

# Creation, Science and Philosophy (We all have a worldview)

## I. Intro

### A. Where we are going - Starting broad and funneling down.

1. Big picture of how we should understand science (today)
2. Why naturalistic evolution doesn't work (today)
3. Why we believe there is a creator - intelligent designer (next week)
4. Why we believe he created in 6 days and the universe is very "young" (two weeks from now)

### B. Why talk about naturalistic evolution?

1. "Naturalistic evolution is the great intellectual rival to Christianity in the Western World."<sup>1</sup>
2. Evolutionary theory of origins presents a clear challenge to the Biblical account of creation by God. (Genesis 1:1, Ps. 33:6,9, John 1:3, Heb 11:3, Rev. 4:11 )
3. Evolutionary theory of origins denies a literal first couple (Adam and Eve). (Rom. 5, 1 Cor. 15:22, 45)

## II. Everyone has a worldview – not just Christians

### A. We are often told that science deals with the real world while religion deals with values (i.e. subjective things).

### B. Define

1. **Philosophy** – the study of knowledge, reality and existence.
2. **Presuppositions** are things we assume to be true, before we even come to the table to learn, study, debate etc.
3. **Worldview** A worldview is like a box top to a puzzle (determining how you put things together) or a lens through which you view the world and interpret it.
4. **Science** is the search for causes and explanations of how and why things work the way they do.

### C. Worldview & Presuppositions of the Naturalist

1. **Naturalism** - A philosophical view in which one presupposes that only natural causes exist.
  - a. **Presuppositions** - Universe is a closed system (meaning no supernatural possibility)
  - b. **Worldview** is that there is: No God, No design or purpose,
2. **Modern science** is bent towards the presupposition that all supernatural is ruled out of bounds from start. Only naturalism is allowed.

### D. Worldview & Presuppositions of the Theist

1. **Presuppositions** - Universe was created by God and is open to his work in it. We expect to see evidence of intelligence and design in the universe.
2. **Worldview** is that there is: There is a God, There is design or purpose.
3. **True science** flows from Biblical worldview (at least a view that there is a God)
  - a. Scientists who had some form of Christianity (not all are orthodox)
    - i. Copernicus- Heliocentric universe
    - ii. Kepler- Law of planetary motion
    - iii. Pascal- Pascal's physics law
    - iv. Robert Boyle- First modern chemist and pioneer of scientific method
    - v. Newton- One of most influential scientists of all time
  - b. Why is this the case? The Bible says:
    - i. Don't deify nature (not "dangerous" to study it)
    - ii. Rational God- (orderly universe)

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<sup>1</sup> Al Mohler "Creation vs. Evolution- The new shape of the debate" Feb 1, 2011.

- iii. Creation is “good” and God’s handiwork (worth studying)
- iv. God’s providence upholding of all things in predictable ways (can be studied)

### III. Problems with the Evolutionary (naturalist) worldview

#### A. First, be clear on what we are talking about: Macro-evolution vs. Micro

**Macro-evolution:** “The goo to you via the zoo. It’s the belief that all life forms have descended from a common ancestor – the first one-celled creature – and all of this has happened by natural processes without an intelligent intervention. God was not involved. It has been completely blind process” (Geisler, *I don’t have enough faith to be an atheist*, pg 140).

#### B. It presupposes a closed universe (much evidence that indicates this is not a good presupposition)

#### C. Can’t answer basic but essential questions such as:

1. Why is there something rather than nothing?
2. How can we explain consciousness?
3. If materialism is true than reason itself is impossible – chemicals don’t reason they react.

#### D. Main evidences for it turn out NOT to be true (finch beaks, moths, Haeckel’s Embryos)

#### E. Ethics (ex. Rape, Racial Superiority, etc.).

“Think of a country where people were admired for running away in battle, or where a man felt proud of double-crossing all the people who had been kindest to him. You might just as well try to imagine a country where two and two made five” (*Mere Christianity*, pg. 19).

### IV. Conclusion

#### A. We cannot buy into philosophical naturalism when it comes to interpreting the data.

#### B. Must not be tempted to sit in the naturalist’s chair- this is a worldview issue.

The attempt to accommodate to philosophical naturalism was illustrated nicely by Francis Schaeffer in an image of two chairs. Those who sit in the naturalist’s ‘chair,’ he said, view the world filtered through a lens that limits their sight to the natural world. But those who sit in the supernaturalist’s ‘chair’ view the world through a much larger lens that makes them aware of an unseen realm that exists in addition to the seen realm. Christians are called to live out their entire lives, including their scientific work, from the perspective of the supernaturalist’s chair, recognizing the full range of reality. This is what it means to ‘walk by faith, not by sight’ (2 Cor. 5:7), with a day-by-day awareness of the unseen dimension of reality.

Sadly however, even sincere believers keep wandering over to the naturalist’s chair. They may embrace biblical doctrine with their minds, and follow biblical ethics in their practical behavior – and yet still conduct their day-to-day professional lives on the basis of a naturalistic worldview. You might say that in confessing their beliefs they sit in the supernaturalist’s ‘chair,’ but in pursuing their professional work, they walk over and sit in the naturalist’s ‘chair.’ This is what happens when Christians accept methodological naturalism in science.” (Pearcey, *Total Truth*, pg.204).

### Resources

- Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth*, chapters 5-8
- Geisler and Turk, *I don’t have enough faith to be an atheist*
- Behe, *Darwin’s Black box*
- Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*
- Stobel, *The Case for a Creator*