

“Evolution and Other Proofs for the Existence of God”

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I. Introduction

A. Last week, “When Parents Lose Control”

1. The challenges they will face in college
 - a. When their faith is challenged
 - b. The intellectual challenges
 - c. The subtle jabs
2. Biologist Kenneth Miller, who testified in favor of evolution in court trials

He admits that “a presumption of atheism or agnosticism is universal in academic life...The conventions of academic life, almost universally, revolve around the assumption that religious belief is something that people grow out of as they become educated.”

3. The three key challenges summarized
 - a. *The Atheists*
 - b. *The Agnostics*
 - c. *The Apathetics*

B. The current challenge

1. We need to come to grips with what our students are facing
 - a. Increasingly challenged regarding God’s very existence
 - b. Report from Darin Stevens in England

1. Most students no longer believe that God exists
2. Abe Lincoln warned:

“The philosophy in the school room in one generation, will be the philosophy in the government of the next.”
3. If somebody doesn’t believe in the existence of the supernatural...
 - a. Forget about pulling out your Bible
4. Can God be proved apart from the Bible?
 - a. Is belief in God reasonable?
 - b. Is science our friend or foe?

C. Christians typically believe in God based on:

1. What the Bible says and their personal faith
 - a. Yet that doesn’t resonate with unbelievers
2. God said to check his creation for evidence
 - a. Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse

- b. I believe creation displays the wonder and majesty of God*
- c. And that science is helping us discover the brilliance of God*
- d. And that belief in God is both logical and reasonable*

D. The stakes could not be higher

1. In a universe devoid of the supernatural
 - a. *There is no life after death*
 1. That would be “super-natural”

2. When you die....that's all folks

b. You don't have a "soul"

1. Just a highly sophisticated machine called a "brain"

2. A physical brain...but not a "mind" or "soul"

c. You're merely the highest form of animal

1. No standard of morality

2. No free will

d. Human life is not sacred

1. Not created in the image of God

2. Abortion makes sense

3. Eugenics

4. Euthanasia

2. But if the supernatural does exist

a. There is life after death

b. Your soul, not your body, is the real you

c. There is only one truth...not many

d. Each person has a free will

e. Abortion is America's Holocaust

f. Hell is the terrifying reality for those who spurn God

3. **The 2 most important questions every person must answer**

a. *Is there a God?*

b. *What will happen to me the instant I die?*

4. Not my purpose today to define the Christian God

a. Rather to show that logic and science demand that there must be some form of supernatural being

b. And that he has left us clues to his existence

5. Colossians 4:5-6

(5) Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. (6) Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

6. My goal is to present the preponderance of evidence that will:

a. Bolster the faith of the believer who has nagging doubts about the existence of God

b. Show students whose belief in God is being attacked at school that faith and science both point to a creator

c. Present the other side of the argument for those of you who do not believe there is a God

E. Is it possible to prove there is a god?

1. In a court of law

a. Must look at the evidence and see which side has the strongest case based on the evidence

b. Same is true with the argument for God

2. Must also consider the consequences of getting it wrong

a. The statement by Richard Dawkins

b. An outspoken atheist and author of *The God Delusion*

c. Based on the evidence, he is ***“97% to 99% certain that there is no God”***

4. What if he’s wrong?

5. Let’s look at 12 pieces of evidence

II. 12 Reasons to believe in the existence of God:

1. The unexplained cause of the “Big Bang”

a. Cosmology

“A branch of philosophy dealing with the origin and first causes in the universe.

b. In other words, how did everything begin...what was *the first cause*?

1. Or has the universe always existed?

c. Until the 20th Century, scientists didn't believe the universe had a beginning

1. And theologians did

d. Now scientists almost universally believe the universe began in one instant in time

1. Called “The Big Bang”

2. The instant both time and space came into existence

3. Out of nothing

e. The discovery that the universe had a specific moment of creation was a complete shock to the secular mind.

1. The Hubble telescope and the expanding universe

2. Even Einstein was wrong

- a. Einstein argued against the “big bang” until finally conceding the fact that the universe had an instantaneous beginning.

3. Stephen Hawking

“Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, has a beginning at the Big Bang.”

4. Universe has been expanding out from that moment

f. The Cosmological argument for the existence of God, says every effect has to have a cause

1. If there was a “little bang” behind me

- a. What or who caused it?
 - 2. Even “little bangs” don’t cause themselves
- g. One of the most powerful arguments for a creator
 - 1. ***How did we get everything out of nothing?***
- h. Consistent with Genesis 1:1
 - 1. ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”***
 - 2. The original creation out of nothing
 - 3. The instant when time and space began
- i. Admission of ***Big Bang*** scientists
 - 1. They can’t explain what caused the “big bang”
 - 2. Renowned Astronomer Dr. Robert Jastrow (an agnostic)

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak. As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”
 - 2. Stephen Hawking in *A Brief History of Time*

“It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.”
- j. ***The big bang explains the “first event” but still leaves us searching for “the first cause”***

2. The design and exquisite tuning of the Universe

- a. The study of physics shouts the evidence of an intelligent designer
- b. With all we now know, it is dishonest for scientists to deny the existence of intelligent design (Raymond A. Oehm)

c. The role of mathematics throughout our universe

The laws that govern the universe seem to be written in the language of mathematics. The greatest scientists have been struck by how strange this is.

In his essay “The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences,” physicist Eugene Wigner confesses that the mathematical underpinning of nature “is something bordering on the mysterious and there is not rational explanation for it.”

