

Does God Exist? What About Evolution?

*In grammar school they taught me that a frog
turning into a prince was a fairy tale. In the university
they taught me that a frog turning into a prince was a fact!*

— RON CARLSON

MEMORY VERSE

*For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.*

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... (Psalm 139:13-14)

REVIEW OF THE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EVIDENCE SO FAR:

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:
 - a. Beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)
 - b. Design of the universe (Teleological Argument/Anthropic Principle)

We also discovered that the origin of life appears to require an intelligent and supernatural cause.

Someone once said, "It's not what we don't know that is the problem but what we think we know that isn't so." Could macroevolution be one of those "facts" that many people think is true but really isn't? As we'll point out in this lesson, we think it takes a lot more faith to believe in macroevolution than to believe there was an intelligent designer. First, let's review.

Science is a search for causes. There are two types of causes: Intelligent and Non-Intelligent (i.e. natural). There are two types of science: Empirical and Forensic. Empirical science studies present, repeatable events, and forensic science studies past, unrepeatable events.

1. Give two examples of an effect with a natural cause .

2. Give two examples of an effect with an intelligent cause.

3. What type of science must be used when trying to discover the origin of life? Why?

THREE QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK

When people make truth claims, it is NOT your job to refute them. It is their job to support them. With that in mind, if someone says they believe in evolution, ask these three questions. (These three questions are useful for any topic, not just evolution!)

1. What do you mean by that (“evolution”)? Get clarification as to what the person means. If she means microevolution or simply change over time, fine; but if she means macroevolution, she is going to have to provide some evidence.

2. How did you come to that conclusion? This is where the person will have to give you evidence. Much of the time you will find that the person has no evidence but simply believes a slogan he’s heard, or believing on authority that macroevolution is true.

3. Have you ever considered...? Complete the sentence. It could be, “Have you ever considered that a common genetic code could be evidence of a common creator?” Or “Have you ever considered the book *Icons of Evolution*?” This is a polite way to provide evidence for ID.

These questions and others are in Greg Koukl’s fine book, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing your Christian Convictions*.

DEFINING THE TERMS OF THE DEBATE

4. Frank started this week’s presentation with a review of the evidence for the O.J. Simpson trial. He also mentioned Piltdown Man and the Global

Warming controversy. What was the main point of these examples to our discussion about evolution?

5. Darwinists say the emergence of new life forms is the result of "Natural Selection." Look up the term "Natural Selection." What does it mean?

6. Since the process of evolution is, by definition, without intelligence, there is no "selection" at all going on. It's a blind process. It's been said that "natural selection may be able to explain the survival of the species but not the arrival of the species." What does that mean?

MICROEVOLUTION VS. MACROEVOLUTION

7. Briefly explain microevolution and how it differs from macroevolution. (This is a critical distinction!)

8. When someone asks if you believe in evolution, how should you reply?
(Hint: Your initial reply should be a question. What is that question?)

9. Due to their naturalistic worldview, Darwinists have trouble explaining how new life forms came into existence. Before they try to explain new life forms, what two explanations should you ask for them to provide first?

“Illuminating but spotty, the fossil record is like a film of evolution from which 999 of every 1,000 frames have been lost on the cutting-room floor.”

— (National Geographic, Nov. 2004, 25.)

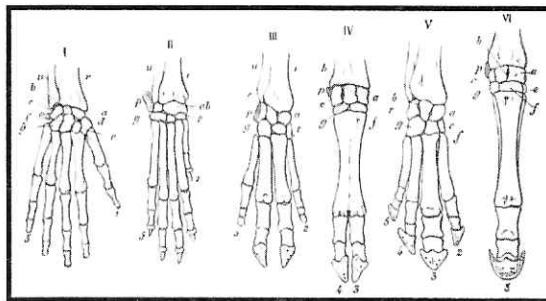
TWO CENTRAL ARGUMENTS FOR MACROEVOLUTION

The creation-evolution controversy can appear daunting and complicated. Biology is a technical subject, but the arguments for macroevolution are quite simple.

Most of macro evolutionary theory rests on only two basic arguments:

1. Small adaptations lead to large changes (micro to macroevolution) and
2. Similarities in structure (homology) & DNA are evidences of a common ancestor.

Gegenbaur 1870 hand homology



10. What are some problems with the claim that small adaptations lead to large changes?

11. Darwinists rely on homology (the similarities between species in both structure and DNA) to support their theory of evolution. But Frank points out that the argument tends to be circular. Explain how so.

WHAT ABOUT THE FOSSIL RECORD?

12. You will hear people say that the fossil record proves evolution. However, such an assertion is actually a myth. According to biologist Michael Denton, 99% of what is known about a creature is in its soft biological tissue which is inaccessible in a fossil. In light of this, why are fossil remains alone inadequate to establish ancestral biological relationships?

13. Frank showed a few short clips from the outstanding DVD called "Darwin's Dilemma" put out by Illustria Media (we highly recommend you get that DVD and watch it in its entirety). The video primarily discusses the Cambrian Explosion. What are the implications of the Cambrian Explosion for macroevolutionary theory?

WHY THE HOSTILITY?

