

WitnessKit 2

God And Creation

Class 19

*Space Aliens, Molecular Clocks,
Gould's Critique of Scalia,*

Think about the Big Picture.

What do we observe when we generalize the data?

Classifying Living Things

Classification follows this set of categories, from broad to narrow:

Kingdom – We humans are placed in the animal kingdom.

Phyla—We are placed in chordata or vertebrata.

Class—We are placed in Mammals.

Order— We are placed in Primates.

Family— We are placed in great apes.

Genera or **Genus**—We are placed in *homo*.

Species—We are placed in *sapiens*.

But every creature alive today belongs to **one and only one phylum, class, and order**, with no intermediates at any of those levels.

The animal **kingdom** does not blur into the plant **kingdom**. No intermediates exist.

The vertebrate **phylum** does not blur into the **phylum** arthropods.

The mammal **class** does not blur into the **class** birds. The insects do not blur into the crustaceans.

The primate **order** does not blur into the rodents.

Classifying Living Things

Every creature alive today belongs to **one and only one** phylum, class, and order, with no intermediates at any of those levels.

The categories do not show much closeness until the level of “**Family**” is reached. Apes are a bit similar to monkeys, but a big gap still exists between chimpanzees and us.

The classification scheme does not show incremental change, except for the “little categories.” **Big categories=Big gaps.**

Darwinism should have

No big gaps. Incrementalism suggests MORE transitions where differences are greater. The fossil record has more potential transitions where differences are *smaller*. This is counterintuitive.

The Fossil Record is composed mostly of gaps!

(At least science assumes they are gaps! Not separate created categories. Of course, a gap is not really a record—more an assumption.)

A mathematical word for gap is “**discontinuity.**”

We see discontinuities. Do we see connections?

Species have life mechanisms in common.

Their cells use similar machines to make proteins. Their eyes follow a few patterns—with insects' eyes more variable than mammal eyes.

The Fossil Record is composed mostly of gaps!

It seems reasonable that something must bridge the gaps—that some connection exists to explain the similarities among creatures.

What is the connection?

The evolutionist says that connection or bridge is direct genetic descent from common ancestors.

The advocate for intelligent design says that connection may sometimes be a designing intelligence using similar patterns in varying species.

This is a good time to watch
the last scene from

Darwin's Dilemma, if the DVD is
available.

How can we know that one idea

Is more reasonable than the
other? Macroevolution or
Design?

What is the molecular clock, and does it help?

- The molecular clock is **the idea** of a rather steady rate of change and transformation from one common ancestor to branches of descendants over time. More generally, a molecular clock would be **incremental changes in bio-chemistry over time.**
- Most molecular clocks are taken from the present DNA to an estimated past, with assumptions about common ancestors that link two current organisms. They are reported from the past to the present.

What is the molecular clock, and does it help?

- The common ancestors are usually hypothetical, so the starting point in the past for changes is not an actual known living DNA sequence. The hypothetical extinct ancestor may be assumed someplace between two known species. The clocks do not ordinarily start from a past known organism.
- The incremental changes are mutations, very rare, and ordinarily harmful or fatal.

Incremental Methods

- A reliable molecular clock requires believing that every “tick of the clock” was favorable or neutral—no bad mutations in the sequence.
- It usually assumes that the most efficient route was the one taken from assumed ancestor to descendant.
- The mathematical term for “tiny steps” is increments.

Incremental Methods



Incremental (tiny step) changes apply mathematically only where matters are **continuous**. They do not apply across discontinuities.

The clock cannot tick from the watch on one hand to a different watch on a different hand. That would not be a tiny step change.

Darwin did not know how very discontinuous the chemistry of life is.

The fossil record is discontinuous.

- The genetic code is discontinuous—on separate chromosomes, with different numbers of chromosomes—“different watches.”
- The location of some of the information for body plans is separated from the DNA—another big discontinuity. To clone a new organism, you must use the prototype body plan in the ovum.

The biosphere is discontinuous.



- Scientists remove the haploid DNA from an ovum and substitute the complete DNA from a regular cell. The body plan instructions in the ovum cannot be neglected for a successful clone, even though the chromosomes from the nuclei are switched. This is a discontinuity.

