

*T*HE *C*HRISTIAN
AND *E*VOLUTION

BY *L*ESLIE *G.* *F*UBANKS

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THE CHRISTIAN AND EVOLUTION
By Leslie G. Eubanks

Spiritual “equipment” for the contest of life



Acknowledgements

I would like to recognize the middle and high school students in my Bible class; it was initially for them that I developed this series of lessons, although I can confidently say I greatly benefitted from the study as well. They patiently bore with me as I attempted to present vital biblical principles juxtaposed to the humanistic teachings to which they are exposed on a constant basis. Special thanks go to my husband who served as proofreader and sounding board throughout the lengthy process.

Preface

The Bible student will not find these lessons to be exhaustive; there is so much available material on the subject that it cannot be covered in fourteen lessons, perhaps not even in a lifetime. Besides being faced with an overwhelming amount of information on this subject, the student may find it hard to grasp exactly what atheistic evolutionists are teaching, since they can be frequently found changing and adapting their beliefs.

Rather, the goal of these lessons is threefold:

1. To expose the student to another point of view, since it is likely that the only one he will receive in secular settings is humanistic in nature,
2. To provide the student with enough information to make an informed decision on the subject, and be able to defend that position, and
3. To strengthen, and even increase, his faith in God as Lord and Creator.

It seems evident that many of the problems Christians are facing in this 21st century can be traced back to the teachings of Darwinian evolutionists. If there is no God, the author of morality, then people

are free to act as they please. If they are taught that they are nothing more than animals, they will act accordingly. It is the fervent hope of the author of these lessons that teachers and students will carefully study them and teach others, particularly their own children, about God and His creation.

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The Christian and Evolution *An Introduction — Part I*

“One important reason, however, for the current popularity of this false doctrine is that Christians have become intimidated. They have been intimidated by fancy “facts” and impressive credentials and flowery words and phrases set forth by some in the scientific community, and they have become victims of propaganda campaigns which teach that “anyone entitled to a judgment” accept evolution, that “belief in evolution is a part of the learning process in all thinking persons,” and so on. The intimidation of pseudoscience has convinced them that somehow evolution must be “worked into” the Bible. How wrong they are!”

— Bert Thompson

“The Compromise of Theistic Evolution: Part 1”

Gospel Gazette Online

<http://www.gospelgazette.com/gazette/1999/oct/page5.shtml>

- I. What is Evolution?
 - A. The word “evolution” has more than one meaning, so it is critically important to this discussion to know the definitions and which ones are being used.
 - B. Creationist Timothy Wallace, *Trueorigin.org* warns: “The postulation of ‘macro-evolution’ (i.e., the emergence of entirely new and more ‘advanced’ features through innumerable, completely new genetically-defined traits) is not to be confused with genetic variation (i.e., ‘micro-evolution’), which is the appearance and/or disappearance of existing and/or potential genetic traits through recombination of existing genetic code. Proponents of evolutionism often fail to note the important difference

between these two, simply calling them both ‘evolution,’ and thereby deliberately blurring the distinction between them.”

1. “Evolution,” in its basic sense means, “the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to a more complex form.”
 - a. This type of evolution is often termed “micro-evolution, the “special theory of evolution,” “*sub-speciation*,” or “horizontal variation.”
 - b. The prefix “micro,” means “small,” and refers to small changes *within species*.
2. Another definition of “evolution,” especially with regard to this study, is: “the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth.”
 - a. This type of evolution is termed “macro-evolution,” the “general theory of evolution,” “*trans-speciation*,” or “vertical variation.”
 - b. The prefix “macro,” means “large,” so it is referring to large or overall changes *from one species into another*.
- C. A summary of the theory of evolution is as follows:
 1. “A species is a population of organisms that can interbreed and produce fertile offspring.
 2. Living organisms have descended with modifications *from species that lived before them*.
 3. Natural selection explains how this evolution has happened.
 - a. More organisms are produced than can survive because of limited resources.
 - b. Organisms struggle for the necessities of life; there is competition for resources.
 - c. Individuals within a population vary in their traits: some of these traits are heritable.

