

## EVOLUTION

*“We paleontologists have said that the history of life supports [the story of gradual adaptive change], all the while knowing it does not.”<sup>1</sup> –Niles Eldridge*

**Is evolution treated as a...?**

- a.) **Fact** – demonstrated on par with the workings of gravity; the only possible explanation that can't be debated
- b.) **Theory** – a possible explanation for the origin and development of life
- c.) **Science** – a repeatable, testable, and falsifiable system of thought
- d.) **Religion** – a dogmatic system of beliefs

**What are the common teachings of evolution?**

**Does Darwinism explain variation in populations, only, or can it be extended to explain how life itself originated as well as the development of highly complex biological mechanisms?**

*“Trans-specific evolution [i.e., macroevolution] is nothing but an extrapolation and magnification of the events that take place within populations and species.” - Ernst Mayr*

**Q. Couldn't God have used natural selection to bring about the world as we know it?**

**A. Yes, God can do anything... but did He?**

*Many Christians “solve” the dilemma of believing in God and accepting evolution as a scientific fact by believing the world came about through “theistic evolution.”*

**What are the pros and cons of believing in “theistic evolution?”**

**Do you agree with the following statements?**

- Science (i.e. evolution) is knowledge
- Religion (i.e. God) is merely belief

**Can natural forces create (the “Blind Watchmaker”)<sup>2</sup>? Can natural forces create genetic information?**

*“If intelligence exists today, that is only because it has evolved through purposelessness material processes... To back up their claim that this appearance of intelligent design is an illusion, Darwinists need to provide some complexity-building force that is mindless and purposeless. Natural selection is by far the most plausible candidate.” – Phillip Johnson<sup>3</sup>*

**Can “Creationism” be scientific?**

**“It is of course, entirely possible to study organisms scientifically on the premise that they were all created by God, just as scientists study airplanes and even works of art without denying that these objects are intelligently designed. The problem with allowing God a role in the history of life is not that science would cease, but rather that scientists would have to acknowledge the existence of something important which is outside the boundaries of natural science.” – Phillip Johnson<sup>2</sup>**

**Is evolution equivalent to atheism?**

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<sup>1</sup> N. Eldridge. Time Frames (Portsmouth, N.H.H.: Heinemann, 1986 or NY: Simon & Schuster, 1986: 144

<sup>2</sup> Richard Dawkins

<sup>3</sup> Science: Christian perspectives for the new millennium, Addison, TX, CLM & RZIM Publisher, 2003