

CHAPTER FIVE

Relevance of Creation and Evolution

We saw in previous chapters that all religions are not the same, and that only the Bible has a legitimate claim to be the Word of God. But it's not enough to believe that the Bible is correct or that Christianity is the right religion. The devil knows that both are true, but it won't do him any good. You have to not only agree with what the Christian faith says, but also take it personally and act on it.

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If you are willing to admit that the New Testament is accurately preserved, then you have to conclude that the events and sayings it describes took place just as they are recorded. This places the responsibility on you to decide what to do about Jesus. You can (1) deny that He ever existed, (2) say He was just a good man and perhaps even a great teacher, or (3) accept Him for who He said He was.

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- If you deny Jesus' existence you have to deny the record of history.

First, He is the central figure of the human race. Even cultures that do not use the Christian calendar recognize the Christ-centered dating system of B.C. and A.D.

Second, besides the Biblical record, ancient non-Christian historians such as Pliny, Josephus, and Tacitus confirm the reality of His existence.

Even many non-Christian world religions admit that Jesus really lived. They say He was a good man or even a great prophet, but not Almighty God in human flesh.

- The sayings of Jesus preserved in the New Testament show that it was impossible for Him to be just a great man. He was a carpenter living in an obscure little country far from the center of world government, who probably never traveled more than 200 miles from His birthplace. For an ordinary man living an ordinary life, He made some extraordinary statements.

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(1) He claimed that He was alive before Abraham existed.

(2) He claimed to be equal with God.

(3) He claimed to be the Messiah whose coming was prophesied through out the Old Testament.

(4) He claimed to have the authority to forgive sins.

(5) He claimed that He will be the one who judges the whole world.

Imagine that a plumber living near you were to make the type of claims Jesus did. Now imagine that someone deliberately sets fire to your house. The plumber tells the arsonist, "I forgive you." Wait a minute! It's your house, not the plumber's! Who does he think he is, telling someone they're forgiven when he wasn't even the owner of the house? Only God could do that! Knowing the bizarre things he was saying, would you think that the plumber was a good man? Of course not. He would have to be either a horrible liar or a raving lunatic.

Likewise, the claims of Jesus the carpenter show that He cannot be just a good man. There are only three possibilities:

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(1) He was not telling the truth and knew He was lying,

(2) He was not telling the truth but thought He was, or

(3) He really was telling the truth.

In the first case he would be a worse liar than the Devil himself, deceiving millions of people so completely that they were willing to die for Him. In the second case He would be so insane that C.S. Lewis in his classic work *Mere Christianity* says He would be on the same level as a man who thinks he is a poached egg. In the third case, He is Lord of all.

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You cannot call Jesus just a good man. As Lewis says, He did not leave you that option. He requires you to make a decision: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? Which do you think He is? If you reject Him as Lord, you'd better hope you're right. Otherwise, you will be one of the ones He said He would judge.

Let's assume that you have made the decision to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord. How should you live your life? One of the first things you should do is to find a good Christian

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church. There's more to it than belonging to a church, though: you need to develop a personal relationship with the God of the Bible and learn to trust Him. But how can you trust Him if you aren't sure that the Bible means what it says and says what it means from the very beginning? If not, how do we know it really came from God and is not just a collection of old fairy tales?

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The beginning is the part that is under the greatest attack. Even some professing Christians teach that Genesis is a myth and that God used evolution to create. They don't realize that the creation account is crucially important. If you can't trust the first verse of the Bible, how do you know you can trust any of the rest of it? When does God start telling the truth? Noah's Flood? Abraham? Moses? David? The prophetic books? The Gospels? The New Testament Epistles? Revelation?

Besides the matter of being able to trust God, what you believe about where you came from determines your attitude toward many important issues of life. If you think correctly, you act correctly; if you think wrongly, you act wrongly.

It sounds arrogant and closed-minded to tell someone that they are not thinking correctly. Nobody but God has the right to say something like that. That is precisely the point. If we want to please God and become more like Him, we must start to think the way He does. Our thinking in every area must be based on His Word, not the word of men.

VIII. RELEVANCE OF CREATION/EVOLUTION.

Your students may be surprised to learn how many issues and problems in our society are based on wrong thinking - upon the thoughts of men rather than the Word of God.

Recommended resources: Ken Ham, *The Lie*, Master Books, El Cajon, CA, 1987 (Excellent presentation of the relevance of Genesis - available through Answers in Genesis.) Walter T. Brown Jr., *In The Beginning*, Center for Scientific Creation, 5612 N. 20th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85016. Phone 602-955-7663. Many of the contrasts on the next few pages are from this book. Recommended visual aids: Ken Ham, *The Relevance of Creation: A Self-Instruction Program* (very easy-to-grasp overhead transparencies, available from www.answersingenesis.org).

A. EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE CAN'T BOTH BE TRUE.

To avoid looking foolish to unbelievers, many Christians try to compromise by saying that perhaps God used evolution as His method of creating. However, there are far too many contradictions between evolution and the Bible for this to be possible. If one is true, the other is automatically wrong.

In this section we are going to "throw down the gauntlet," so to speak. We will see that if evolution is true then the Bible is worthless. (Of course the opposite is true too: if the Bible is true then evolution is worthless.) Before you start, you might want to consider the spiritual condition of your class members. If some of them seem a little shaky in their faith you should reassure them that the purpose of this course is to strengthen their trust in the Scriptures. We will see that evolution is nothing but a myth. Its supporters have pulled one of the greatest deceptions of all times by making the rest of us think it is science.

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CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN EVOLUTION AND GENESIS	
<i>EVOLUTION</i>	<i>GENESIS</i>
1. The universe, earth, and life were produced by purely natural processes.	1. The universe, earth, and life were produced by the direct action of a supernatural being (God).
2. Space, time, and matter are eternal.	2. God, who is eternal, created time. He created matter and energy from nothing.
3. Evolution is an ongoing process.	3. Creation is a completed event.
4. Everything has evolved by continuous processes.	4. Everything was created in distinct, clearly defined steps. (Gen. 1)

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<p>CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN EVOLUTION AND GENESIS</p>	
<i>EVOLUTION</i>	<i>GENESIS</i>
<p>5. The universe began in a flash of light (the Big Bang). The earth appeared billions of years later. Light came first, then earth.</p> <p>6. The sun and stars appeared billions of years before the earth. Sun and stars came first, then earth.</p> <p>7. The earth began as molten rock. For billions of years it was too hot for water to exist as a liquid. Land first, then liquid water.</p> <p>8. It has always rained on the earth.</p> <p>9. Evolution occurred over four eras ranging from hundreds of millions to billions of years. The “evenings and mornings” of Genesis are meaningless.</p> <p>10. In order for evolution to fit into Genesis, each “day” would have had to last for millions or billions of years.</p> <p>11. The early earth’s atmosphere was poisonous, consisting largely of hydrogen, methane, ammonia, and water vapor. It could not support modern-type plants and animals for billions of years.</p> <p>12. All living things evolved from one common single-celled ancestor. Variation is unlimited.</p> <p>13. There is a basic continuity between all forms of life.</p> <p>14. The first plant life evolved in the ocean. Seed-bearing land plants evolved billions of years later.</p> <p>15. The first members of the animal kingdom were microscopic, single-celled organisms.</p> <p>16. Birds evolved from reptiles after millions of years.</p>	<p>5. The earth was formed in darkness first, THEN God said “Let there be light.” (Gen. 1:1-3) Earth came first, then light.</p> <p>6. The sun and stars were created on the fourth day, AFTER the earth. (Gen. 1:14-17) Earth came first, then sun and stars.</p> <p>7. From the very beginning the earth had a liquid water surface. (Gen. 1:2, 9-10) Water first, then dry land.</p> <p>8. At least until after Adam sinned, it had never rained on the earth. (Gen. 2:5-6)</p> <p>9. Creation was completed in six days, each consisting of an evening and a morning. (Gen. 1)</p> <p>10. The sun was created a day after plants, insects another day later. Plants can only survive a few 24-hour days without direct sunlight, and most cannot reproduce without insects. They would have become extinct in a very short time. The “days” could not have been millions of years long.</p> <p>11. By the third day, the earth’s atmosphere was capable of sustaining plants. By the fourth day, it was suitable for air breathing animals.</p> <p>12. God created distinct “kinds” of creatures. Each reproduces only “after its kind.” (Gen. 1:24-25, I Cor. 15:39) Variation is limited.</p> <p>13. There is a basic discontinuity between all forms of life. Each reproduces only “after its kind.”</p> <p>14. Seed-bearing land plants were among the first living things. (Gen. 1:11-12)</p> <p>15. The first members of the animal kingdom included fish, birds, and “great sea monsters.” (Gen. 1:20-22) Whatever these were, they were certainly not microscopic.</p> <p>16. Birds were created the day before “creeping things.” (Gen. 1:20-25)</p>

CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN EVOLUTION AND GENESIS
EVOLUTION ***GENESIS***

17. Animals had been eating each other for hundreds of millions of years before man appeared.	17. At least until after man sinned, animals ate only plants. (Gen. 1:29-30)
18. Man has been in existence for only the last 1/1000th of earth's history.	18. Man has been here almost since the beginning of the earth.
19. The first man was an already living, highly evolved apelike creature into whom God infused a soul.	19. The first man's body was miraculously formed from the dust of the earth. (Gen. 2:7) His body did not exist before then.
20. Human females evolved at the same time as males. The first human male was born of a female.	20. Woman was formed from man in a miraculous operation. (Gen. 2:21-22) Adam had no mother.
21. The earliest humans were meat-eaters.	21. The earliest humans were vegetarians. (Gen. 1:29)
22. The first humans gathered food. Thousands of years later, they began to hunt. Many thousands of years after, they developed agriculture.	22. The first man, Adam, was a farmer. So was his son Cain.
23. The first humans were primitive and brutish. They had no true culture for tens of thousands of years.	23. By the second generation, people were building cities. (Gen. 4:17) Abel, in the second generation, raised sheep. By the eighth generation, men were using musical instruments, raising cattle, and working with bronze and iron. (Gen. 4:20-22)
24. Language developed slowly.	24. Adam had a large vocabulary from the day he was created. Languages multiplied suddenly at Babel.
25. Marriage is a cultural development invented late in our evolution.	25. Marriage was directly established by God.
26. Clothing is also a cultural development.	26. Clothing was directly furnished by God after the Fall because of man's inability to deal with nakedness in his fallen condition.
27. Animals had been competing and dying for billions of years before the first humans evolved. From birth, they too were destined to die.	27. If Adam had never sinned, he and Eve would have lived forever. (Gen. 2:19, 3:17-24)
28. Evolution worked by the survival of the fittest and the death of the less fit over billions of years. The first humans were merely products of this process. Thus, MAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DEATH.	28. Before Adam sinned, there was no death in the world. (Gen. 3:17-24, Rom. 5:12-14) All of creation suffers because of his sin. (Rom. 8:19-22) Even the ground was cursed because of Adam's sin. (Gen. 3:17) MAN CAUSED DEATH.
29. There has never been a worldwide flood. The fossil record is the result of slow, gradual processes which took place over billions of years.	29. The Flood devastated the entire earth, but in the last days scoffers will deny that it ever took place. (2 Pet. 3:3-6)

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There are many other contradictions between Genesis and evolution, but these should make the point that if one is true the other is dead wrong.

If God really did use a big bang followed by evolution to create the universe, He could have said so easily. Even the most scientifically illiterate could understand if Genesis said something like this:

"When God began to create the heavens and the earth, darkness was upon the face of the heavens. And God said 'Let there be light' and there was a great blast. And after many days God made the stars, the sun, and the earth. And the earth was without form and void. And God caused the land to appear, and He fashioned the deep. And God made the exceeding small creatures and plants that teem in the sea. And God blessed them, saying "Be fruitful and multiply, and bring forth the fish and the great sea monsters and the creeping things, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the field."

This would be easy enough for anybody to understand, but it's not what Genesis says. The sequence in Genesis is all wrong for evolution.

B. THE MEANING OF ANYTHING IS TIED UP WITH ITS ORIGIN.

The inspiration for most of the rest of this chapter came from Ken Ham's excellent book and video *The Genesis Solution*, available from Films for Christ or www.answersingenesis.org. It would be well worth your while to show the film to your class.

A class on creation and evolution is nothing more than a mental exercise unless the students grasp a key concept: we can only understand what something means if we understand why it began. Science cannot help us find meaning. It can deal with What and How but is powerless to tell us Why. This is the realm of philosophy and theology, and scientists would do well to admit it. Thus, if we want to really know what anything means (including the moral and spiritual standards of Christianity), we must know the reason it began.

Some things are human inventions. Take holidays, for instance: since humans invented them, humans decide what they mean. But other things such as death, life, and sex are not human inventions. Only the One who started them gets to decide what they mean and how we are to deal with them. We need a reliable record of what happened in the beginning in order to know the meaning of life, death, and sex. If there is no such record we have no reason to follow anybody's standards but our own.

Let's look at an example of something we can't really understand unless we know its origin. It is traditional for audiences to stand during the performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's Messiah. Why? We can only find out by looking at the origin of this practice.

In eighteenth century Europe it was customary that no one sat in the presence of kings without their express permission, out of deference to their office and fear of having their head chopped off. If the king stood, everyone who was seated had to rise immediately.

According to tradition, King George II attended one of the earliest performances of The Messiah in London ca. 1743. He sat in the theater with all the other members of the audience until the strains of the "Hallelujah Chorus" were heard. When he heard the words "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS," he rose to his feet - out of reverence for HIS king. Everyone else immediately followed suit, and a new tradition was born.

The principle applies to almost anything we can imagine. If we want to know why the American flag is red, white, and blue, we must go back to its origin. If we want to understand the meaning of life, death, and any of the other deep questions of human existence, we must go back to their origin - to the beginning.

The opening chapters of Genesis tell us the origin, and thus the meaning, of dozens of things: heavenly bodies, the earth, animal and plant life, human life, the human body, law,

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sex, marriage, clothing, childbearing, sin, suffering and death, work, the fossil record, the rainbow, change of seasons, and many others. Genesis contradicts evolution on the origin and meaning of each of these. So which is accurate: Genesis, evolution, or something else.

There are only three possible ways everything could have begun:

1. CREATION.

God directly created using some supernatural process the way the Bible says He did.

2. THEISTIC EVOLUTION.

Some sort of God created in a way different from the description in Genesis, perhaps by using some form of evolution. The Genesis account is not accurate.

3. ATHEISTIC EVOLUTION.

Everything originated by random chance.

Let's see what each of these tells us about the origin and meaning of issues that deeply affect our lives. We'll see that what we believe about where we came from is very important indeed.

C. THE MEANING OF CHRISTIANITY.

Many world religions have high moral standards. Why then be a Christian instead of a Hindu, Buddhist, or anything else? To answer this question we must understand that our faith rests entirely on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. WHAT IS "THE GOSPEL?"

Since our eternal destiny depends upon believing the Gospel, one of the most important questions a Christian can ask is, "What is it?" The clearest definition is found in I Corinthians Chapter 15, commonly called the "Resurrection Chapter." In verses 1 - 4 Paul summarizes the Gospel by saying that we are saved through believing that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He rose again from the dead.

