

Questions about the origins of evil:

If mankind was created in the image of God (who is pure, with no evil within), from where did the evil come?

The Bible introduces the Serpent with temptation. We read later in the Bible (Is. 14, Rev 12 for example) that Satan preceded creation. But evil entered history with Adam's fateful decision to MUTINY against God. See 1 Cor 15.21-22 and Romans 5.12, 17, 19.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, ...
17 by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, ...
19 through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners

Is evil necessarily part of mankind's nature,

Emphatically NO. Genesis 1 says God made everything very good. If God made Adam so that he would sin, sin would be God's fault. The reason Genesis 1-3 is written is to show that sin is NOT God's fault.

for if there's no evil in humankind, from where did it emerge?

Let me change the tense: There WAS no evil in the human God created. It emerged from Adam's decision to Mutiny against God and to seek to become "like God—in other words to believe the Serpent instead of God and to eat the "fruit". The evil that is now in humankind is the consequence, not the cause of Adam's sin.

Is it necessary that evil is within mankind in order to give mankind the opportunity to choose to obey or not to obey God?

Again, no. Evil within Mankind disables his ability to choose to obey God.

Before Adam mutinied, he had freedom to obey God. It was his free choice to obey or not. God, not evil, gives him the opportunity to choose. After he disobeyed, he, and the rest of race until Jesus, has not had the capacity to obey God completely. So the Bible says that after Adam sinned sin was passed on to the rest of the human race (1 Cor 15 & Romans 5) so that the race was no longer what God created it to be—good. So the "human" race became less than what God created: SUB HUMAN. This is what we are trying to communicate in Weeks OT 2- 4.

And in Christ we again see full and complete humanity that God is now in the business of rebuilding in those who are in Christ: Philippians 2. 12b-13. We do that in the confidence of Philippians 1.6 that God will complete that work in the day of Christ.