



A Ready Defense

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Ex-Christians: The Evolution Factor

by Rev Tony Breeden

It was a typical rancor-filled middle school cafeteria, except that a table full of boys were making the decision to become atheists that day. There were 8 or 9 of them. Each one was saying, “I think I'm an atheist. I think I'm gonna be an atheist, too.” Except one. One dissenting voice said, “I believe in God.” The conversation went back and forth for a while, but the dissenting voice persisted. Finally one of the born-again atheists challenged his friend, “So what if you believe in God? That's YOUR problem.”

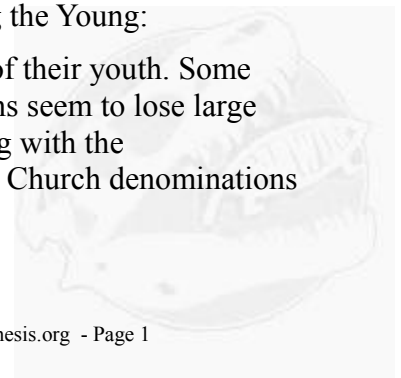
It was Darwin Day. February 12, 2009. And only a fool would call it a coincidence. 2009 was after all, the so-called Year of Darwin, marking both Darwin's 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of the Species*. Emboldened by this alignment of the heavens, evolutionists began pushing evolution with renewed vigor and evangelistic zeal. In that particular middle school, evolutionary time lines adorned the hallways, some of them inked in corrective red. They'd pushed – dare I say celebrated evolution all week long perhaps in anticipation of Darwin Day.

That cafeteria table of newborn atheists was the fruit of teaching evolution as fact without discussing the possible role a Designer in our origins. In the name of separation of church and state, students have the world and their origins explained to them as if God did nothing, as if He did not even exist; consequentially they find God irrelevant.

In a recent study by the American Research Group including data from 20,000 phone calls and detailed surveys from 1,000 20 to 29 year olds who used to attend conservative evangelical churches on a regular basis researchers asked why our youth are leaving church. The results are summarized in the book, *Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do about it* by Ken Ham [President and CEO of Answers in Genesis, who commissioned the study] and Britt Beemer [founder of the American Research Group]. One of the most disturbing revelations of this study was to find that 2/3rds kids sitting in our pews have already made the decision to abandon church by middle school and high school. In effect, they are “already gone.” 90% of churched kids attend public schools where atheistic evolution is taught as fact. Their evolution indoctrination begins in middle school, which is exactly where kids begin having doubts about their faith.

It's worse for liberal churches where evolution is taught as a fact from our pulpits. On ReligiousTolerance.org, we find the following note concerning Retaining the Young:

“It is common for young adults to drift away from the faith group of their youth. Some never return. The large liberal and mainline Christian denominations seem to lose large numbers in this way. Only between 10 and 12% of those identifying with the Congregational, Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church denominations are between the ages of 18 and 29.”



One has to think that one of the more probable reasons is that people want something they can hang their hats on. They don't like inconsistencies and hypocrisies in general, much less in their faith traditions.

In the case of Christianity, I've often been asked why liberal Christians bother with Christianity at all! They don't believe the Bible, our source book, is accurate. Many of them don't believe in miracles, angels or even a literally resurrected Christ, though Paul stated that believing that God raised Christ from the dead is a condition of our salvation!

They replace these doctrinal truths with a fuzzy sort of lukewarm social gospel. They say they wish to emulate Jesus, though they don't believe even half of what's been printed about Him.

Whatever their own reasons for embracing such a contradictory faith, their children tend to see the situation more critically than they. They want no part of Limbo. They'd rather be hot or cold.

If you listen to the testimonies of these refugees from Limbo, you find a common thread. Amid the muddle of charges against Christendom, we find that almost all of their stories mention that **once evolutionism was explained to them as a fact** that they began to find fault with the Bible.

Huston Smith comments on this trend:

“One reason education undoes religious belief is its teaching of evolution; Darwin's own drift from orthodoxy to agnosticism was symptomatic. Martin Lings is probably right in saying that ‘more cases of loss of religious faith are to be traced to the theory of evolution... than anything else.’ (*Studies in Comparative Religion*, Winter 1970.) – quoted from *Christian Century*, July 7-14, 1982, p. 755.

Once **they lost faith** in the Beginning, they began to echo the Serpent's question “Did God really say?” and then they began to doubt the rest, until it all seemed pointless.

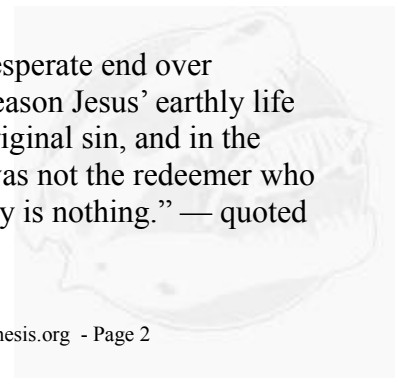
They recognized the truth of atheist Frank Zindler's assessment:

“The most devastating thing though that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there never was an Adam and Eve there never was an original sin. If there never was an original sin there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation there is no need of a Savior. And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity.”

–[Frank Zindler, debate with William Craig, Atheism vs Christianity video, Zondervan, 1996.]

Or G. Richard Bozarth:

“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. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing.” — quoted from *The American Atheist*, September 1978, p. 30.



Those who embraced evolutionism as fact rejected Christianity wholesale, recognizing that what was being presented as scientific truth completely contradicted what they'd been taught as religious truth.