The biosphere is discontinuous.

- The brain software for integrating organs into systems is separated from the DNA—another major discontinuity.
- The circulatory system is not like the nervous system, though the same chromosomes are involved in each. So there are discontinuities in the **implementation** of the same DNA in different places.

The biosphere is discontinuous.

- Discontinuities exist **over time** between the embryo and the form of the newborn. These discontinuities **set the chemistry** for the various organ systems in the body.
- Embryonic development has a separate “molecular clock” from aging.

More Discontinuities

- Within the chromosomes among different species, the numbers of non-protein coding DNA sequences and repeating sequences vary widely. These have been called “Junk DNA” but their functions are starting to be defined.
- Their functions vary widely.
- A gene has been re-termed an “open reading frame” because it can produce varied proteins depending upon how the RNA is edited. **So even a gene along the DNA molecule is discontinuous.**

More Discontinuities



- Certain DNA sequences occur in multiple organisms, but without a reasonable pattern of descent.
- Different descent “trees” are required for different sets of similar sequences.
- The single Darwinian “tree of life” idea is under great challenge from molecular biology.

Discontinuities are as normal as continuities.

- The chemistry of the liver is discontinuous from the chemistry of the kidneys, even though the chromosomes match.
- Incremental methods are not the obvious choice for explanations where discontinuities are the norm.
- Random results are not the obvious explanation where discontinuities are **coordinated** into working wholes.
- Darwinism seems oversimplified.

Fossil Rule: The Big Differences Have Big Gaps.



Fossil transitions are found only for animals that are close together in form, none for differences at the level of phyla.

Molecular evidence matches the gaps: It confirms the discontinuity of the phyla.

Even the bacteria are divided into more than one KINGDOM—prokaryotes and eukaryotes—which are very far apart on a molecular level.

Philip Johnson said, in essence,

That Macroevolution would be supported by the evidence if:

1. Evidence is found **of the actual existence** of transitional creatures and common ancestors in the past between different groups, and
2. If unguided genetic changes + natural selection can be proved to have the **creative power to account for the huge differences** among kinds of animals with different body plans.

We have **already** seen that the fossil record does **not** have

Fossil transitions or common ancestors among the animals with different body plans. That is why Punctuated Equilibrium was developed—to explain the **lack** of evidence for **incremental** modification.

- Now we want to look at **the creative power issue.** The data available are present and past genetic codes in the cells of living things. Present day data can give us **potential** historical data, but not **ACTUAL** historical data.

The question for today:

Can a ticking molecular clock create new body plans?

Can a ticking molecular clock start with a bacterium and account for a bird's wing and an eye's sight and a human's engineering skill?

Molecular Clocks were postulated as a way to look back in time,

using present day information.

- Molecular clocks are supposed to show a steady accumulation of tiny changes over time in the genetic material of the cells. They are claimed for human evolution in the African Eve story.
- This assumes every step change in the chemistry is neutral or favorable—that no damaging changes are in the sequence.

That's A VERY OPTIMISTIC CLOCK!

- We know that the vast majority of mutations are harmful or fatal to the organism—999 out of 1000.
- So the most efficient path assumption and the randomness assumption are in contradiction.
- Again, we are seeing something that is oversimplified.

We can understand that the molecular clock idea is strictly theoretical

By studying some of the
Complications of Molecular
Clocks:

1. Circular Reasoning—the clock idea assumes unguided evolution is a fact.
2. Molecular Clocks “tick” at wildly varying rates.
3. The genetics and the “family tree” do not match.

Complications
of
Molecular
Clocks

Molecular Clocks CANNOT

Logically PROVE evolution. Using molecular clocks to “prove evolution” is a form of circular reasoning, because the idea of evolution via common descent is foundational to the molecular clock idea.

The molecular clock tries to tie changes in DNA sequences to time, so it is an interesting idea. It grabs the imagination.

Molecular Clocks

Even if a series of incremental changes can explain the differences between two organisms,

that does **not** mean those changes define how the two organisms came to be.

Making such changes via computerized tweaking of symbols is disconnected from the *randomness and survival of the fittest* combination of factors required by the theory.

