



Published 2010

Can Evolutionists Be Neutral?

by Mark Bergemann

The creation/evolution debate is a competition between two incompatible faith-based world views.

Evolutionists claim that creation scientists are biased in their examination of evidence, but that evolution scientists are neutral. They also claim that there can be no such thing as “creation science,” since creation is religion and evolution is science. **1**

1. Here is an evolutionist’s point of view, as quoted by Raju Chebium: “Creationism has no place in public schools because it is not science. ‘In science you start with a hypothesis and test it. You can go out and collect fossils to figure out if evolution is true. If you start with the premise that creationism is true, that is not subject to scientific scrutiny,” said Wayne Carley, executive director of the National Association of Biology Teachers. CNN, July 13, 2000, “75 years after the Scopes trial pitted science against religion, the debate goes on,” <http://archives.cnn.com/2000/LAW/07/13/scopes.monkey.trial/index.html> (accessed March 16, 2010).

The truth is that everyone, including every creationist and evolutionist, interprets facts based upon his own prior beliefs — including his world view. Everyone has a world view, and the world view of an evolutionist is very different from the world view of a creationist. This is why a creationist can believe that a particular observable fact clearly confirms creation, while an evolutionist can believe that the same observable fact clearly confirms evolution. **2**

2. Dr. Jason Lisle, *The Ultimate Proof Of Creation: Resolving The Origins Debate* (Green Forest, Arkansas: Master Books, 2009). See chapters 2 and 3 (pages 31-66) for a much more complete presentation of this position.

Competing World Views

The creation world view summarized below is that of a Christian who takes the Bible literally. There are many variations in evolution world views. The evolution world view summarized below contains some of the more commonly held evolution beliefs.

Creationists start with the belief that there is a God who created all the “kinds” of plants and animals in six days of ordinary length as recorded in the Bible. Plants and animals reproduce within their own biblical kinds, but there is significant variation within each kind. Some kinds have gone extinct. Creationists believe that the universe is young (fewer than 15,000 years old) and there once was a worldwide flood which covered all the land, plants, animals and people — except for those who were on the ark. Observable evidence (rocks, fossils, plants, animals, stars, etc.) is interpreted in light of these beliefs.

Evolutionists start with a belief that, if there is a god, he had nothing to do with origins. Many Christians believe that God used evolution as a means of bringing everything into existence. Even these “theistic evolutionists” normally interpret facts as though God had nothing to do with origins. Evolutionists believe that all things — living and non-living — came into existence naturally, by chance, during the billions of years since a few elements were produced by a “big bang.” The few elements produced by a big bang condensed into stars, and the stars made heavier elements, which then became planets. Living things came naturally from non-living chemicals. The first one-celled life forms gradually changed into all the plants and animals which we see today. Evolutionists do not believe that there was ever a worldwide flood, and they interpret evidence which they observe today (rocks, fossils, plants, animals, stars, etc.) in the light of these beliefs. **3**

3. Lisle, 32-34.

The population of the United States is fairly evenly split between these two competing world views, with half leaning toward the creationist view, and the other half toward the evolutionary view. **4**

4. According to a CBS News poll conducted November 18-21, 2004, 55% of Americans said that “God created humans in present form”; 22% said that “Humans evolved,” but “God guided the process”; but only 13% said that “Humans evolved,” and that “God did not guide the process.” Bootie Cosgrove-Mather, “Poll: Creationism Trumps Evolution — Most Americans Do Not Believe Human Beings Evolved,” CBS News, November 22, 2004, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/11/22/opinion/polls/main657083.shtml> (accessed March 16, 2010).

One of evolution’s most sacred beliefs is that everything came about by means of natural causes. This a priori belief — an unsupported presupposition — arbitrarily rejects the possibility that a Creator God exists. Either believing in a Creator God, or to believing that no such God exists, is a religious belief based upon faith. It is impossible either to prove or disprove the existence of God by means of human logic and reasoning. The belief that God exists, or that he does not exist, is a matter of faith; therefore both creation (which says that there is a Creator God) and evolution (which says that there is no Creator God) are both faith based beliefs. Both creation and evolution use science to interpret observable evidence in a way that conforms to their respective faith.

Neither creationists nor evolutionists will interpret any observable evidence in a way that goes against their faith-based world view. It does not matter how massive the evidence is for a young earth and a worldwide flood, an evolutionist will never accept either one, since to do so would go against the evolutionist’s faith that there is no Creator God.

Neutral Ground

Evolution scientists claim that they are neutral in examining evidence. They say, “We impartially look at the evidence. Let the cards fall where they may.” Yet they have stacked the deck in their favor! The evolutionist says to the creationist, “Let us debate origins on neutral ground. You give up any reference to God and the Bible so that we can begin our discussion.” With this request, the evolutionist is asking the creationist to accept the evolutionist’s own world view of natural causes without any Creator God.

Creation and evolution are mutually exclusive, since one says there is a Creator God, and the other says that there is no Creator God. Such opposite positions can be represented in formal logic by “p” and “not p.” It is logically fallacious to request that both sides accept “p” as true before they debate whether “p” is true or “not p” is true, yet that is what evolutionists ask creationists to do!

Most of our media and government have accepted the idea that belief in evolution is neutral and scientific, while belief in creation is biased and religious. Consequently, evolution is usually preached as the only reasonable view of origins in almost every realm of society including schools, television, radio, newscasts, newspapers, magazines, museums, and even by most religions and in most Christian churches. Evolutionists accuse creationists of “imposing their views on others,” **5** yet the evolutionists’ view is imposed on others far more often. Most Americans believe that both creation and evolution should be presented side by side. **6**

5. Chebium also reported: “... He [Carley] also accused creationists of imposing their view on others,” in “75 years after the Scopes trial pitted science against religion, the debate goes on,” CNN, July 13, 2000, <http://archives.cnn.com/2000/LAW/07/13/scopes.monkey.trial/index.html> (accessed March 16, 2010).

6. According to that same CBS poll, 65% of Americans want “creationism [taught] along with evolution,” and 37% want “creationism [taught] instead of evolution.” In conclusion: “Overall, about two-thirds of Americans want creationism taught along with evolution. Only 37 percent want evolutionism replaced outright.” Cosgrove-Mather, “Poll: Creationism Trumps Evolution — Most Americans Do Not Believe Human Beings Evolved,” CBS News, November 22, 2004, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/11/22/opinion/polls/main657083.shtml> (accessed March 16, 2010).

In summary, everyone, both the creationist and the evolutionist, is biased in his examination of the evidence. The creationist has a religious belief that there is a Creator God. The evolutionist has a religious belief that there is not a Creator God. Scientific investigation can be used to examine evidence in light of the creationists’ faith-based world view or in light of the evolutionists’ faith-based world view.

The creation/evolution debate is a competition between two incompatible faith-based world views. **LSI**

Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, serves on the LSI board. He is an evangelism leader at Good Shepherd's in West Allis, WI, and holds a B.S. from UW–Milwaukee.