Some in Corinth had a problem with the Gospel. They didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead.

a. PROMISE of the Gospel - Future.

Paul responded that to deny that a resurrection is to take place in the future is to deny the promise of the Gospel - resurrection and the restoration of all things. For those who didn't believe in the future resurrection, Paul pointed out (v. 19) that "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."

In order to establish the reality of the future resurrection, Paul focused on the resurrection of Jesus, which deals with the present.

b. POWER of the Gospel - Present.

Because Jesus is risen and is alive in the present, we have the power of the Gospel in the present: salvation, forgiveness for our sins, the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live a holy life, healing, deliverance, peace, etc.

Some still didn't believe in resurrection. In order to persuade them, Paul went back to why resurrection is needed in the first place - the origin of sin and death in the past.

c. PURPOSE of the Gospel - Past.

We can only understand the purpose of the Gospel - the reason Jesus had to die for our sins - when we look at the past.

The first Adam brought sin and death into the world and so sin and death spread to all mankind (Romans 5:12-21). Because we are all descended from him, we are all fallen beings who need a Savior. Jesus, the "last Adam," came to undo what the first Adam did. Adam brought unrighteousness and death; Jesus came to bring righteousness and resurrection to all who will receive Him (I Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49). If there was no first Adam who brought sin and death into the world, what

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do we need a last Adam for? For a Christian, then, the creation/ evolution question is crucially important. Is Jesus a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord? Our eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

Sometimes it seems that atheists have a better grasp of the importance of creation/evolution than Christians do. In the words of G. Richard Bozarth (“The Meaning of Evolution,” *The American Atheist*, Sept. 1978, p. 30),

“Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus’ earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god. (sic) . (sic) Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing!

“...It becomes clear now that the whole justification of Jesus’ life and death is predicated on the existence of Adam and the forbidden fruit he and Eve ate. Without the original sin, who needs to be redeemed? Without Adam’s fall into a life of constant sin terminated by death, what purpose is there to Christianity? None.”

If we discard the story of Adam and his sin, we are not a fallen race and don’t need a savior. In that case Jesus was either a liar or a misguided fool. We’d better be sure we’re right about the first Adam!

The Scriptures also tell us in Isaiah 11 that some day there will be a restoration of all things. A restoration to what? Not to billions of years of struggle and death, but to Eden-like conditions where lions, wolves, serpents, and children will dwell in harmony. This doesn’t sound like the evolutionary story of survival of the fittest. It sounds like the Eden of the creation story.

Christians who compromise and accept evolution as “proven scientific fact” don’t realize that it is not science at all, and that it undercuts the very reason for our faith. Without Adam and the original sin our faith is based on nothing. We need a foundation of creation – the purpose of the Gospel – in order to understand the rest of our faith – the power and promise of the Gospel. Anyone who claims to be a Christian but doesn’t see anything wrong with believing in evolution had better think carefully about his beliefs. If the story of Adam’s fall is just a quaint story, the Gospel is a myth and we are fools to call ourselves Christians.

2. **WHO IS JESUS?**

If the Gospel is a myth, then who is Jesus? Is He Almighty God, one of many gods, just a good man, a liar, or a lunatic?

a. **Creation.**

There is one God, who has revealed Himself in the Bible. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is Himself God manifested in human flesh. He is the Creator; nothing came into being apart from Him (Jn. 1:3). Angels, demons, and the like are created beings and are subject to Him (Col. 1:15-20, Phil. 2:9-10, etc.).

b. **Atheistic Evolution.**

If there is no God, how can there be a Son of God? Jesus is either a misguided fool, a liar, or a mythical character invented by Christians.

c. **Theistic Evolution.**

Some supernatural being guided evolution, but since the Bible is not a reliable source of information, we have no way to know anything for certain about Him (or It). Perhaps there is one God, but perhaps there are many gods. Jesus may simply be one of many. For instance, in the Voodoo religion of Haiti Jesus is considered as no more important than any of the other loa , or gods. To the Hindu religion, He is

just one of the “Ascended Masters.”

Without a foundation of creation, we can’t be sure who Jesus is. And unless He really is the only-begotten Son of God, His life and death make no sense! We might also wonder – since He came as a man to save mankind (*Homo sapiens*), will he need to come back and die again when man has evolved to the next higher level?

3. **WHY DO I NEED A SAVIOR?**

a. **Creation.**

We are all descended from Adam, who passed on his sin nature to us. We need the “Last Adam,” Jesus, to save us from our sins and reconcile us to God.

b. **Atheistic Evolution.**

Don’t be ridiculous. Saved from a myth? There is no such thing as sin, only ignorance.

c. **Theistic Evolution.**

The story of Adam’s sin is an allegory. (An allegory of what, we don’t know.) Man is always improving. There was no original sin, so what do we need to be saved from? There is no such thing as “sin” anyway, only ignorance.

It matters little whether an evolutionist believes in God. Whether He exists or not, there is no need to be saved from something that never happened.

4. **HOW CAN I BE RECONCILED WITH GOD?**

a. **Creation.**

Man is a fallen being who needs a savior. We cannot reach God; we must rely on His provision for us, accepting Jesus Christ by faith in order to be reconciled to Him. Salvation is by grace, through faith.

b. **Atheistic Evolution.**

GOD????? Give me a break!

c. **Theistic Evolution.**

Man is constantly improving. “Sin” is just ignorance. We don’t need to be “saved” unless we do more bad things than good ones. Then we need to do more good things to outweigh the bad ones. Salvation is by works.

Again we see that evolution destroys the very purpose of Jesus’ death and resurrection. If we are constantly improving and will someday evolve into the image of God, then Jesus’ death in payment for our sins was unnecessary and was a horrible mistake.

5. **DOES GOD JUDGE SIN?**

a. **Creation.**

Yes, He does. According to 2 Peter 3:3-9,

i. *Past Judgment* -

God judged the entire world by means of the Flood. Not one land dwelling creature on the entire planet survived outside His one means of escape, the Ark.

ii. *Future Judgment* -

God will judge the entire world by fire. Not one person will be spared His judgment except those who put their trust in His one means of escape, the Lord Jesus Christ.

b. **Atheistic Evolution.**

Someone who does not exist cannot judge us. There was no past judgment and there will be none in the future either.

c. **Theistic Evolution.**

Though there may have been a local flood, the worldwide Flood of Genesis is a myth. God has never judged the whole earth, nor will He in the future. We do not need a means of escape from something that is not going to happen.

2 Peter 3:3-7, written almost two thousand years ago, prophesied that in the last days scoffers would deny that a worldwide flood ever took place. This passage

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makes it clear that they would do so because they were “walking after their own lusts.” And what is the universal battle cry of sinful mankind? “I have my rights!” Just as Peter said, we want to be allowed to walk after our own lusts.

D. CREATION AND EVANGELISM.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:23 that to the Greeks the message of the Cross was foolishness; to the Jews it was a stumbling block. Why the difference?

1. CREATION IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE JEWISH FAITH.

Every time Paul or the other disciples preached to Jews, they began by talking about Jesus the Savior. They were able to do this because the Jews already had a foundation of belief in Moses’ writings. They believed that God was the Creator and that they were members of a fallen race descended from Adam. They already knew they needed a Savior. There was at least a chance that they would listen.

2. EVOLUTION WAS FOUNDATIONAL TO GREEKS AND OTHER PAGANS.

The idea of evolution did not begin with Charles Darwin. At least since the time of Aristotle, centuries before Christ, the Greeks believed that they came from lower life forms. Thus, Paul and the early Christian disciples had to deal with this belief every time they preached to those trained in Greek philosophy. They started with the foundation of God as Creator and man as a fallen being. (Acts 14:15-17, 17:16-31) Only then did the Gospel make sense to their audience.