Molecular Clocks

According to the theory, every step between them would have to be safe

- ▣ and more efficient than alternatives
- ▣ at producing new offspring
- ▣ For that to be the actual path.

Even if it were the actual path, that does **not** speak to the issue of guided versus unguided change.

Molecular Clocks

- In ADDITION, we know that different organisms have different numbers of chromosomes. The addition of new (and different) chromosome pairs or subtraction in the number of pairs is **not an incremental change**. So applying the clock idea **past a chromosomal shift** seems inconsistent.

We know that DNA does have random changes over time, and that some of them are favorable or neutral, while others are detrimental.

This fact plus survival and reproduction of the fittest has **destructive** power, as we know from some birth defects. Some genetic changes are fine if only on one chromosome, but deadly on both chromosomes of a pair. That is a destructive effect, and it would lead to truncating a species if such a chemical sequence spread throughout that population.

Typically such mutations do not spread through a population, and we can be thankful for that.

A rule about population genetics:

- The Hardy-Weinberg Law states that the percentage frequencies of genes remain the same from generation to generation in the gene pool.
- New mutations, by this rule, occur at very low frequencies in a population, and as the population grows, they tend to stay in those very low frequencies.
- Isolation and environmental stresses can change those frequencies, but the changes tend to be reversible when isolation and stresses are removed.

The evolutionary common descent story **assumes** random changes plus survival of the fittest has creative power.

That is a questionable assumption, especially where organized changes at the same time are required to make a new organ work within body systems.

This means that rare “neutral mutations” have to accumulate in order to hit the target of working together at some point. But that is exceedingly unlikely, and does not match what is seen in population genetics.

It seems oversimplified to insist that this ***assumed creative power*** accounts for all the diversity of life.

The molecular clock idea is strictly theoretical.

Molecular Clocks “tick” at wildly varying rates if they tick at all.

We can watch them “tick” within a species that reproduces rapidly in real time, such as a bacterial disease species.

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

- Some living species, such as disease bacteria, have been studied for molecular clock measurements, by applying a stressor such as an antibiotic to the population and checking the surviving bacteria for certain sequences.
- Often the surviving, but stressed, bacteria are **not** the most fit for life without the stressor, and the population reverts toward its normal chemistry when the stressor is removed—which thankfully reduces the risks of creating “superbugs”—a risk that is very real.

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

- The molecular clock idea, assumes steady rates of change over time.
- This is a very poor assumption in terms of the mechanism of the theory.
- The scientists often assume that the most efficient path with the fewest number of steps is the correct one for evolutionary history, which goes against the randomness assumption.

In BONES OF CONTENTION

We saw in the matter of Neandertal mitochondrial DNA that the data do not support a steady rate of change for a molecular clock,

- ▣ because the MtDNA of Neandertal was supposed to be much older than modern human MtDNA,
- ▣ yet it is **farther** from chimpanzee MtDNA than is modern human MtDNA.

Thus it would have had to diverge and change much more rapidly than modern humans if the theory were correct.

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

Some portions of the genome do not change at all—zero is the rate of those molecular clocks—even among rapidly mutating organisms like rhinoviruses.

The evolutionary theory is accommodating enough to account for that, by saying those portions of the genome are necessary for survival exactly as they are.

Thus the theory is very elastic—and not very convincing.

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

The more elastic a theory is, the less convincing it is. If it can explain EVERYTHING it is more likely JUST a story rather than a rigorous explanation.

This zero-rate fact calls the assumptions in the molecular clock idea into question.

If a rate can be as low as zero in portions of a rapidly mutating species, no molecular clock can be assumed constant. So the molecular clocks are not rigorous toward timing evolutionary changes.

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

“The rhino virus has a genome of about 7,000 chemical units,

- ▣ which encode information to make the 10 proteins that do everything the virus needs**
- ▣ to infect cells and make more viruses.**
- ▣ By comparing the 99 genomes with one another, the researchers were able to arrange them in a family tree based on similarities in their genomes.”**

Molecular clocks tick at wildly varying rates:

“That family tree shows that some regions of the rhinovirus genome are changing all the time, but that others never change.” —Nicolas Wade, “Cure for the Common Cold? Not Yet, But Possible,” INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 2/13/2009, www.iht.com

The molecular clock idea is strictly theoretical.