Despite overwhelming evidence in favor of Intelligent Design as the source for new life forms, Darwinists continue to stand firm in their belief that intelligence was not involved. In fact, some Darwinists don't just state what they believe—they are hostile to anyone who suggests that Intelligent Design is even possible (see the movie "Expelled" for a popular treatment of this). But why would anyone be hostile over theories related to the origin of new life forms?

Some atheists admit that morality and accountability to a Creator are why they cling to Darwinism at all costs. Of course motivation doesn't necessarily mean someone is wrong. Everyone has motivations yet everyone isn't wrong. However, motivation may cause people to see just what they want to see, and thus interpret the evidence incorrectly. Darwinists and Intelligent Design supporters are looking at the same scientific evidence but they're coming to vastly different conclusions, again proving that science doesn't say anything, scientists do!

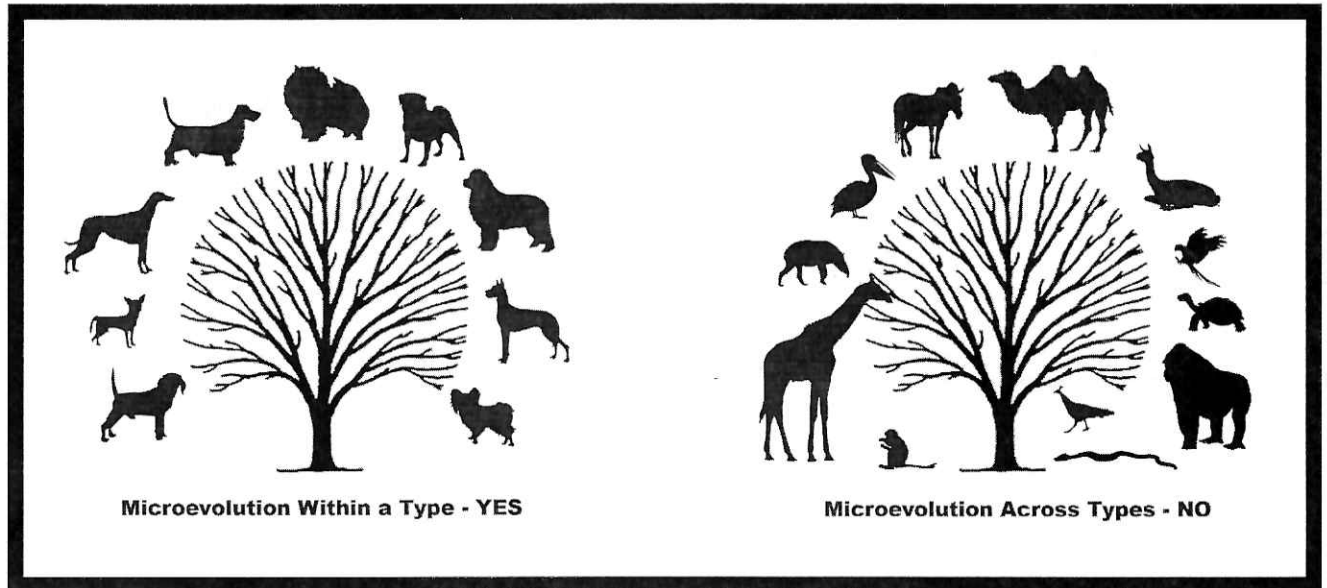
Darwinist Jerry Coyne has written a book titled *Why Evolution is True*. Biologist Jonathan Wells of the Discovery Institute and author of *The Icons of Evolution*, wrote a rebuttal to Coyne called *Why Darwinism is False*. While it would be helpful to read Coyne's book, you can get a sense of his arguments by reading Wells' rebuttal at <http://www.discovery.org/a/10661>.

14. The Darwinist vs. the ID proponent: who do you think has more "faith" and why?

KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

The evolution debate is important but not central to the Christian faith. As we have reviewed, the so-called evidence for macroevolution is circular; an unguided evolutionary process can't overcome irreducibly complex gaps or genetic barriers; and the evidence for instantaneous creation is strong. Nevertheless, even if all life forms turned out to be ancestrally related, that would not disprove Christianity. It would certainly create problems for Biblical inerrancy, but it wouldn't disprove the resurrection or the divinity of Christ. The creation and design of the universe, the creation and design of first life, the moral law, the miraculous life of Christ, and many other aspects of the Christian worldview are all firmly established regardless how new life forms got here. So keep this debate in perspective. Ask your friends who think macroevolution is true to explain those other truths about reality.

BELOW IS A CHART COMPARING THE TWO MAJOR VIEWS OF THE ORIGIN OF NEW LIFE FORMS:



TOOLBOX

- For a great overview of the problems with Darwinism, watch "Darwin's Dilemma" DVD with Stephen Meyer, Paul Nelson, Jonathan Wells and Douglas Axe. It is published by Illustra Media. It is available at www.ImpactApologetics.com. DarwinsDilemma.org explains more about this excellent resource.
- An outstanding academic source for more Intelligent Design/Evolution information is www.discovery.org.
- For a popular treatment of arguments against Darwinism, get *Icons of Evolution* and/or *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design* by Jonathan Wells.

