

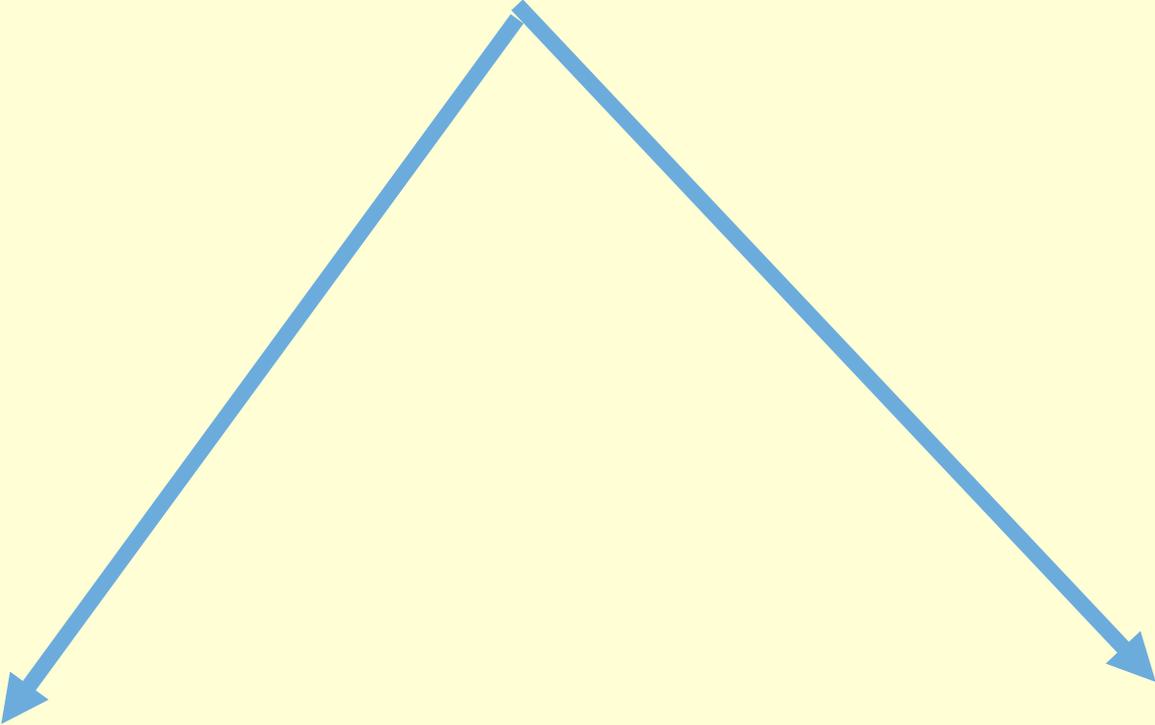
Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church May 1, 2016

# Theistic Evolution

Creative Theistic Evolution



Deistic Theistic Evolution

Experimental Theistic Evolution

# Theistic Evolution

- **Difficult to define with many nuances. There are at least three extremities with many possibilities in between them.**
  - 1. Creative Theistic Evolution tries to maintain God as the creator of the plants and animals working through a through the process of evolution which He controls to achieve the results He desires.**
  - 2. Deistic Theistic Evolution believes God created the process of evolution but merely wound it up and let it go without controlling the outcome and perhaps not even foreseeing the outcome.**
  - 3. Experimental Theistic Evolution Sees God as creating in a human way making incremental improvements.**

# The Evolution of Religions

- A common question for 19<sup>th</sup> century anthropologists was why did every people group that was studied have religion?
- The conclusion was that religions evolved as a result of evolution.
- Animism - God is in everything. Example: Tribal religions
- Pantheism - God is everything. Example: some forms of Buddhism
- Polytheism - Many gods for every facet of life. Example: Hinduism, Greek and Roman gods
- Henotheism – Many gods but only one is meaningful to any one group. Examples: a god for each nation in the Middle East
- Monotheism – One God. Examples: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

# Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

## Why does evolution persist?

All unredeemed people hate God and suppress the fact that he exists because they know He is holy and they are not AND He will hold them accountable for their actions. Therefore, they prefer:

- Dostoyevsky (1821-1881), “If there is no God all things are permissible.”
- Nietzsche (1844-1900), “God is dead.”
- Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980), “Freedom is freedom from morality.”

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 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 1:18-20

# Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

## Darwinism's "Hammer and Nail" Impact on Society

**Social Darwinism arose almost immediately as a new world view and in some cases a religion. The concept of survival of the fittest spawned an amoral approach to ethics, economics, and government.**

- **Christianity is called the religion of pity. Pity stands opposed to the tonic emotions which heighten our vitality: it has a depressing effect. We are deprived of strength when we feel pity. That loss of strength which suffering as such inflicts on life is still further increased and multiplied by pity. Pity makes suffering contagious. [Frederick Nietzsche](#)**
- **Totalitarian governments in Germany and the Soviet Union adopted a might makes right philosophy.**

# Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

## Darwinism's "Hammer and Nail" Impact on Society

- Hitler in particular embraced Nietzsche efficiently implementing eugenics (selective breeding of humans) infanticide, abortion, euthanasia and genocide.
- In the U.S. and Great Britain aggressive capitalism arose. Helping the disadvantaged harms society as a whole because charity hinders the natural process of weeding out the weak.  
"I remember that light came as in a flood and all was clear. Not only had I got rid of theology and the supernatural, but I had found the truth of evolution...Man was **not created** with an instinct for his own degradation, but from the lower he had risen to the higher forms. Nor is there any conceivable end to his march to perfection. His face is tuned to the light; he stands in the sun and looks upward." Andrew Carnegie

# Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

Following WWII Social Darwinism temporarily fell out of favor. But by the mid 1970's it is had been retooled

- **Robert Wright (a former Southern Baptist):**
  - The only goal of natural selection to propagate our genes.
  - The main tool of natural selection is deception. A mother's love is just kinship selection.
- **Richard Dawkins (atheist)**
  - Genes that sacrifice self interest disappear from the gene pool. Selfishness is the main characteristic of living beings.
- **Francis Crick (co-discoverer of DNA double helix)**
- Your joys and sorrows, your memories and ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will (agency), are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules.

# Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

**“There is only one really serious philosophical question, and that is suicide” Albert Camus (1913 – 1960)**

**If we are the result of a cascade of accidental events, void of any overarching purpose that has resulted in “naked apes” with large brains then....**

**We should not be surprised that this is the result of evolutionary thinking.**