

Evolution

Is it ok for Christians to believe that God created human beings through a process of evolution? That's the question we have before us today, ladies and gentlemen, and to debate this topic I would like to present to you 2 experts in both the scientific field and in biblical interpretation, namely Geoff, and...oh, me! This is the point where you now welcome us with applause.

Now Geoff, have you come to a conclusion because it looks like you have lost a lot of hair over this issue?

Yes Stephen, today I will set our audience straight on the pathway of truth.

Ok well, as to the question: 'Is it ok for Christians to believe that God created human beings through a process of evolution?' Geoff, what do you say?

I say no.

I say yes.

What?! How can you say yes? The Bible clearly says that God made the world in 6 days, not through a process of evolution over millions of years.

Aaah, but is that really what God is wanting to tell us? Not every Christian interprets Genesis in the same way. Some see Genesis 1 as straightforward history and science; others see Genesis 1 as being somewhat poetic or hymnic or mythical, while still believing it is God's Word with a powerful message.

Even if I were to accept that Genesis 1 is not straightforward history and science, and I'm not saying I do accept what you are saying because it comes across as far too fanciful on your part. But for the sake of the argument, even if we accept your perspective on Genesis 1, that does not automatically mean evolution is correct.

I agree. But, the theory of evolution has stood the test of time for 150yrs. It is yet to be proven wrong. It is accredited by scientists who work in all sorts of different fields – astronomy, paleontology, geology, genetics, to name a few. And plenty of the scientists are Christian.

You put too much trust in scientists. Most of them are atheists. They read the scientific data in the wrong way because they don't want 6 day creation to be true, because they don't want to acknowledge and submit their lives to God. The Christian scientists who agree with the theory of evolution are just being sucked into an ungodly mindset.

Ok. Fair enough. Scientists, as sinners, can be biased and misread the data. But using that argument, could it be that the Christian scientists who oppose evolution, are themselves doing bad science from a place of bias? Could it be that because they believe the only way to read Genesis is 6 day creation, they then fervently try to make the scientific evidence fit their belief, when really the evidence doesn't fit?

In determining where truth lies in this matter, it's important we consider the effect that the theory of evolution is having on people of faith. I have read testimonies of people who say: 'Thank God for scientific evidence that evolution is wrong. In the face of having evolution constantly pushed on me, I was beginning to lose faith in God.' Doesn't this show that the devil has constructed evolution to attack faith and the Bible?

I in turn have read testimonies of people who say: 'Thank God for biblical interpretation that doesn't insist I give up on the theory of evolution, a theory that I find scientifically compelling. In the face of being told I had to believe in 6 day creation, I was beginning to lose my faith in God.' For these Christians, insistence on 6 day creation was an attack of the devil on their faith.

It's sobering to realize that if I insist that God made the world in 6 days, that will make some people's faith go wobbly, given they are so convinced of evolution.

It's sobering to realize that if I insist that evolution is ok to believe in, that will make some people's faith go wobbly; given they think that 6 day creation is the only way to read Genesis 1.

We don't want people to lose their faith.

No, we sure don't.

We need to tread carefully.

The faith of the little ones is at stake.

Let's allow each other to have different views.

Our faith does not stand on whether evolution is true or whether God created the world in 6 days.

I believe in God the creator.

I believe we are made in the image of God, to represent him on earth and be in relationship with him.

I believe human beings are fallen, needing a saviour.

I believe Jesus is that saviour.

You're my brother in Christ.

We are brothers.

Let's care for the little ones and the wobbly ones.

Yes.