We ought not rely upon the dates established for events of the past if a “molecular clock” is the basis for them.

We can understand that the molecular clock idea is strictly theoretical

By studying some of the

Complications of Molecular Clocks:

1. **Circular Reasoning**—the clock idea assumes unguided evolution is a fact.
2. Molecular Clocks “tick” at wildly varying rates.
3. The genetics and the “family tree” do not match.

Complications of Molecular Clocks

Genetics and “Family Tree” do not match.

- Morphology is the form of the fossil bones that are found.
- Morphology is the basis for the evolution story—and the drawing of the “family tree.”
- Variations in skull and bone structure are supposed to show human descent from a common ancestor with chimpanzees.
- We will briefly review results from *Bones of Contention*.

Genetics and “Family Tree” do not match.

- The genetics most often studied are the sequences in mitochondrial DNA, found in abundance in every cell. Genetic changes are the mechanism of the story.
- This mitochondrial genetic “fingerprint” is primarily transmitted from mother to offspring from the ovum.

Genetics and Morphology do not correspond.

- If the evolution story were true,
 - The basis—morphology— would match the mechanics—genetics.
 - If they match, the story might be true.
 - If they do not match, the story is false.
 - **If they do not match, the molecular clock is simply not applicable.**
 - BONES OF CONTENTION documents some experimental results.

Fossil Type	Morphology	MtDNA
2 Cro-Magnon— Europe	Near typical modern humans	Similar MtDNA to modern humans
1 Mungo man— Australia	Near typical modern humans	MtDNA very different from modern humans
3 Neandertal— Europe	Different from modern humans	MtDNA very different from modern humans
Homo erectus—10 Australian	Different from modern humans— like small Neandertals— thought to be the oldest	MtDNA very similar to modern humans

Genetics and Morphology do not correspond.

- Of the four types, the two closest to modern human bone morphology had one set of mtDNA near modern human MtDNA and one far.
- The two farther from modern human bone morphology had one mtDNA set near modern human MtDNA and one far.
- The pattern of bone morphology had no relationship to the pattern of MtDNA.
- Clearly the expected progression based on morphology did not happen.

Genetics and Morphology do not correspond.

- The same difficulty holds true among animals such as frogs and mammals. According to Philip Johnson,
- “There seems to be no necessary relationship between the degree of molecular difference between two species and any differences in tangible characteristics.”

Genetics and Morphology do not correspond.

- “All frog species look pretty much alike, for example, but their molecules differ as much as those of mammals, a group which contains such fantastically diverse forms as the whale, the bat, and the kangaroo.”
- So the shapes of two creatures are **not** a clear indicator of their molecular closeness—yet macroevolution is a story based upon that idea.

Almost Nobody in the science field

- Is willing to ask the question, “Do the molecular data as a whole support the theory of unguided descent from common ancestors?”
- Careers are suddenly on the line whenever that question is asked.

So what does the molecular clock

Idea actually demonstrate?

- It is “**a restatement of the argument from classification.**”
- The molecular relationships that have been reported so far are generally (but not entirely) consistent with classifications based on visible features.
- (This *possibly* means nobody points out the discrepancies in the literature. Anomalies are messy to explain.)

the molecular clock

- Divergence dates calculated from the molecular relationships are also said to be roughly consistent with estimates of the first appearance of new groups according to fossil evidence.”
- Of course, we know that those dates of fossil appearance also involve circular reasoning.
- This sounds like they were selective about which sequences to use for dating, since some sequences have a rate of zero.

Molecular Clocks

The molecular clock is **“a restatement of the argument from classification.”**

A restatement of the argument does nothing to answer the question about guided or unguided change.

Even if the simplistic incremental idea actually worked,

- that could not rule out an ultimate cause that is different from chance plus law.
- In fact, a perfectly efficient chain of serendipitous changes sounds much more like a guiding hand than chance.

Molecular Clocks

- Molecular clocks are a simplification whose assumptions are more consistent with a “guiding hand” than with randomness and physical law.
- To use them as a “proof of evolution” is logically incorrect.

We can reject an unguided origin of life

Ineffective Explanations of the Origin of Life

By revealing ineffective and illogical explanations accepted by science and the legal system.

