

Evolution or Faith
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Is There An Agenda?

Professor Richard Rorty, who taught at Wellesley, Princeton, the University of Virginia and Stanford, admitted that he and many of his colleagues are actively trying to destroy the faith of Christian kids in college. He warned parents to recognize that as professors “we are going to go right on trying to discredit you in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your views seem silly rather than discussable.” He said that we professors “arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own.”
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Premises

Definitions

The Science

The Philosophy

A Plan of Action for YOU

What is Evolution?

A Change over time.

Darwinism

Three Definitions of “Evolution”

Micro-Evolution

Variation within a Species

Flu Virus

MRSA

Macro-Evolution

New Species Form within the Same Phyla

Darwin’s Finches

“Mega”-Evolution

Large Leaps in development

“Molecules to Man”

What is Faith?

NOT Blind Belief!

NOT Stumbling in the Dark

Pistis

Greek Word

Trusting in something for which you have seen the evidence

Biblical Definition

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

Scientific: Darwinism versus Creationism

Darwinism

IS the law of the land!

Supported vigorously by government, science foundations, and big money

Bias against religion/supernatural particularly Christianity

But, Problems!

Altruism, art, beauty, humanity

Fossil Record?

Cambrian Explosion

?Irreducible Complexity

Origin of Life

The presence or “appearance” of design

Alternative: Creationism

YEC

OEC

Theistic Evolution (Biologos)

Intelligent Design

Phase 1 - Old Earth

As for these days, it is difficult, perhaps impossible to think -- let alone explain in words -- what they mean. Augustine “City of God”

“but we must bear in mind that these days indeed recall the days of creation, but without in any way being really similar to them.” Augustine, The Literal Meaning of Genesis

Phase 2 Young Earth

1642 Cambridge University Vice Chancellor John Lightfoot proclaimed that the exact date of the creation of the universe was September 17, 3928 B. C.

1650 Anglican Archbishop James Ussher modified that date to October 3, 4004 B. C.

Some Bibles carried Ussher’s Chronology

However . . .

“By the late 1800’s even the most conservative Christian apologists readily conceded that the Bible allowed for an ancient earth.” Ronald Numbers

A young earth was not the established accepted interpretation of Genesis 1

But, then . . .

Ellen G. White in the 1840’s received visions showing how she “was carried back to the creation and shown that the first week in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day was just like every other week.”

Endorsed the global flood theory.

George McCready Price adopted her visions for a young earth and a global flood later embraced by Henry H. Morris in "The Genesis Flood" in 1961.

Prior to this, the flood was considered to be local but universal and involving only nephesh, or farm animals.

Phase 3 -- Evolution!

Following the Scope's Monkey Trial, evangelicals adopted Ussher.

ASA was formed by Christian scientists who embraced evolution.

A splinter group of YEC split off to form YEC ministry under Henry Morris

Phase 4 - Design

In the 1990's biologists, philosophers, and lawyers formed the Intelligent Design Movement

Design was seen in biological systems, DNA, within the cell.

No position on who or what is the designer.

4 Types of Creationism

YEC

OEC

Theistic Evolution (Biologos)

Intelligent Design

Bottom Line

There are only two possibilities and since Theism appeals to the supernatural, Darwinism is the only alternative to the scientific mind. We cannot allow for the supernatural.

Therefore, creationism under any guise is rejected outright.

Why Don't Scientists Accept the Evidence?

"When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities: Creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: That life arose spontaneously by chance!" -- George Waldt

Philosophical

Theism

Naturalism

Darwinism is the foundation for Naturalism and has gone beyond a modest and poorly supported scientific theory and has become a grand philosophy that explains the world in strictly naturalistic terms.

Worldviews

Worldview is . . .

A worldview is a conceptual framework by which a person consciously or unconsciously interprets the world according to his philosophical beliefs.

Two Worldviews

Christian Theism

Naturalism

Theism

Christian theism is a worldview which asserts the existence of a personal, purposeful God who has revealed Himself and His design in nature, the Bible, and most fully in Jesus Christ and who has provided a way for us to relate to Him through Jesus Christ in such a way that our lives have hope, purpose, and destiny.

Naturalism

Naturalism is the worldview that nature is the only force in the universe and it is an impersonal force that acts randomly and without plan or purpose. Also known as materialism, or the belief that matter is all that exists and all that matters.

Four Questions

How Did I Get Here? ORIGINS

Why am I Here? MEANING

How Should I Live? MORALITY

What Happens After I Die? DESTINY

ORIGINS

Theism

Humanity is a special creation. Genesis 2:7

Human Beings are Made in the Image of God. Genesis 1:27

Naturalism

ORIGINS

Humanity is here by pure chance. There is no God or supernatural agency.

Human beings are merely the end product of Darwinian evolution and blind mechanistic processes.

MEANING

Theism

God has made a way to have meaning in life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23.

People can find true meaning in embracing a cause bigger than ourselves. Matthew 6:33

MEANING

Naturalism

You are here because of billions of years of pointless, random mutations and your life is meaningless.

People have to create meaning as there is no transcendent or supernatural agency to give life a meaning.

MORALITY

Theism

God's moral law is written on the hearts of people. Romans 2:15.

He has revealed standards for right and wrong. Micah 6:8

MORALITY

Naturalism

Right and wrong are relative concepts and can be determined based on the current circumstances. There is no such thing as an absolute standard of right and wrong.

Might makes right. Survival of the fittest determines who decides what is "right and wrong."

DESTINY

Theism

Each of us will experience death. Hebrews 9:27.

Each of us faces eternity, either with God or apart from Him, based on how we respond to Jesus Christ.

DESTINY

Naturalism

You die, you rot.

There is nothing after death, so live for the moment and make the most of today. In fact, the entire universe will eventually cease to support life so there is no hope for humanity or life, for that matter.

Does it matter?

Eugenics in the 1920's

Margaret Sanger

Darwinism and Eugenics were the foundation of Nazism

The only thing worse than nostalgia is amnesia! Ravi Zacharias

"I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that this cold weather is far worse than the Holocaust," Travis Okulski of Gawker

Where Are We As Christians?

Peter vs. Paul

Peter preached to the crowd at Jerusalem

Paul preached in Athens

Jerusalem

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

Athens

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them. Acts 17:32-33
3000 vs. 3

Our church operates as if we are trying to reach Jerusalem
YOU live in a world that is more like Athens
YOU and I MUST be more like Paul.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Apologos

Greek word meaning to give a defense
We are commanded to be prepared
Rational, reasonable faith
Winsome and attractive
Critical Thinking Skills
Become equipped -- Apologist!

Take Away

Liberal higher education has an agenda to destroy your faith in Christ
Naturalism is the foundation of today's society and the enemy of Christianity -- Not our own brothers and sisters!
Christians are being persecuted, silenced, bullied, and not tolerated
The validity of Darwinism is no longer in question
Only YOU can change culture by becoming an apologist for the Christian faith
Critical thinking skills, Become a scientist, Fight postmodernism, Some Old School Works, Revolution in Thinking

Truth

The Bible is the best attested manuscript in the history of humanity
Christianity is based on rational, reasonable, evidential events
Discoveries in cosmology EVERY DAY continue to show the fingerprint of the God of the Bible
Relativism may be the mainstay of our society, but realistically we live in a world that is based on absolutes
The attributes of humans such as art, beauty, music, and worship defy explanation from a naturalistic point of view
Only 16% of Americans are practicing followers of Christ
YOUR generation is the only hope for Christianity
You MUST know WHAT you believe and WHY you believe it!