



“Hot Topics: Evolution”

Selected Passages

Main Point: God created all living things according to their kind, and God uniquely created male and female in his image.

Creationism requires faith in a unique, unreplicable event in which the Creator created everything (Gen 1:1, 31).

- *Evolution demands blind faith in a unique, unreplicable event in which everything evolved from nothing.*

If we go all the way back to the beginning – the source of all things that now exist – both systems rely entirely on faith. Evolution has multiple explanations that have been offered both for the start of the material, natural world, as well as for the start of life on earth. All of the theories for the start of life require the building blocks of life to be in place, but the real question is, where did those things come from? Where did lightning come from? What was the source of clay? How was the earth formed? Where did the energy that initiated and “created” the first, material and nature substance come from? Their answers to these fundamental questions remain theoretical, and when it comes to the most foundational question of the source of the first, material substance, evolution rests on a unique, unreplicable event in which nothing created everything. This theory is completely untestable and unreplicable. We live in a material world. There’s no environment that can be created on earth that’s devoid of matter. Those who believe in this don’t have faith, they have blind faith, which is a faith that’s grounded in nothing. However, biblical faith is not blind faith. Biblical faith is grounded in the evidence of creation. It’s grounded in the faithful testimony of God’s interaction and intervention throughout the history of the world. It’s experienced through the consistent conviction of God in the human heart. It’s confirmed by the reliable and faithful Word of God that reveals who God is; who we are; why we were created; what’s wrong in this world and in our lives; and how God is at work redeeming his creation. Creationism also requires a faith in a unique, unreplicable event, but it offers an explanation that’s grounded in history and that answers all of the most important questions that evolution desires to dismiss (sin, redemption, eternal life).

1. How is evolution ultimately grounded in faith? How is the faith of someone who believes in evolution different from biblical faith?
2. Do you know someone who believes in evolution? Would you share the pastor’s sermon with them and invite them to meet you sometime to discuss? Pray for them right now.

Creationism brings innate meaning to life: Multiply, rule over creation, and trust and obey the Lord. (Gen. 1:11, 14, 16-18, 22, 25, 26-30; 2:16-17).

- *Evolution requires the rejection of innate meaning in life.*

It's important not to overlook the implications of evolution on the meaning or purpose of life. Evolution is based on nothing but chance: A chance, cataclysmic event that created matter and started everything; a chance event or environment from which life began to emerge; a chance mutation or adaptation that evolved one thing into another; etc. There's no reason for the natural world and for life on earth other than chance. In evolution, there's ultimately no innate value difference between a human and a fish. The differences are evolutionary chance. Don't miss where this leads: Life has no innate meaning or value. Living things must create their own meaning and purpose, and because life has no innate meaning or value, we can discard life that's of no meaning or value to us. An evolutionist can cry out "evil" to cutting trees in the rainforest while at the same time cry out "good" for killing an unborn baby in a mother's womb. An evolutionist can cry out "evil" against slaughtering cattle for food and clothing while at the same time cry out "good" to killing an aging parent with a terminal condition. An evolutionist can cry out "evil" to animal testing for medical research while at the same time cry out "good" to a teenager getting a double mastectomy because she wants to be a boy. While philosophers and political theorists have theorized on how morals – "right" and "wrong" – can be developed in a society apart from God, all their theories come up lacking. If there's no Creator, then there's ultimately no absolute authority over creation. Under evolution, we're free to make our own rules to survive. Creationism brings innate meaning to life! We were created in the image of God. We were created to multiply and fill the earth. We were created as humans to rule over creation, being stewards of God's creation and his image in us. We were created to trust and to obey the Lord God. Meaning in life and absolute authority in creation is only found in the Creator!

1. What's wrong with philosophical frameworks for morals (Kantianism, consequentialism, contractarianism, etc.)? Where do all of these frameworks fall short?
2. What's different about a moral framework that comes from the Creator?

God's Word is the lens of truth to see reality in the world around us (Ps. 119:105).

- *The enemy blinds the eyes of the lost to keep them from seeing the truth (2 Cor. 4:1-6).*

Understand that the issue of evolution and creationism is not a scientific or logical issue that a debate can win. It is a spiritual issue! For the lost, their eyes have been blinded. They are dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1, 5), and the gospel is foolishness (1 Cor. 1:18) to their darkened minds (Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:18). The fundamental issue in evolution vs. creationism isn't found in the definition of "kinds" and "species." It's not found in the arguments for rapid speciation and the new earth vs. old earth. It's not found in overcoming the theoretical connections in fossils that evolutionists call fact. All of these are important, but we could clearly and completely win all of those arguments and debates and still lose. Why? Because the battle isn't against flesh and blood. It's spiritual. As believers, we need to remember how before Christ, we were blind. It took the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin, judgment, and righteousness to open our eyes and see the truth about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior who came to die for our sins and be raised from the dead, defeating sin and death. We must remember how God has changed the way we "see" the world through the truth of his Word. We must not forget that just as prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit is critical for us to see the reality of the world through the lens of truth, it's equally critical in the hearts and minds of the lost to see the truth of their Creator and his creation!

1. Why is being familiar with the evidence for creationism important? Why is it not enough? How should you prepare to talk to an evolutionist about the Creator?