Dr. Feynman confesses, “Why nature is mathematical is a mystery...The fact that there are rules at all is a kind of miracle.”

d. Examples

1. Just the right gravity

a. Even though we don't know how gravity works

2. Earth's unique position in our solar system

a. The sun

b. The moon

1. The tilt

2. The tides

c. Our molten core

d. The elliptical orbit

1. If it were circular...

e. The role of Saturn & Jupiter and asteroids

e. Dr. Vera Kistiakowski, Professor of physics emerita at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former president of the Association of Women in Science, summarized the implications of the evidence:

“The exquisite order displayed by our scientific understanding of the physical world calls for the divine.”

f. Former atheist Dr. Patrick Glynn

“Ironically, the picture of the universe bequeathed to us by the most advanced twentieth-century science is closer in spirit to the vision presented in the Book of Genesis than anything offered by science since Copernicus.”

g. Quantum physics

1. The design and energy in the nucleus of an atom
2. In each atom of your body
3. The electrons orbiting in each atom
4. What is the source of that energy?

h. Logic points to an intelligent designer

1. Stonehenge

- a. How did it get there?
- b. By natural forces?

1. Possible....but not very probable

- c. More likely an intelligent designer and builder

2. Flipping a coin 50 times and getting heads each time.

- a. **One chance in a** (million billion)
- b. **1,000,000,000,000,000,000**
- c. Possible.....but not very probable

i. I'm just a preacher, so listen to some men of science

1. Harvard-educated astrophysicist Dr. John A. O'Keefe of NASA

“If the universe had not been made with the most exacting precision, we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the universe was created for man to live in.”

2. Nobel Laureate Dr. Arno Penzias

“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying (one might say ‘supernatural’) plan.”

3. The intelligent design of our bodies

- a. Biology shouts the existence of an intelligent designer
- b. Each one of us has approximately 100 trillion cells in our body
 1. Each has an identical DNA strand in the nucleus of each cell
 2. Discovered in 1953 by Francis Crick
 3. So tiny yet if stretched out.....each would be 6 feet long
- c. Your DNA was already programmed at your conception
 1. Each is able to reproduce an exact copy
 - a. The double helix
 2. Three billion distinct instructions imbedded in each DNA strand
 - a. None has changed since you were just one cell
 3. Compared to a computer with binary code
 - a. Yours has four variables that are unique chemicals on each DNA molecule
 - b. Computers need an intelligent programmer
 - c. Who programmed your DNA?
- d. Bill Gates
 1. *“DNA is like a software program, only much more complex than anything we’ve ever devised.”*
 2. ...and all of his software requires a programmer
 3. Who programmed your DNA?

e. Dr. Stephen C. Meyer

“The coding regions of DNA have exactly the same relevant properties as a computer code or language. Whenever you find a sequential arrangement that’s complex and corresponds to an independent pattern of functional requirement, the kind of information is always the product of intelligence. Books, computer codes, and DNA all have these two properties.”

f. John Baumgardner

“The central issue, of course, is by what means the large coded language structure found in DNA arises? The simplest bacteria have genetic codes consisting of about one million three-letter words constructed from a four-letter genetic alphabet. Do coded language structures a million words long arise spontaneously by any known naturalistic process? Is there anything in the laws of physics that suggest how such structures might appear in spontaneous fashion?”

g. George Sim Johnson

“Human DNA contains more organized information than the Encyclopedia Britannica. If the full text of the encyclopedia were to arrive in computer code from outer space, most people would regard this as proof of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. But when seen in nature, it is explained as the workings of random forces.”

h. Geneticist Dr. Michael Denton

“The astounding capacity of microscopic DNA to harbor this mountain of information, carefully spelled out in a four-letter chemical alphabet, vastly exceeds that of any other known system.”

i. Geneticist Dr. Francis S. Collins, Head of the Human Genome Project,

Said DNA was *“our own instruction book, previously known only to God.”*

j. Dr. Bernd-Olaf Koppers, author of *Information and the Origin of Life*

We know that DNA is the repository for a digital code containing the instructions for telling the cell’s machinery how to build proteins.

Koppers recognized that this was a critical hurdle in explaining how life began; where did this genetic information come from,”

k. The Discovery of the Rosetta Stone

1. Three languages
 2. Helped decode Egyptian hieroglyphs
 3. Everybody assumed someone wrote it
 4. Not by some random accident
1. New discoveries continue to confirm, not refute, intelligent design
 1. The human genome
 2. The marvel of stem cells
 - a. How do they know to produce what ever is called for
 3. Blood clotting
 - a. How do they know where to rush and when to clot?
 4. The almost infinite complexity of each cell
 - a. Can go as small as the universe is large
 - b. A universe within each of your 100 trillion cells?
 - m. Cambridge educated Dr. Stephen Meyers demonstrated that no hypothesis has come close to explaining how information got into biological matter by natural selection
 - n. Except for the Bible!

III. Summary

A. Only two choices

1. Either there is a God or there isn't a God
 - a. No other alternatives
2. There either is....or isn't life after death

B. The stakes are high (Pascal's Wager)

1. If I'm wrong...
 - a. If you're wrong....consequences
2. The ultimate gamble

C. Next week

1. Nine more reasons to believe in God
2. We'll expose the biggest elephant in the room
3. We'll see what Charles Darwin really had to say about evolution in his book *Origin of the Species*.

D. The wonder and majesty of God's creation

1. I want to know more
2. And some day I will