3. RELEVANCE TO AMERICAN CULTURE.

America is quite different from its early days, when the Biblical world view was at the heart of the nation’s morals and laws. Having discarded the Bible in favor of evolution, we have become like the ancient Greeks. Even in religious circles, many who claim to be Christians believe that the first eleven chapters of Genesis dealing with Creation and the Flood are nothing but an ancient Jewish myth.

Most self-identified Christians who reject the creation narrative usually claim to believe at least some of the Ten Commandments. When asked how they know they will make to heaven, they often say something like, “Well, I try to live by the Ten Commandments.” But who was the one who wrote down both the Creation/Flood account and the Ten Commandments? According to Jesus, Who ought to know, Moses was the author. What did Jesus have to say about the writings of Moses?

“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is [one] that accuseth you, [even] Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” (John 5:45-47)

Some counter that the Old Testament scriptures such as Genesis are not important because we are saved by faith in Jesus and His death and resurrection, all of which we find in the New Testament. However, Jesus attached a great deal of importance to Moses’ writings. In the story of Lazarus and the rich man He warned that those who rejected them would not accept His testimony either.

“If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” (Luke 16:31)

Genesis is the book quoted most often throughout the rest of the Bible. How do we know we can trust what the Bible says about the future if we can’t trust what it says about the past? And if we can’t trust Christ’s teaching about Moses, how can we trust Him with our eternal destiny?

America has reverted to the state of the Greeks in Paul’s day. From the time we begin to watch cartoons on television as children, we are bombarded with evolution. We have lost our foundation of God as Creator and have become like the Greeks, not the Jews. Many of the “isms” of our society - atheism, communism, humanism,

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Buddhism, Hinduism, liberalism, etc. are built on the evolutionary premise that man is getting better and better. If we want to win unbelievers to Christ, we had better be able to show them that they are lost sinners in need of a Savior.

No one will be saved just because of their belief in creation. However, many may be kept from salvation by their belief in evolution, which destroys the reason for Jesus' life and death. We need to pre-evangelize by clearing the ground to prepare the way for the seeds of salvation.

E. ISSUES AFFECTING THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY.

Some questions have troubled humankind from the beginning. Who am I? How do I know what's right and wrong? What is the meaning of life? Why is there death and suffering? Other problems are more recent: abortion, pornography, drugs, and the like. All these are connected by a common thread. We can only know the correct answers if we know where we came from.

1. WHO DECIDES RIGHT AND WRONG?

Everybody has some sort of moral standards. Those standards may come from three sources.

- (1) You may decide you can make up right and wrong for yourself. If so, you will be in the company of Hitler, Stalin, and many others who put themselves in the place of God.
- (2) You may follow the dictates of your culture or society as your highest authority. If so, you are following in the footsteps of the German citizens who went along with the Nazis. Unfortunately for many of them, the judges at the Nuremberg Trials did not accept the excuse that they were only following orders and sentenced them to death.
- (3) You may try to follow the will of God. If so, you should make every effort to understand what His will is, because the Bible says that it may cost you your freedom or even your life (Lk. 21:12, Jn. 15:20, and many other passages). While Christians are commanded to obey the government in most circumstances, we are obligated to disobey in case the government contradicts God. (See Acts 5:28 - 29).

Our society seems to regard tolerance as the highest virtue. The only thing we will not tolerate is intolerance. Anyone who dares to speak out against immorality is labeled an intolerant bigot. Our young people are taught in school that there is no such thing as right and wrong; each person must decide what's right for himself.

We can only say something is right or wrong if we have a standard by which to judge. If there is no absolute standard, it's just each person's opinion against everybody else's. No one can say that anyone else is wrong; whoever is stronger wins.

Most people are horrified by the thought that children might be kidnapped to use as human sacrifices or unwilling participants in pornography. But if there are no absolute standards of right and wrong, who are you to say that devil-worshippers or pornographers (or Hitler or Saddam or bin Laden or Stalin or Mao) are wrong? By the same token, who is anyone else to say that you are wrong? Might makes right.

If there are no absolutes, we're in big trouble.

a. Atheistic Evolution.

There is no such thing as absolute right and wrong. Right is what you get away with; wrong is what you get caught at. Nobody's opinion is better than anybody else's. You are not accountable to God, so you can be your own god. You can make up your own rules.

Note to students: If someone tells you there is no such thing as absolute truth, ask them, "Are you absolutely sure?" The statement contradicts itself by setting itself up as absolute truth.

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b. Theistic Evolution.

Since the Bible's account of creation is a myth we cannot draw any clear conclusions from it. The rest of the Bible is just something humans made up, perhaps with some sort of influence from God, perhaps not. We can never be sure we understand God correctly. Since we're thinking with modified ape brains, we can't be sure anything is absolutely true. Each person has a right to an opinion. No one can say that anyone else's opinion is wrong.

c. Creation.

The Bible is a reliable account of God's actions. Since He made you, He has the right to set the standards of absolute right and wrong. The Scriptures clearly and accurately present those standards. You may get away with ignoring them for a while, but you will eventually have to answer to Him. Meanwhile, you are required to submit to human government as long as it does not contradict His Word.

If God made you, HE OWNS YOU. He gets to set the rules about what's right and wrong. But if God didn't make you, then YOU OWN YOURSELF. You get to set your own rules, so you can act any way you want. You are nothing but a highly evolved animal, so you are free to act like an animal. Many people do.

People defend evolution so vehemently for this precise reason. It gives them an excuse to do whatever they want without having to give an account for their actions. However, it also places them in an impossible position. (The following idea came from Ken Ham.)

Suppose you are an evolutionist. Your belief system says that everybody gets to make their own rules. Fine. Do I get to make my own rules?

"Of course!" you say.

Well, one of my rules is that you are dangerous and that I will kill you.

"You can't do that!"

Why not? Don't I get to make my own rules?

"Yes, but it's wrong!"

What do you mean, "wrong"? Everybody gets to decide what's right and wrong for themselves. I've decided it's right to kill you.

"But you can't!"

Oh, yes I can. Your system of values says so.

The evolutionist has a problem! He wants to set his own rules, but he is only willing to let others do so if their rules agree with his. In trying to do away with absolute standards he must set up his own standards as absolute. He must assume the role of God.

An evolutionist may be horrified at human sacrifice and devil worship, but he has no grounds to oppose such things. After all, everybody gets to make their own rules - even Satanists, murderers, rapists, and child molesters.

2. WHY AM I HERE?

Sooner or later almost everyone asks three questions: "Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?" We can only answer the first and third when we know the answer to the second.

a. Atheistic Evolution.

You are nothing but an accident - a modified ape. You count for nothing at all. The only place you're going is six feet underground.

b. Theistic Evolution.

You are a modified ape descended from the first modified apes God "zapped" with a soul and made human. Since the Bible is not reliable as a source of information, you can only hope you guess correctly about the character and nature of God, as well as His plans for you after you die. He is very distant. A personal relationship

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with Him is only a dream. Of course if humans are modified apes, then our brains evolved from ape brains and our thoughts evolved from ape thoughts. Perhaps our modified-ape ancestors just made up the idea of “God.” We don’t know that our brains evolved the right way, so we can’t even be sure we’re asking the right questions!

c. *Creation.*

Each person is specially planned by God. Your life is an expression of His love for you. The ultimate purpose of life is to know and love Him Who knows you individually and even knows how many hairs you have on your head. You are important. God knows all about you and loves you anyway! He has a special plan for your life and wants you to know Him personally and spend eternity with Him in heaven.

