

Creation Apologetics

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Session I - An overview of creation apologetics

CW 504 – We sing the almighty power of God by Isaac Watts

“This first chapter of our Holy Bible is written in the simplest and plainest language, and yet it contains the greatest and at the same time the most difficult themes.” Martin Luther.

Apes and humans are 99% similar. Doesn't that prove evolution?

... how would you answer that question?

A..., B..., C... 😊

D - That's an interesting question. Why do you think that supports evolution?

How would you answer this question? Think about it ...

(What does it mean “we are 1% different” and how does that show evolution?)

How often is creation mentioned in the Bible?

Genesis 1:1

Psalm 104:24

Malachi 2:10

Matthew 19:4

Ephesians 3:9

Revelation 4:11

“Moses spoke literally and plainly and neither allegorically nor figuratively; that is he means that the world with all creatures was created in six days” Martin Luther

Origins: Creation and Evolution

Creation – an idea (model) which states that God, a supreme intelligence, created the universe fully formed and fully functional (“ready-to-run”) in a very short time frame. Basic kinds of life were created which later diversified. Natural laws were established to govern the operation of the universe.

Evolution – an idea (model) which states that natural processes formed the universe gradually (“step-by-step”) over vast periods of time. All life is related through common ancestors back to the first living cell. Natural laws not only govern the operation of the universe, they were responsible for its origin.

Theistic Evolution – a sub-model of evolution which states that evolution happened but God was behind or allowed the process.

There are only two possibilities for origins – natural or supernatural.

Creation is a miracle.

Miracles provide evidence and proof of God. Exodus 7:9; John 2:23; John 20:30-31

Evolution makes sense ... to those who deny God. Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 1:21-25

WELS Statement of Belief - II. Creation

“We believe that the universe, the world, and the human race came into existence in the beginning when God created heaven and earth and all creatures (Genesis 1,2). Further testimony to this event is found in other passages of the Old and New Testaments (for example, Exodus 20:11; Hebrews 11:3). The creation happened in the course of six consecutive days of normal length by the power of God's almighty word. We believe that the Bible presents a true, factual, and historical account of creation ... We reject all theories of evolution as an explanation of the origin of the universe and the human race and all attempts to harmonize the scriptural account of creation with such theories.”

<https://wels.net/about-wels/what-we-believe/this-we-believe/creation/>

Apologetics

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense [*apologia*] to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” 1 Peter 3:15

Apologetics – (literally “from intelligent reasoning”) is to make a defense or give an answer to a question. Apologetics is *defensive* as you answer the question of an honest skeptic. The first step is clarification – define and understand what is being asked; ask questions yourself to clarify the other person’s statement. Apologetics involves a soft answer in gentleness and respect. Yet, we answer with the truth!

Some example evidences for creation ...

Back to the question up front ... how do you answer?

Creation is a reasonable (sensible and scientific) explanation for origins

Philippians 4:5

Natural origin by evolution? Foolish!

Creation by God? Reasonable!

Is creation an important doctrine? Yes!

The purpose of Creation Apologetics is to point to Christ John 1:1-5

Creation can serve as a “common ground” as we interact with *honest* skeptics.

Some are dishonest and wouldn't listen to our answer. Matthew 7:6

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church exists to shine the light of God's Word to make and strengthen disciples of Jesus Christ - mission of St. Matthew