

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

VI. Creation and Evolution

Nothing stirs up the blood like a good ol’ *creation vs. evolution* debate. But before we dive in with both feet, we need to determine the difference a view of creation and evolution makes and distinguish between the three meanings that the term “evolution” can have.

1. First, it can simply mean a theory about *what* happened – like more complex species appeared on earth – and *when*, as shown by the fossil record.
2. Second, it can mean a theory about *how* this happened – by “survival of the fittest” and “natural selection”. This could be the means God used as part of divine design – or – it could mean a way of *eliminating* divine design.
3. Third, it can mean the *absence* of an intelligent designer, divine being or design – which is not even a scientific theory, but a philosophical one.

There are increasingly evident scientific problems with theories 1 and 2. These problems include:

- An absence of transitional forms in the fossil record
- The suddenness of the appearance of new species
- The total absence of any empirical evidence for the inheritance of environmentally acquired characteristics – i.e. one species’ characteristics evolving into another

Positions 1 and 2 do not necessarily have to diametrically oppose the Bible – although we can certainly find ourselves caught up in a discussion about a literal 24-hour day creation account and whether or not God uses natural selection. The bottomline is God can do whatever He wants, in any way He wants, in any time frame He wants.

The primary question is what difference does the doctrine of creation or evolution theory make? Does it really matter?

What difference does the doctrine of creation make?¹

The biggest difference is to our concept of God. If God is the Creator, then He must be:

- Infinitely powerful
- Immeasurably intelligent and wise (to create the universe, its design, laws, structures)
- A great artist, creative (“poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree” – Joyce Kilmer)
- Totally generous (an all-sufficient Being did not create out of need, but out of benevolence)

It also makes a difference to our concept of nature. If nature is created by God, it is:

- Intelligible (science actually arose in the theistic western culture, not the pantheistic east)
- Good
- Real (eastern cultures assert that nature is an unreal illusion)

Finally a doctrine of creation affects our concept of ourselves. If we owe our very existence to God, then :

- We essentially *have no rights* over or against God (Hamlet/Shakespeare, potter/clay)
- Our existence can only be meaningful if we *are indeed part of a divine design* deliberately created, rather than blindly evolved

¹ *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, InterVarsity Press, 1994.

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- And finally, if we owe our very existence and purpose to God, then *we owe Him everything*. Nothing is our own – no part of our time, our money or possessions, desires or thoughts.

No ideology in the history of human thought has ever made more difference than the *ideology of Creation*.

What difference does an evolutionary theory make?

If natural selection and random chance eliminate divine design and a Divine Designer, then it makes a dramatic difference.

- If it is true that we evolved by blind chance then our lives ultimately have no overarching meaning, no plan, no script.
- The only meaning, purpose or values that exist are the ones we invent for ourselves
- These can not be right or wrong, justified or not justified by comparison to a Higher Standard
- There is no reason to prefer one set of ethics or morals over another...and so on
- A humanistic philosophy develops

The ‘evolution’ of the Humanistic Philosophy²

- Satan’s primary form of deceit
- Has been around since Genesis (deceived Eve and then Adam – Genesis 3:1-5)
- Got its “legs” with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel (Genesis 10:10, 11:1-8)

Humanistic philosophy (humanism) rests on 4 pillars:

1. Atheism – there is no God, no Sovereign and thus, **no Creator**. Therefore, there is no one to whom man has to be accountable
 2. Evolution – this follows naturally. If there is no creator, than **man had to have evolved**. Remember this was a theory that took hold and was accepted as fact. Today, DNA and other scientific evidence continue to disprove the theory of evolution, but it is still accepted.
 3. Moral relativity – If there is no God, and man is evolving, then there can be **no standard**, no absolutes, by which we are to live or be judged.
 4. Amoral (no morality) – there is **no right or wrong**. “Do your own thing”, “Whatever feels right”
- Genesis 1 - “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...*”
 - Job 38:4-11 – “*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?*” (Job 38 & 39)
 - Psalm 8:3-4 – “*When I consider Your heavens and the work of Your hands...*”
 - Romans 1:20-23 – “*For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen...*”

² *The Prewrath Rapture of the Church*” by Marvin Rosenthal, pp. 80-82