything*” is “*God can do anything that is consistent with his character.*”

So, did God make everything? “Yes” and “no.” God made everything that is consistent with his character. Since sin is contrary to the character of God, God did not make it. Genesis 1:31 states “*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good*” but that was on the sixth day and sin had not yet entered into the world. So God did make everything and he did not make everything. Genesis 1:31 teaches us that it is consistent with the Scripture to say “God made everything” and not include sin.

In Colossians 1:16 Paul wrote about Jesus – “*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*” However, to be consistent with the text we can’t say the “all things” includes sin because Paul defines the “all things” as “heavenly, earthly, visible and invisible thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities.”

So God did not create/author sin. But remember I said there is a simple answer and a complex answer; a short answer and a longer answer. The short, simple concise answer to the question “Did God create sin?” is “No.” The longer, more complex answer is....