

Christian Apologetics

Jim Yates
Mike Salzgeber
Christ Presbyterian
Church



Summary of Weeks 1 - 10

- Available at www.cpcms.org

Week 11 Review: Darwinism

- “Things We Didn’t Discuss”
- What does the Bible say about creationism?
- Definitions (succession, evolution, creationism, Darwinism)
- Charles Darwin – Background
- Implications to the Christian
- Problems with Darwinism
- Conclusion

Implications to the Christian

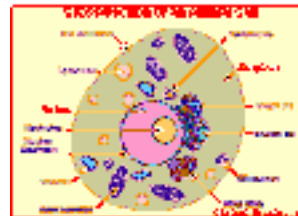
- Evolution is an ideology, or a set of presuppositions
 - If you throw out creationism, you’ll be left grappling for some explanation for the origin of living things
- Most Darwinists are Humanists
 - Darwin’s theory caught on because it “**met a need**”
 - Not accountable to God
 - Nietzsche: “**God is Dead**” movement
 - **Morals are relative**; Truth is not knowable
 - Abortion is a choice; No such thing as sexual immorality
 - Genetic research with cloned embryos is for the good of all mankind
 - Racism is a form of **survival of the fittest**
 - Shaped the view of Hitler, Nietzsche, eugenics movement in early 20th century
- Evolution undermines much critical Christian Doctrine
 - No Creator, No Adam, no Eve, no Fall, no need for a Savior

Problems with Darwinism

- X-Men vs. the Elephant Man
- “Two Minute Warning”
- “Beginning with the end in mind”
- My Cambrian exploded
- The “Frogger” problem
- “Rooted to the spot”
- *The “Black Box”*
- *The Mousetrap*
- *Over & Under*
- *Strange animals*

The “Black Box”: The Cell

- Modern science can now examine the cell at the molecule level
- The cell is an **extremely complex** micro-organism with dozens of interrelated systems
- The cell is run by micro-machines of just the right shape, strength, and interactions
- “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, **my theory would absolutely break down.**” – “Chuck” Darwin



The Mousetrap: Irreducible Complexity

- A system is **irreducibly complex** if it has a number of different components that all work together to accomplish the task of the system, and if you were to remove one of the components, the system would no longer function.
- The Darwinism mechanism of **stepwise improvements** can't explain interdependent, irreducibly complex systems
- Example: the mouse trap



Over & Under

- Bee stings are “under-evolved” as they are fatal to the bee!
- Irish elk antlers are of no value in close combat



Strange Animals

- Whales
 - Underwater eye
 - Give birth and feed underwater
 - Communications system like modern sonar
 - Blubber instead of skin & sweat glands
- Trilobite
 - Extinct small marine creatures that walked along the seafloor and filtered mud to obtain food
 - Eyes were made of calcium carbonate; some had an internal doublet structure that would have provided superior vision with a fixed lens



Evolution: Conclusion

- Evolution has serious moral and theological implications
- Modern scientific data supports the idea for a **creator** more than it does a naturalistic explanation
- Christians need to be prepared to support Biblical evidence for creationism, as well as to refute the case for Darwinian evolution

Other Objections to Christianity

- “Defeater beliefs”
 - Cultural objections to Christianity
 - Vary by geography, generation
 - Darwinism wasn’t an objection to Christianity until after Scopes
 - “There can’t be just one true religion” is unique to Western thought
 - Many Europeans don’t believe in Christianity because so many Americans believe it!

The Six Defeater Beliefs (by Tim Keller)

- There can’t just be one true religion
- Evil and suffering
- “The sacredness of choice”
 - I must determine what I believe outside of any institutional religion
- The record of Christians
 - The Crusades, Christian wrongs throughout history, etc.
- The problem of anger and the Cross
 - God is Love; how can He get angry?
- The Bible is socially regressive
 - Promotes the subjugation of women, homosexuals, etc. If we hold fast to the Scripture’s morals then we’re not being progressive

Defeater Belief #1: There can't be just one true religion

- Western inclusivism is really covert exclusivism
 - "Every religion is equally valid" is only true if either:
 - There is no God
 - God is an impersonal force who doesn't care what you believe or how you live
 - This doesn't stand up to the Road Runner
 - "If you were born in Madagascar, you wouldn't be a Christian"
 - But if *you* were born in Madagascar, you wouldn't be a religious relativist; does that mean it's necessarily true?



Defeater Belief #2: Evil and suffering

- IF God is big and powerful enough to be responsible for the problem of evil:
 - THEN you must of necessity be dealing with a God who might have reasons beyond our comprehension for allowing it to continue
 - You can't have it both ways
- To the suffering doubter:
 - Eastern religious treat evil as an illusion
 - Other Western religious claim that God is not immanent and doesn't deal directly in man's affairs
 - Only Christianity has a God who also suffered
 - If God was willing to get involved with our suffering, He must have reasons for allowing evil to continue

Defeater Belief #3: “The sacredness of choice”

- AKA the “ethical straightjacket”
 - “I have to define my own morality in order for it to be valid, otherwise I’m a mindless follower”
- Is there anyone in the world today that is doing something that you would define as morally wrong?
 - If so, aren’t you appealing to a higher morality that we’re all accountable to?
- Everyone lives for something
 - Whatever we live for is our master (approval, power, independence)
 - None of us belong to ourselves
- Jesus is the only master that will fulfill us; if we fail Him, he’s died on the cross for us



Defeater Belief #4: The record of Christians

- “We’ll call it a draw”
- “William Wilberforce and the Inquisition”
- Great civil and political movements usually start by calling people back to the basics of the Christian Faith; not throwing it out
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called people to deeper, firmer Christianity; be true to the Gospel!



Defeater Belief #5: The problem of anger and the cross

- “How can God be an angry God who demands a blood sacrifice to forgive sins?”
 - Can’t He just forgive me?
- God’s goodness is balanced by His justice
- If someone really, really wrongs you, forgiveness is **hard!**
 - “Forgiveness of real wrongs is always a form of suffering” – D. Bonhoeffer
- Besides, God doesn’t demand our blood
 - He offers His own in our place

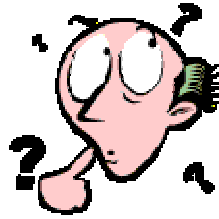


Defeater Belief #6: The Bible is socially regressive

- “We now know that the Bible is socially regressive”
 - So 50 years ago, it wasn’t socially regressive?
- Our children and grandchildren will be embarrassed by many of the beliefs we hold today
 - Are you willing to cling to a cultural norm and reject the truth of the Bible out of hand?
- The “Stepford God”
 - If God never contradicts us, haven’t we created him in our image?
 - Can we just throw away the parts of the Bible we don’t agree with?
 - We have to take the Word of God as it lies!

For next week...

What about...



Your questions?