3. *WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE - AND DEATH?*

At some time in our lives almost all of us struggle with our own mortality. Why do I have to die? The answer to this question depends on another question: What is the meaning of life? We can only understand the meaning of life and death if we know why they began. But was there a purpose?

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a. *Atheistic Evolution.*

Life and death mean nothing at all. They are nothing but accidents. Death is just a part of nature.

b. *Theistic Evolution.*

Life began at an unknown location on the primitive earth at an unknown time billions of years ago by some unknown chemical process driven by an unknown energy source. We are not sure if there was a purpose. Thus, we have no idea what, if anything, life means. We can only guess. Since death began when the first cell died shortly afterward, we have no idea what it means either. It may not mean anything at all.

Death has been here since life began. Man is merely the highest link in a chain of organisms that evolved through a process of struggle and death over billions of years (survival of the fittest and death of the less fit). Through the process of evolution, **DEATH AND SUFFERING CAUSED MAN.**

c. *Creation.*

The meaning of life is simple: God created man in His own image and likeness because He wanted someone enough like Him to appreciate Him. He wanted someone to communicate with and to love, someone who could make a deliberate choice to love Him back.

The meaning of death as revealed in the Bible is twofold:

i. *Punishment.*

God created a perfect world in which there was no death. It remained that way until the man who had dominion over it, Adam, rebelled against God and brought the curse of death upon it. Only when he sinned did suffering and death enter the world (Rom. 5:12). Until then, animals ate plants instead of each other (Gen. 1:30). Even the ground was cursed because of his sin (Gen. 3:17-19). All of creation suffers as a result (Rom. 8:19-23). One day suffering and death will be done away with and the earth will be restored to its original condition (see Isaiah chapter 11). **MAN CAUSED DEATH AND SUFFERING.**

ii. *Mercy.*

Death was a punishment, but that’s only part of the story. Until Adam rebelled, he and Eve had perfect fellowship with God. His sin cut them and all their future descendants off from the presence of God. Had they lived forever in their fallen state they would have been doomed to eternal separation from Him.

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God wasn't satisfied with that. In His mercy, He brought death into the world as a sort of escape hatch for mankind. Then, in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, Almighty God went through that escape hatch after us! Because God brought death into existence, we have a way back to Him.

While the Old Testament gives us a few hints, the New Testament makes it clear that God brought death into the world as an expression of His mercy. It was God's way in so that He could take the effects of sin upon Himself and give us a way out. Jesus died

"... so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Heb. 2:14-15)

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The origin of life and death are among the most important contradictions between the Bible and evolution. The two lead to opposite views of man. If man was here first, he caused death. If death was here all along, man is only the natural result of billions of years of suffering and death.

Either man caused death or death caused man. If you believe God used evolution, you have to believe that Genesis is nothing but a fairy tale. You have no idea why you are here and why you have to die. If Genesis is true, though, you need have no fear of death. The very existence of death proves that GOD LOVES YOU - an assurance evolutionists can never have.

4. HOW COULD A GOOD GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

The problem of pain has turned many wounded souls away from God. Some who have lost loved ones reject Him because they cannot fathom how a good God could bring such suffering upon them.

a. Atheistic Evolution.

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Atheism offers no answers. "Good" and "evil" are only a matter of opinion. Suffering is a normal part of life.

b. Theistic Evolution.

A theistic evolutionist contradicts his own belief system when he calls suffering "evil." After all, suffering is a normal part of God's plan of evolution. Who are we to argue with His methods? On the other hand, do we want to serve a God who made innocent animals suffer for billions of years just so He could make us evolve? Wasn't it awfully cruel of Him to make them suffer so long? (See the overhead for an atheist's perspective on Christians and evolution.)

c. Creation.

The Bible tells us over and over that it was not until man sinned that death entered the world. This is the key to understanding many moral and philosophical issues.

(The following illustration was inspired by Rev. Charles Swindoll.)

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Suppose you drive the same route to work every day. As you travel you pass a vacant lot. One day you notice some workmen marking it off with stakes. A few days later the pile driver crew shows up. Next, the cement crew pours the foundation. Each day you admire the skill of the architect more and more as a beautiful building takes shape. Even the landscaping is delightful.

Finally, the big day arrives. The architect signs a lease with his tenants giving them control over the building for a specified period of time. A few days later you notice that the tenants have broken some of the windows. Day by day they do more damage. They uproot the trees, they paint obscenities all over the building, they dump trash everywhere. Some of them get sick because of their disregard for hygiene. They even begin to throw each other out the windows. The once beautiful building becomes a riot zone. Your response? "I can't believe in the existence of an architect who would allow such suffering in the building he designed."

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It's not his fault! He turned the building over to the tenants and is honoring his end of the bargain. Likewise, God designed a beautiful world and turned it over to us. We've been messing it up ever since Adam. Some day, though, the lease is going to expire. The master Architect will take over and fix it all up again. The universe will once more be the way He intended it to be.

5. *HOMOSEXUALITY AND SEXUAL PROMISCUITY.*

Sexual standards have changed. Whereas homosexuality or living with an opposite-sex lover used to be considered scandalous, the Supreme Court has declared that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. Even before that decision, more and more large corporations and government agencies had already begun to cover unmarried "domestic partners" of either sex under their medical plans. Sexual promiscuity and homosexuality are rampant in the world today.

To determine whether sex between unmarried persons or between a same-sex couple is right or wrong, we must go back to the beginning. Are sex and marriage the natural products of evolution, or did God create them?

a. *Atheistic Evolution.*

Marriage is a human invention from a late stage in our evolution. We've outgrown it. Anything that feels good is OK. Male/female sexual relations were needed at an earlier stage to insure the survival of the species, but there are enough people in the world now. We don't need any more. There is nothing wrong with homosexual behavior or any other activity between consenting adults.

b. *Theistic Evolution.*

Many theistic evolutionists believe in marriage and think homosexuality, adultery, and the like are wrong. Others don't see anything wrong with them. Neither side has any basis for its belief. It's just opinion vs. opinion.

c. *Creation.*

God created two sexes, male and female (Gen. 1:27). He directly instituted marriage. He sets the rules. Sex is His idea. It is meant to be an expression of love between one man and one woman who have made a lifetime commitment to each other in marriage. Sex in this context is blessed; in any other it is forbidden. Adultery, fornication, and homosexuality are perversions of what God established. The Bible contains repeated warnings to repent of such behavior. God says that those who persist in immorality will one day have to give account for it and will be punished for their actions.

If evolution is true, there is nothing wrong with homosexuality, adultery, or promiscuity. Only if Genesis is true do we have a legitimate reason to take a stand against these things.

Some try to justify homosexuality by saying that it is genetic -- that some people are just born that way. This is ridiculous. Suppose homosexuality first appeared because of a mutation. In order for any new trait to become established in a species, it must spread through a progressively larger breeding population for many generations. How large is the homosexual breeding population? Almost nonexistent. Homosexual sex produces zero offspring. If there were such a gene, it would be eliminated from the gene pool very quickly.

6. *MARRIAGE AND THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY.*

How is the traditional family doing in the modern world? Not well. It seems to be crumbling. Homosexual rights groups and radical feminists hail its breakdown as progress while conservatives long for a return to the "good old days." Which side is right? Are we moving forward, or backward?

a. *Atheistic Evolution.*

Marriage is a human invention. There is no need for a man and woman to be

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married in order to have sexual relations; if they are married, either one should be able to end the marriage easily if he or she “falls out of love” with the other. Roles in male/female (or homosexual) relationships are a private matter between the parties involved. Since there is no God there is no need for spiritual training of children.

b. *Theistic Evolution.*

Many theistic evolutionists hold to traditional family values. Since they are not sure of the origin of marriage and family structure they have no basis for their belief. They may try to impose their standards upon their wives and children, but all they have is an opinion with nothing to back it up.

c. *Creation.*

Marriage is for a lifetime. The sexes are equal in God’s sight, but He has assigned different roles for husbands, wives, and children within the family. The roles are God’s idea, not man’s.

i. Role of Husbands.