- d. Some variants are better adapted than others to survive and reproduce under local conditions.
 - e. Better-adapted individuals are more likely to survive and reproduce, thereby passing on copies of their genes to the next generation.
 - f. Species whose individuals are best adapted, survive; others become extinct.” *http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution*
- D. In an effort to harmonize their belief in God and evolution, some propose “theistic evolution.”
- 1. “Theistic” comes from the Greek word (“theos”) for God.
 - 2. Theistic evolution is (from the American Scientific Affiliation, a religious group of scientists and people in science-related disciplines who “investigate any area relating Christian faith and science”): “A theory of theistic evolution (TE) — also called evolutionary creation — proposes that God’s method of creation was to cleverly design a universe in which everything would naturally evolve. Usually the “evolution” in “theistic evolution” means total evolution—astronomical evolution (to form galaxies, solar systems,) and geological evolution (to form the earth’s geology) plus chemical evolution (to form the first life) and biological evolution (for the development of life)—but it can refer only to biological evolution” (Craig Rusbult, Ph. D. (1998), “Evolutionary Creation”) *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theistic_evolution*

II. Why Study Evolution?

- A. The theory of evolution is being taught (as a fact) in all areas of life.
 - 1. Schoolchildren are being taught evolution in their classes from the moment they are enrolled in school.

2. It is presented in all media forms — TV, movies, books, magazines, *etc.*
 3. Therefore, the Christian cannot hide his head in the sand and hope that he does not have to address the question.
 - a. He needs knowledge of the subject so he can make a defense to those who might challenge him about his belief in God (1 Peter 3:15).
 - b. He must also be prepared to help those who might genuinely be considering whether or not to accept the theory of evolution as fact.
- B. If Darwinian evolution is not just a theory, but true, it is a threat to Christians.
1. Evolutionary ideas stand in direct opposition to the word of God.
 - a. God claims to have made animals on the fifth and sixth days of creation (Genesis 1:20–25).
 - b. Then, He claims to have made man on the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:26–31) and given them dominion over the animals.
 2. Since God's word is so clear on the subject of God's creation, an acceptance of the theory of evolution would be terrible for Christians in terms of its consequences, which we will study in Part II of this lesson.

You Tube Videos (if available)

- The Case for a Creator (Ch. 1 of 10) — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYLHxcqJmoM&feature=relmfu> (3.38)
- The Case for a Creator (Ch. 2 of 10) — <http://www.allaboutscience.org/origin-of-species-video.htm> (5.41)

Vocabulary — Introduction — Part I

*Unless otherwise noted, all definitions are from the following website: <http://oxforddictionaries.com>

- DOMINION — sovereignty or control
- EVOLUTION — 1) the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to a more complex form; 2) the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth
- HERITABLE — able to be inherited; in biology — (of a characteristic) transmissible from parent to offspring
- INTIMIDATE — frighten or overawe (someone), especially in order to make them do what one wants
- MACRO — large-scale; overall
- MICRO — small-scale, extremely small
- NATURAL SELECTION — the process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring
- SPECIES — a group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding
- THEORY — a supposition or a system of ideas intended to explain something, especially one based on general principles independent of the thing to be explained
- VARIANT — a form or version of something that differs in some respect from other forms of the same thing or from a standard

Introduction — Part I

Questions

1. What is the basic meaning of the word, “evolution”?

2. When the term, “macro,” is added in front of the word, “evolution,” what types of changes are said to occur within species? _____

3. How are an organism’s traits (eye color, height, etc.) passed on to the next generation? _____

4. Those who want to harmonize their belief in God as Creator, yet still believe in the theory of evolution, call themselves by what name? _____

5. If the theory of evolution is true, is it a threat to a Christian, and what should he do about it? _____