1. **Gould's Critique of Scalia**
2. **The Logic of Space Aliens**
3. **Exclusion of the Middle Ground**
4. **The power of paradigm above and beyond evidence.**

Justice Antonin Scalia dissented in the

Louisiana Creation–Science Case.

Scalia’s dissent stated that

“The people of Louisiana, including those who are Christian fundamentalists, are quite entitled ..to have whatever scientific evidence there may be against evolution presented in their schools.”

If science requires free and open inquiry—and it does—

- EVERYBODY should want such evidence presented in science class.
- The history of modern science is progress **by means of challenges** of the status quo.
- If no challenges are allowed, no progress occurs.

Gould's Critique of Scalia

Stephen Jay Gould expressed bafflement that a jurist of Supreme Court Justice Scalia's intelligence would entertain the absurd notion that it was possible to have scientific evidence against evolution, and Gould thought the problem lay in Scalia's understanding of evolution as theory.

Gould's Critique of Scalia

Gould wrote that evolution “is not the study of life’s ultimate origin, as a path toward discerning its deepest meaning.” and that evolution only starts after life begins.

Because Scalia “misunderstood the limits of evolution,” he stumbled into a misunderstanding **that it is possible to have rational objections** to the doctrines of evolutionary science.

Gould's Critique of Scalia

- This critique of Gould's was misleading, since other evolutionists such as Richard Dawkins (author of THE GOD DELUSION) use the evolutionary theory PRECISELY to debunk "outmoded" ideas such as "God."
- Nevertheless, Gould was right to state that evolution has no answer to how life began in the first place.

Gould's Critique of Scalia

Because evolution has no answer to how life began,

- its dogmatic statement of a naturalistic, **unguided** nature of biological change
 - ▣ is entirely speculation, NOT fact.



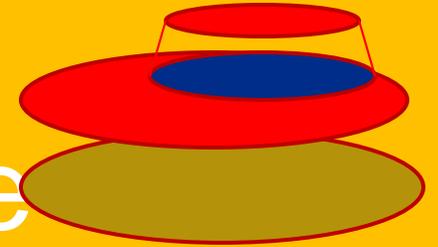
What is wrong with this picture?

Science has no good explanation for how life even began... But unguided evolution from molecules to humans is a “fact.”

The Logic of Space Aliens

- We have already seen, on the DVD **EXPELLED, NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED**, that Dr. Richard Dawkins could accept intelligent design if attributed to space aliens, but **NOT** if **GOD** might be involved.
- Francis Crick invoked space aliens as a possible source of the first living cell on earth in a theory called “Directed Pan-Spermia.”

So space aliens are
acceptable to science



But God is not.

Exclusion of the Middle Ground

- If we place unguided, atheistic evolution from molecules to humans on one side of the spectrum, and young earth creation on the other side, what is in the middle?
- Here are some possibilities.

Excluding The Middle Ground

<p>Unguided atheistic evolution from molecules to humans</p>	<p>Criticisms of Evolution as currently explained</p>	<p>Intelligent Design Plus chance mechanisms</p>	<p>Theistic Evolution in terms of a hidden “guiding hand”</p>	<p>Old Earth creationists</p>	<p>Young Earth Creationists</p>
<p>The approach usually taught, and the only one allowed peacefully</p>	<p>Impossible, according to Gould, subject to massive political fights</p>	<p><u>Ruled illegal by the courts in Pennsylvania</u></p>	<p>Totally excluded</p>	<p>Totally excluded</p>	<p>Totally excluded</p>

The Middle Ground

If this were simply a matter of opinion, teaching from the middle ground would be a fair approach that would allow variation to either side of it.

But the subject is a matrix where science and history and philosophy and theology cross paths, and where the data of science cannot actually prove the history.

- Excluding the middle ground is infinitely MORE unfair, because science carries persuasive weight beyond its capability of measuring history.

Scalia was right to see this as a religious liberty issue.

- The theory of evolution has religious implications. By excluding the middle ground in all of the public schools and universities, the evolutionists **are** making an **exclusivist religious** statement.
- It is an exclusivist religious statement without support from the fossil or molecular evidence.