The husband is to protect and provide for his wife. He must be willing to give his life for her. He is to provide loving, godly leadership to his family in all things. Spiritual training of the children is primarily his responsibility, not his wife’s. The rules of the household must be based not upon his opinion but upon the Word of God.

ii. Role of Wives.

According to the pattern God established at the creation of the first man and woman, the wife is to help her husband and submit to him as unto the Lord. It’s not a matter of the latest public opinion polls. Hers is the primary responsibility for nurturing the children and running the home.

iii. Role of Children.

The only time any Christian is authorized to disobey someone in authority is when that person tells him to do something contrary to God’s will. In any other circumstance, we are to obey those in authority whether we agree with them or not. Thus, children are to respect and obey their parents as they would the Lord. They are to follow the godly principles their parents establish for the household, recognizing that their parents didn’t make up the rules - God did.

REASONS FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF THE FAMILY:

Our society has largely abandoned Biblical standards for marriage and the family. Many couples see nothing wrong with having a sexual relationship without marriage or long-term commitment. The natural result is illegitimate births and/or abortions.

Those couples who do bother to get married can easily end the marriage at any time through divorce, which no longer carries any social stigma. Children of divorce usually remain with the mothers. It’s hard for a dad who’s not there to provide spiritual leadership. Most of the fathers who do live with their families leave the spiritual training of the children to the mother anyway.

Children in such circumstances feel as if they don’t belong. They look for any escape they can find from their lonely, meaningless lives. It’s not surprising that teen rebellion, gang membership, drug abuse, promiscuity (resulting in pregnancy and abortion), suicide, and crime are at an all-time high.

These problems are as rampant inside the Church as outside. If we Christians want to be able to deal with them, we need to understand what the real battle is and recognize the enemy’s tactics. All of these social and moral ills have increased as our society - and the Church - has gotten farther and farther away from Biblical standards of morality.

What is the excuse for rejecting the Bible? Evolution. If we ever hope to restore the

family and society, we need to go back to Genesis and lay again the foundation of the family as God established it from the beginning.

THE REMEDY:

Some parents who are not even Christians try to make their families work by insisting that their children follow Biblical principles. They are trying to take advantage of the benefits of Christianity without accepting the responsibilities. No one has the right to do such a thing.

A 1993 incident illustrates the problem. A Muslim couple was dissatisfied with their adult daughter's disregard for Islam, so they killed her - a perfectly legal act in an Islamic country. However, they were in the United States and have been in jail ever since. They did not have the right to apply Islamic law because the U.S. is not part of the Islamic world.

Likewise, parents have no right to impose God's standards on their children unless the household is part of the kingdom of God. This happens only when the parents accept Jesus Christ's authority in their own lives by being born again. Until they do this, they themselves are rebels against God and have no right to expect their children to obey them. It's not surprising that the children abandon their rules as soon as they are old enough to move out on their own.

If we want to teach our children to live right, we parents need to:

- (1) Accept God's provision, Jesus Christ, in our own lives and be born again;
- (2) Accept God's Word as our final authority; and
- (3) Let our children know that the rules of the home are not merely an opinion, but that they are God's rules.

7. ABORTION.

One of the most emotional battles of our day concerns abortion. On the one hand, right-to-life advocates picket abortion clinics and try to pass legislation to make abortion a criminal act. On the other hand, "pro-choice" activists proclaim that a woman should have the right to do whatever she wants with her own body.

If we want to know which side is right, we need to look past the emotional arguments and get down to basics. What is the cause of abortion? Pregnancy! No woman in her right mind has ever said, "I think I'll get pregnant so I can have an abortion." No, the abortion is a consequence of the pregnancy.

Since the vast majority of abortions are done on unmarried women, it's not hard to see that the root of the problem is the breakdown of sexual standards. If we want to change people's actions and get them to stop having abortions, we need to change their attitudes about sex and pregnancy. We need to be sure that our own standards are correct. We must go back to the origin of sex and childbirth.

a. Atheistic Evolution.

Human life is an accident and means nothing. We kill unwanted cats, so why not kill unwanted kids? The "pro-choice" side uses two main arguments in support of this position.

i. Embryonic Recapitulation.

Most people who favor abortion do so because their biology textbooks taught (and still teach) that the human embryo goes through all the stages of evolution before birth. This idea of "embryonic recapitulation" was popularized in the 1860's by Dr. Ernst Haeckel, professor of zoology at Jena University in Germany. Because almost all biology textbooks present Haeckel as an eminent scientist and withhold the rest of the story, the fact that in the early 1900s a university court of his peers convicted him of fraud for this teaching comes as a shock to many biologists.

We will go into more detail later, but it is important that the students

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understand that embryonic recapitulation was a deliberate lie. It seems that the United States Supreme Court never found out. The Court legalized abortion on demand (Roe v. Wade, 1973) on the grounds that an unborn baby is not a full person until late in its development - precisely the lie for which Haeckel was disgraced.

ii. *Sexual Morality: "I have my rights!"*

Women don't have abortions unless they are pregnant. And how do they get pregnant? The usual way.

The efforts of Christians to stop abortion are commendable but don't get to the root of the problem. The cause of the abortion epidemic is the breakdown of sexual morality. Atheists have no moral reason to abstain from any kind of sexual behavior.

b. ***Theistic Evolution.***

We are not sure how and when human life began. Even though many theistic evolutionists (and some atheists) oppose abortion because they have a "gut feeling" that it is wrong, they have no basis to do so - especially if they believe in embryonic recapitulation and reject Biblical standards of sexual morality. Many actually favor abortion - again, based on nothing but an opinion.

c. ***Creation.***

God desires godly offspring from the union of a godly man and a godly woman. Children are a blessing from the Lord, not a curse. He knew each of us before He placed us in the womb. He has a plan for every one of our lives even before our parents conceive us. (See Psalms 139.) Conception occurs only when God wills it, even in cases of rape or incest.

BIBLICAL GROUNDS FOR TAKING A LIFE.

Creationists believe (and medical science confirms) that human life begins at conception. Since the unborn child is a human being, he or she should be treated as such. While "hard cases" involving rape, incest, and physical or mental handicaps are used to elicit an emotional response in favor of abortion, the Bible allows us to deliberately take a life only under three specific circumstances. These are:

- (1) In punishment for certain capital crimes, only after due process. This was not an individual decision but was determined by the governing authorities.
- (2) In time of war. No soldier was ever considered a murderer for killing enemy soldiers.
- (3) To save a life from attack, whether one's own life (self-defense) or the life of someone for whom the individual is responsible.

Since unborn children have committed no crimes and are not at war with us (though it seems our courts have declared war on them), the only Biblical justification for abortion is to save the life of the mother.

We Christians can picket abortion clinics and lobby for laws against abortion, but it's like applying a tourniquet to a gushing wound. It temporarily stops the bleeding but doesn't solve the problem.

The whole abortion issue comes down to this: Do you set the rules, or does God? The "pro-choice" message is that you do. You should be able to do whatever you want without having to face the consequences. You can have sex with anyone you want. If an accidental pregnancy occurs, no problem! It's just a blob of protoplasm anyway. Have an abortion and the consequences disappear.