For example:

- The claim that the Earth and universe are billions of years old and man's existence represents only the tiniest tail-end of that history contradicts Christ Jesus' affirmation that God created man, male and female, "from the beginning" [Matt 19:4; Mark 10:6] and the Bible's clear testimony that the Earth and the universe was created in 6 literal days. [Exodus 20:11]
- The claim that Man is the product of evolution, an endless cycle of death and mutation contradicts the Apostle Paul's authority for he said "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin" [Rom.5:12; also 1 Cor. 15:22].
- As noted, the claim that Adam & Eve is only a teaching myth undermines the foundational basis of the Gospel, for if the literal First Adam did not literally Fall there is no need for literal sin debt to be paid by a literal Savior. [1 Cor 15:45]
- The claim that the Noachian Flood was local rather than global contradicts the testimony of the Apostle Peter [2 Pet 3:6] and makes God a liar since He promised never to destroy all flesh by water again [Gen 9:12] — yet local floods abound!

They are taught that scientific can be proven, but religious truth must be taken by faith. If they contradict one another, who can blame them for picking the one they're told can be proven?

As Charles H Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers, pointed out:

"In its bearing upon religion this vain notion is, however, no theme for mirth, for it is not only deceptive, but it threatens to be mischievous in a high degree. There is not a hair of truth upon this dog from its head to its tail, but it rends and tears the simple ones. In all its bearing upon scriptural truth, the evolution theory is in direct opposition to it. If God's Word be true, evolution is a lie. I will not mince the matter: this is not the time for soft speaking." — quoted from his sermon, *Hideous Discovery*, July 25, 1886.

Some of these ex-Christians were familiar with Creation Science, but were smugly assured that it was pseudoscience, so it was rejected without having ever seriously examined it's arguments. After all, if evolutionism was true, why examine the alternatives? Most never challenged the claims of evolutionism itself, it being firmly established by the weight of scientific authority and the smug intolerance of their teachers, professors and peers. Not once did they suppose that the high wall of protection around evolutionism wasn't a symbol of its unconquerable might so much as a testimony to how badly the theory needed protection from simple, honest criticism.

I'll give you a personal example. My own drift from traditional Christianity to agnostic began shortly after I transferred from a Bible-affirming Christian school to a public high school. When I questioned evolution in my physical science class, the teacher scolded me and told me I only believed in Creationism because that's what my parents had told me to believe. I learned to stop questioning to avoid being singled out for mockery. Inevitably, my rosy one-sided indoctrination into evolution as scientific fact was eventually successful, especially since no one provided me with scientific answers for Creationism – but this was partly because I didn't ask! You see, that teacher had convinced me that my beliefs were inherited and I was determined to "think for myself," so I abandoned the resource God gave me in my parents' wisdom. Do you see how subtle the Enemy is? Eventually, I dropped out of

church altogether. I retained a fuzzy half-held notion of God, but evolution had destroyed my faith in Christianity itself. It had destroyed my religion. Nine long years later, the prodigal returned. Almost immediately, I knew I would have to tackle the issue of evolution. When I did, I discovered the following:

Observable, testable, repeatable science has given us many discoveries and innovations. Some have conflated the theory of evolution with such science and believe the lie that molecules-to-man evolutionism is a foundational scientific truth upon which rests much of human knowledge and achievement. Yet most of the disciplines within science, even within biology itself, were founded before Darwin or by scientists, like Mendel, Owens and Agassiz who actually rejected his theory. Creationists today continue to practice normal, experimental science without need of evolution. For example, Dr Wernher von Braun was largely responsible for getting man to the moon and he was a firm Creationist.

The fossil record still fails to yield the innumerable transitional forms predicted by his theory. A century and a half later, we have only a handful of dubious candidates which could as well be mosaics like the platypus as true transitional forms.

Darwin believed that natural selection was a creative mechanism that facilitated fish-to-philosopher evolution; however, it is now acknowledged that few mutations are beneficial and none add the genetic information required of Darwin's theory. Instead, natural selection is a conservative process that weeds out harmful mutations but allows survival adaptations within created kinds, so that a dog is still a dog, be it a wolf, a German shepherd or a teacup poodle. Gregor Mendel, the Father of Genetics, also noted that adaptive plasticity has great variety but is ultimately limited.

Since real, experimental science stubbornly fails to validate its claims, it must continue to adapt itself to avoid falsification. The Modern Synthesis [MS], Neo-Darwinism, suggested that genetics would be the key, but the cell has turned out to be an impossibly complex world of molecular machines containing a mind-boggling amount of information, encoded in our DNA. This level of information and complexity suggests intelligent design, not blind evolution. Undaunted, evolutionists will soon unveil the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis, [EES] or Post-Darwinism to further adapt this failed theory.

Evolution is not observable, testable, repeatable science. It's a belief about the past, an atheist Just-So Story seeking to displace the divinely revealed Creation record. It's based on the flaw of naturalism, which begs that all problems must have a natural explanation, so God isn't needed. This stands directly at odds with the Biblical claim that God's existence, eternal power and Godhead are self-evident in His Creation, for it excludes His very possibility from all consideration. Faulty assumptions lead to faulty conclusions!

It's time to judge this tree by its fruit! Evolution is a lie which undermines the authority of the Bible, shackles science with an unfalsifiable Just-So Story based on the faulty premise of naturalism and causes our children to reject religious truth wholesale!

It's time to equip ourselves and educate our churches, so that they may know they can trust the Bible from the Very First Word! It's time to inform our local school boards of the lie that evolution is somehow religiously neutral to traditional faith and to arm them with facts concerning evolution's weaknesses and limitations.

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