

Creation Apologetics

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Session VIII - Apologetics and the meaning of the Doctrine of Creation

CW 507: Let All Things Now Living

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“The instrument or means God made use of [for creation] is His omnipotent Word, which was with God from the beginning and, as St. Paul says, before the establishment of the world (Ephesians 1:4)... Paul says (Colossians 1:16): “Through Him all things are made” - Martin Luther

Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26 Psalm 33:6,9 John 1:1-18

Creation might be interesting, but it isn't important. How do you respond?

How often is creation mentioned in the Bible?

Psalm 148:4-6

Isaiah 37:16

Jeremiah 51:15

Ephesians 1:4

1 Corinthians 15:45,47

Hebrews 1:10

Apologetics

“being prepared to make a defense [*apologia*] to anyone who asks” 1 Peter 3:15

We've been sold a “bill of goods” – that Christianity is just about the heart and not also about the mind. C. S. Lewis wrote, “Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

The Great Debate over Origins

It's not strictly a scientific debate, but a clash of worldviews. The ultimate issue is authority – whom will you believe: people or God? Evolution is accepted not just for its scientific merit, but because it removes God from the discussion of origins and life. The “scientific” justification for the rejection of God is evolution.

Creation places God at the foundation of the universe. The fundamental aspect of our faith is Christ. And at the same time, creation is foundational to that faith.

Creation and evolution are the origin science of competing religions.

Meaning

The meaning of anything is intimately connected to its origin. Creation and evolution are foundational issues because they provide ultimate meaning.

Various “issues” arise from these foundational beliefs. For example, human cloning, embryonic stem-cell research, abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, transhumanism, et al are all consistent with evolution.

Evolutionist William Provine says, consistent evolution means there is:

- no free will
- no ultimate foundation for ethics
- no life after death
- no ultimate meaning for life

Creation is a key to evangelism. Paul to the gentiles in Lystra - Acts 14:8-18 (15), Paul to the Greeks in Athens - Acts 17:22-34 (24)

Great theologians (Luther), great scientists (Newton), and great theologian-scientists (Schickard) have all accepted creation as a foundational fact.

The meaning of Biblical doctrines is found in their origin as recorded in Genesis. Ex: the 7-day week, marriage, worship, original and actual sin, the need for redemption.

Evolution undermines the Gospel message. If evolution is true, there's no such thing as sin and Jesus' atoning work is meaningless. Bozarth wrote, "If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing!"

Consistent creation means:

- God's Word is sure: there is meaning, purpose, and eternal life
- Christ is the Authority since He is the Creator

Why is creation important? It points to Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the creator who loved his creation so much, he became a creature and paid the debt in order to reconnect his creatures with their Creator.

Suggestion: pick one evidence for creation, learn it, and use it.

If they shoved a microphone in your face ... could you answer why you believe?

What's the "secret" of evolution? Death. Proverbs 8:35-36

What's the "secret" of creation? Life. Matthew 22:31-32; John 11:25

As Moses did to the people of Israel 3400 years ago, I set before you today two choices: life or death. Deuteronomy 30:19 Choose life.

Creation vs evolution – God as authority vs. humans as authority

The difference between Creation and Evolution: "Can I write my own rules about life or not?" What is the foundation? Who is the authority?

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

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