How can we fight this attitude? We need to begin in the Church before we can reach the rest of the nation. Only when we reestablish God's standards of sexual purity in the Church can we begin to teach them to the rest of the nation and stop the abortion holocaust. It will take more than picketing and legislation; it will take a complete

commitment on the part of God's people to return to His standards of sexual purity and respect for life. Only when we understand where we came from can we hope to do this. We must go back to Genesis.

8. ***CLOTHES AND PORNOGRAPHY.***

Many people who wouldn't think of robbing a bank, murdering someone, or committing other serious crimes see nothing wrong with buying and selling pictures of naked people involved in various kinds of sexual activity. "After all," they say, "there's nothing wrong with the human body."

Is pornography really all right, or is it morally wrong? We need to go back to the origin and meaning of sex and clothing. We saw that if creation is true then God has reserved sex for marriage, while if evolution is correct everyone gets to do whatever they want. But where did clothes come from?

a. ***Atheistic Evolution.***

Clothes are a human invention. There is nothing wrong with running around naked if you want. There is also nothing wrong with selling or looking at pictures of consenting adults involved in sexual activity of any sort, with or without clothes.

b. ***Theistic Evolution.***

Clothes are a human invention. Many theistic evolutionists oppose pornography, but they have no moral basis to do so.

c. ***Creation.***

After Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to make clothes for themselves. God confirmed their need by furnishing them animal skins as a covering. This was necessary because sin distorts nakedness. Humans (especially males) are unable to deal properly with public nakedness. Pornography is a blatant scheme to make money by exploiting this sinful weakness. It is absolutely wrong.

If clothes are only a human invention, then parents have no moral reason to make their teenage daughters dress decently. The parents may consider the daughter's clothing immodest, but she may not. All the parents can do is impose their opinion. When the children are old enough to move out on their own they are free to wear anything they want, or even pose for pornographic pictures. The parents have no basis to argue with them. All the parents have is an opinion - unless God is really the one who wants us to wear clothes.

**** ***The Responsibility of Fathers:*** ****

There is a reason Jesus singled out men when he commanded us not to lust after a woman. Men are much more easily aroused by the sight of a woman's body than a woman is by the sight of a man's. Fathers need to be honest enough to tell their daughters what men are like. We need to explain to them why they shouldn't wear certain types of clothing. Father: have you told your daughter what goes on in the mind of a teenage boy when she wears revealing clothes? Certainly, boys are responsible for their own thoughts. Nevertheless, we fathers need to teach our daughters that they can make things much harder on boys and be a source of temptation if they wear immodest (or not enough) clothing. If we don't tell them, they won't know.

9. ***DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND SUICIDE.***

Drug abuse, alcoholism, and teen suicide are at an all time high. All three can be traced to the same root cause.

Those who manufacture and sell drugs know that there are billions of dollars to be made. But if there were no demand, the suppliers would go out of business. Why do people use drugs? The fact that they make you feel good for a while is only one of the reasons.

a. ***Desire to Belong.***

Because of the breakdown of the family, many young people must look elsewhere

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for a sense of belonging. Drug dealers, gangs, and other drug users are happy to make them feel welcome.

b. *Escape from Meaninglessness.*

The average young person sees thousands of TV murders. From the sheer force of repetition, the message comes across: Life is cheap and meaningless. The obvious implication: YOUR life is meaningless.

c. *Belief About the Origin of Life.*

In the words of Thoreau, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation."

From the time they are infants, our young people are bombarded with the idea that life began by a series of chemical accidents on the primitive earth. Ever since, new species have continued to evolve by chemical copying mistakes. The result? You! You are nothing but an accident. You mean nothing. All you have to look forward to is a life of struggle, then you die. There is nothing you can do about it. "From chemicals you came, unto chemicals you shall return." Why not use a few more chemicals to help you feel better while you await your meaningless end? For that matter, what reason is there not to kill anyone who interferes with you? Since evolution works by "survival of the fittest," you are helping nature when you eliminate the less fit.

What a horrible way to live! Is it any wonder people look for an escape? Drugs, alcohol, sex, or even "workaholicism" help us get our minds off the futility of our lives for a little while. Many seek what they think is the ultimate escape - death. And why not? The New Age philosophy so widespread in our country teaches that you will be reincarnated in a new life which will probably be better than this one. What reason, then, is there not to kill yourself?

It is plain that our attitude toward drugs, alcohol, and life depends upon what we believe about who we are and where we came from.

i. *Evolution (both Theistic and Atheistic).*

Those who believe in evolution can tell their children to "Just Say No" to drugs, but can't tell them why drug abuse is wrong. Evolution has given us an excuse to abandon Biblical family standards, contributing to the alienation that often leads to drug abuse. It is the reason children think their lives are meaningless.

Most evolutionists oppose drug abuse but have only an opinion with nothing to back it up.

ii. *Creation.*

Each of us is a special creation planned individually by God. Our lives have meaning and purpose. God loves you! He has placed us in families which are meant to nurture us and give us a sense of belonging. He has also established the Church, the Body of Christ, to help meet our need for love and companionship.

The body is meant to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. God has made certain substances which can be used as medicines to help keep it healthy, but we are not authorized to abuse it by taking drugs for recreational purposes.

It's not enough to tell kids to "Just Say No" to drugs. We need to teach them to "Just Say Yes" to the love of their Creator expressed through Jesus Christ.

10. *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT - LAW AND GOVERNMENT.*

Why is it that some kinds of behavior are socially acceptable while others are likely to put you in jail? Because of laws. A person is not punished for engaging in an activity unless it violates a specific law. For example, suppose someone invents a new kind of mind-altering drug and begins to sell it on the streets. Until a governing body enacts a law against this behavior, it's not a crime. However, if he persists in selling it after such a law is enacted, he must face the consequences.

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Even when the government enacts laws, without the respect of the citizens they are nothing but empty words. Crime has reached epidemic proportions in our country because citizens are increasingly disrespectful of both government and law, making many laws almost impossible to enforce.

Why should we obey laws? What gives governments the right to pass and enforce them in the first place?

a. *Evolution (Theistic and Atheistic).*

Governments are a human invention from a late stage in our evolution. They are based on human authority. If I think I know better than the government, why should I obey the law? What gives them the right to impose their standards on me? You can't legislate morality!

Evolution is based on competition and struggle - the survival of the fittest. The government has no right to tell me I can't take something away from someone weaker than myself. That's the way evolution works!

b. *Creation.*

God Himself handed down the first law to Adam and Eve. Since then He has given many other commandments, including some that require us to submit to the legitimate laws of human governments (Romans 13:1-6, Matthew 22:21, etc.). We are authorized to disobey human laws only when they conflict with God's laws (e.g. Acts 4:19). If we choose to disobey a law, even an unjust one, we must be prepared to face punishment (1 Peter 3:14-17, 4:15-16).

God handed down laws to the Jewish people showing that governments have the right to punish criminals. In certain cases He required the government to impose the death penalty. Even though Jesus forgave the thief on the cross next to Him He did not try to stop his execution. Though God will forgive our sins the government may not. We still have to face the consequences of our actions.

11. *RACISM. Are Black People Cursed?*

There is only one race – the human race. However, most people use the word “race” to refer to several major ethnic groups. Only when we understand how these groups might have come into existence can we have the correct attitude toward members of “races” other than our own.

a. *Evolution (Theistic and Atheistic).*

All humans evolved from some apelike ancestor, but some of us have evolved farther than others. Which is the most highly evolved race? That depends on who writes the books. Whichever the author belongs to is the highest. The others are a lower form of life.

b. *Creation.*

All humans are descended from Adam and Eve, and more recently, from Noah and his family. The races developed after the Flood, probably after God imposed different languages upon mankind at the Tower of Babel.

