

Christian Apologetics
“always be prepared to give a defense...”

V. Laws, Nature and Intelligent Design

In the previous lesson, we examined two perspectives regarding the existence of God and the origin of the cosmos (universe) in relation to the *principle of causality – every thing and every event has a relevant cause*. First, if everything has a cause, then unless we can conceive an infinite number of causes going back forever, we must accept there had to be a first cause. And secondly, it stands to reason (no matter how hard it may be to understand) that this first cause, because it could not be part of anything that is caused, must be uncaused.

Now let's take a look at human nature and the laws of nature.

The Law of Human Nature¹

People quarrel for the strangest reasons. But foremost among the reasons is the sense that the other person has somehow violated some innate standard of conduct - while the other person defends their actions against that same standard. At closer examination, it looks like both parties had in mind some kind of Law or Rule of fair play or decent behavior or morality upon which they both agree. The quarreling is an attempt to show that the other person is wrong. And there would be no sense in doing that unless you both had some sort of sense or agreement as to what is Right and Wrong (there could not be a penalty in football if there were not an agreed upon set of rules).

And this **Law of Human Nature** is cross-cultural and cross-geographical, and even cross-era. Moralities may be different, but even cultures who do not believe in the Bible frown upon killers, thieves, adulterers and acts of selfishness, cheating, betrayal or even cowardice in battle. It seems we must at least admit that there is a real Right and Wrong.

Secondly, we must admit that no one continually and consistently keeps this Law of Nature. And as soon as someone points that out, then the excuses begin. So, if we do not believe in a law of decent behavior, why should we be so anxious to make excuses for not having behaved...decently? We wouldn't, but we do, so we must. The fact is that when we feel the Law or Rule pressing down on us and realize that we are breaking it, the only course of action is to *shift the responsibility*. Thus, the excuses. (Notice that we do not give excuses for acceptable behavior...that's to our credit!)

The question – is there a Mind behind the Law?

Laws of Nature

We are all bound by the Laws of Nature whether we believe in them or not. (In fact the only Law which man can choose to obey or not is the Law of Human Nature). All of nature obeys, has to obey, the law of gravity, the laws of inertia and motion, the hydrological cycle, photosynthesis, etc.

Two other critical primary laws of nature that impact the theories surrounding the origins of life and the cosmos are the first and second laws of thermodynamics.

The **first law of thermodynamics** states that *matter/energy can neither be created nor destroyed. It may be changed from one form to another, but the total amount remains the same.* (this totally refutes the Big Bang and other theories, which surmises that the universe came to being out of nothing)

¹ Taken from *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

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The **second law of thermodynamics** states that *all systems will tend toward the most mathematically probable state, and eventually become totally random and disorganized.* (however, evolution defies this law by claiming that all species evolve to a more complex and organized state)

The list goes on and on. The complexity and order, interrelationships and dependencies and inviolate nature of the laws, systems, organisms and structure of the world around us are either a) the result of random chance and an evolving series of uncontrolled events or b) the result of an Intelligent Designer. [stone/Mt. Rushmore example]

An Intelligent Designer?

The principles of causality, operational science and origin science all point to an Intelligent Mind behind the first life form and the universe. Modern discoveries point more and more to an Intelligent Designer.

Charles Darwin did not understand the complexities of the innerworkings of organisms. His theories were based on observing the life forms that were visible to the human eye and then extrapolating false and inaccurate conclusions. In the mid-1800s, there were no electron microscopes, so no one knew the complexities of the cellular structure or DNA, nor the enormous amount of information contained therein. No evolutionary theory can adequately explain DNA. We can – Divine Natural Authority ☺.

One physicist states, “*These are the events about which scientists have written literally millions of words. The entire development of animal life is summarized in eight biblical sentences. Considering the brevity of the biblical narrative, the match between the statements and timings in Genesis and the discoveries of modern science is phenomenal, especially when we realize that all biblical interpretations used were recorded centuries, even millennia, in the past and so was not in any way influenced by the discoveries of modern science. It is modern science that has come to match the biblical account...*”²

When it comes to understanding the existence of God, we can rely on His revealing of Himself through His creation and the unseen moral law which He has laid down.

Psalm 8:1-4 *O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*

Rom 1:18-25 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. (NIV)

² Gerald Schroeder, *The Science of God*, 1997, p 70.