“And He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him” (Acts 17:26-27).

The existence of “races” with different physical characteristics is a visual reminder that God will not allow sinful mankind to unite in rebellion against Him. It has nothing to do with any race being higher or lower in His sight than any other.

Are black people cursed? No more than anybody else. The belief that they are is based on a distortion of Scripture. In Genesis 9:18-27 we read that Noah's son Ham did something (theologians argue about exactly what it was) that “exposed his father's nakedness” and humiliated him. When Noah found out what Ham had done

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to him, he responded by placing a curse on Ham's son Canaan and on Canaan's descendants. The Canaanites suffered the effects of Noah's curse when the Israelites killed or drove them out of the land of Canaan. But in Christ all of us, including Canaanites, can be set free from every curse.

This has nothing to do with black people. Though it would be difficult for someone to prove that he or she came from one of Noah's sons and not any of the others, it is generally accepted that most black people's ancestry involves Ham in some way. However, the majority did NOT come from Canaan, but instead from a different son, Cush. This is NOT the son who was cursed!

God has no problems with people of any skin color. Moses, the great man of God, married a Cushite – quite likely a black woman. And while God had let Aaron and Miriam get by even with making the golden calf, the one time He displayed his fury against them was when they complained about Moses' wife. (See Numbers 12.) Our society may make interracial marriage difficult, but God has no problem with it.

12. ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT (*The New Age Movement*).

More and more world leaders are calling for a “new world order” leading toward an end to individual nations and an establishment of a one-world government. Is this the solution to the world's problems?

a. *Evolution.*

Nations and governments are a human invention. Many evolutionists, especially those involved in the New Age movement, believe we have evolved to the point where we are ready for a one-world government. They believe that if we eliminate national boundaries we will eliminate war, famine, and other such problems.

b. *Creation.*

In the body of Christ an individual's nationality makes no difference. However, God has established the boundaries and times of each nation for His own purposes. (See Acts 17:26-27 as well as the way God used various nations throughout the Old Testament.)

God showed us at the Tower of Babel that He will not allow sinful mankind to be united in a one-world government. Only when Jesus Christ establishes His earthly kingdom will such a government come to be. Because of man's inherent sin nature, all our efforts until Jesus comes will not put an end to war, poverty, famine, etc. We simply don't have the capacity to eliminate evil apart from Him.

13. THE 7-DAY WEEK.

Just about every known culture in the world follows a 7-day week. Why do they all operate according to the same pattern?

a. *Evolution.*

This is nothing more than an amazing coincidence.

b. *Creation.*

Creationists are not surprised at the universality of the 7-day week. Every human being alive today is descended from Noah and his sons, who taught their children about the 7-day week God had established from the beginning.

14. MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN AID.

Many complain that the government is not doing enough to help the poor, the sick, the handicapped, and others unable to help themselves. But why should the government help?

a. *Evolution.*

While most people would agree that we should help those unable to help themselves, this contradicts evolution! Evolution is based on “survival of the fittest” - the strong survive and the weak die. The best way to help the species evolve is to

make sure that defective genes are eliminated from the gene pool through death. No sincere evolutionist has any business treating anyone suffering from a genetic illness. By preserving defective genes, he is interfering with evolution.

b. *Creation.*

God has always wanted us to be “our brother’s keeper.” He commands us to help the poor, widows, orphans, the sick, and anyone else who needs our help. (Helping the weak is supposed to be the function of the Church, not the government.)

If you believe in evolution, helping the sick, poor, and needy is logically inconsistent with your beliefs. You may mean well and want to do right, but by helping them you hinder evolution!

Visual #5-49 We Christians have been so busy fighting against issues such as abortion, pornography, and homosexuality that we’ve missed the real battle. We’re attacking branches instead of roots. Humanists don’t bother much with the issues. Instead, they go after our foundation - creation. They’ve done a good job destroying our credibility as rational people.

Even if we succeed in passing laws against some immoral activity, all the other side has to do is wait a while and get them repealed. (Look at what happened with Prohibition back in the 1920s. People really wanted to drink alcohol, so a law against it did not stop them.) If we want to make a lasting difference we need to change people’s attitudes. If we want to turn our world around we need to destroy humanism’s foundation – evolution – and repair our own.

CHAPTER 5 REVIEW

- A. Evolution and the Bible can't both be true.
At least 29 major contradictions.
- B. The Meaning of Anything is tied up with its origin.
If we don't know the origin of something, we can't be sure what, if anything, it means. If man started something, man sets the rules. If God started it, He does.
- C. The Meaning of Christianity.
 - 1. The meaning of the Gospel depends on Creation. Jesus, the "Last Adam," came to deliver us from what the first Adam did. If Adam is a myth, Jesus' life and death make no sense.
 - 2. Who is Jesus? Our correct understanding of His identity depends upon the Bible. If the Bible is founded on a myth, we can never be sure of anything about our faith.
 - 3. We need a Savior because we inherited a sin nature from Adam and Eve.
 - 4. We become reconciled to God by accepting the completed work of His son, not by our own works of righteousness.
 - 5. Though we may get away with sin for a while, there will be a day of judgment someday. The only way to escape is through faith in Jesus Christ.
- D. Creation and Evangelism.
Our society has become like that of the Greeks of Paul's day. They believed that man was improving, not fallen. Before he could preach Jesus Christ as Savior, he started with Creation and the Fall. We need to do likewise.
- E. Individual and Society Issues that depend upon Creation or Evolution.
 - 1. Who am I?
 - 2. Who decides what's right and wrong?
 - a. Creation - God made you; He owns you; He sets the rules and has the power and right to enforce them.
 - b. Evolution - If God exists at all, He is very distant and not involved with you. You own yourself. You get to set your own rules. There is no such thing as absolute right or wrong. Morality is just a matter of opinion vs. opinion.
 - 3. The meaning of Life and Death.
 - 4. How could a good God allow suffering?
 - 5. Homosexuality and Sexual Promiscuity.
 - 6. Abortion.
 - 7. Clothes and Pornography.
 - 8. Marriage and the Traditional Family.
 - 9. Drugs, alcohol, and suicide.
 - 10. Crime and Punishment, Law and Government.
 - 11. Racism.
 - 12. One-World Government (New Age movement).
 - 13. The 7-day Week.
 - 14. Medical and Humanitarian Aid.

CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Because of the claims He made, Jesus could not have been just a good man.
If He was not telling the truth and _____ He was lying, He would have been worse than the devil himself.
If He was not telling the truth but thought He was, he had to have been a _____.
If He really was telling the truth, He is _____ of all.
2. There are at least dozens of contradictions between evolution and the Book of _____.
3. Jesus came to undo what the First Adam did, which was to bring sin and _____ into the world.
4. If we evolved from some lower life form such as apes, then what did Jesus accomplish by His crucifixion and death? _____
5. Evolution denies that there was ever a worldwide _____.
6. If we evolved from lifeless chemicals to humans by purely natural processes, what is the meaning of life? _____
7. If we were created the way the Bible says, the reason is that God wanted some one to choose to _____ and worship Him.
8. If we evolved from lifeless chemicals to humans by purely natural processes, what is the meaning of death? _____
9. If we were created the way the Bible says, _____ came into being as a sort of escape hatch so we would not be condemned to a state of eternal sinfulness.
10. According to evolution, death and suffering caused _____.
11. According to the Bible, _____ caused death and suffering.
12. According to the Bible, who sets the standards of right and wrong? _____
13. According to the Bible, children are a _____ from God.
14. Does the human embryo demonstrate all the stages of evolutionary development before birth?

15. According to atheistic evolution, those who try to help people suffering from genetic conditions are _____ the process of evolution.