The 1981 Arkansas Case

- Judge Overton thought he was allowing the middle ground, in terms of belief in a creator as compatible with belief in evolution.
- However, by defining science as what is **“accepted by the scientific community”** he ruled out the middle ground.
- As we have seen, the “scientific community” resists even the slightest criticism of unguided evolution from molecules to humans.

If the scientific community
sets the legal standards

God is out.

Criticism of Unguided Evolution
is out, too.

We can reject an unguided origin of life

Ineffective Explanations of the Origin of Life

By revealing ineffective and illogical explanations accepted by science and the legal system.

1. **Gould's Critique of Scalia**
2. **The Logic of Space Aliens**
3. **Exclusion of the Middle Ground**
4. **The power of paradigm above and beyond evidence.**

The power of paradigm

Above and beyond evidence.

Epistemology is the philosophy of how we
KNOW things.

Scientific Paradigms—The Explanation for Epistemology's Sake

- Science depends upon the unguided evolution story as an explanatory framework for all of its biological research, and as a basis for its right to dominate, rather than giving religion a share of the power.
- A paradigm is an organizing concept in the field of science, a way of looking at the world. When a paradigm is established, it becomes the **organizing principle** for scientific research.
- It is a perceptual grid for “what we KNOW.”

Scientific Paradigms—The Explanation for Epistemology's Sake

- Matters which do not fit the paradigm are called anomalies. So long as they can be considered trivial, the paradigm stands.
- A change of paradigm is often only accomplished after some crisis, where the original paradigm is shown to be inadequate in important ways.
- The crisis is resolved by creation of a new paradigm.
- New paradigms are resisted by those who depend on the original idea for their research.

Pushing on the Paradigm

Admitting **Intelligent Design** to the scientific discussion involves changing the paradigm.

- Even though the tools of ID are mathematical, and therefore neutral, a change of paradigm is NOT neutral. A change of paradigm is unsettling.
- Ultimately the reasons for dismissing Intelligent Design are emotional rather than scientific. Emotions tend to be unscientific to the core.

Philip S. Skell, a member of the
prestigious

National Academy of Sciences, and Professor Emeritus of chemistry at Penn State University wrote an article called **“The Dangers of Overselling Evolution,”** 2/23/2009.

He pointed out that the dramatic progress in recent years in understanding the intricate workings within living organisms has nothing to do with the study of fossil ancestors of organisms.

Dr. Philip S. Skell continued...

Rather, these studies are due to experimental designs and techniques applied to living organisms that have nothing to do with biological history.

Many popularizers of Darwin's theory now claim that without the study of ancient biological history, our students will not be prepared to engage in the great variety of modern experimental activities expected of them....

Dr. Skell says,

“...The public should view with profound alarm this unnecessary and misguided reintroduction of speculative historical, philosophical and religious ideas into the realms of experimental science.”

He continues with a list of profound discoveries in modern biological science...

-- the discovery of penicillin,
the structure of the double helix,
the characterization of the ribosome,
the mapping of genomes,
research on medication and drug reactions,
improvements in food production,
new surgeries—

**NONE of which depended on Darwinism for
the breakthroughs.**

He reports querying biologists whose work might
be assumed to need the Darwinian paradigm to
guide research.

Dr. Philip Skell

“Here as elsewhere, I learned that evolutionary theory provides no guidance when it comes to choosing the experimental designs. Rather, after the breakthrough discoveries, it is brought in as narrative gloss.”

He continues,



“It is unseemly and scientifically unfruitful that a major focus in biology should have turned into a war—between those who hold that the history of those unique organisms is purely a matter of chance aggregation from the inorganic world and those who hold that the aggregation must have been designed for a purpose.”

What are our options, for those of us who are concerned about these matters?

1. We can keep quiet about these things, and watch our culture and nation drift farther and farther away from God.
2. We can begin to pray with purpose, asking for ways and opportunities to share ideas with those who need them. We can lobby seminaries to include an introduction to these topics for youth ministers.
3. We can begin to pray for our churches to search for curriculums that teach truth about these matters, and to implement them on a regular basis. This course is available for a free download and the textbooks are chosen for their plain English.

What are our options, for those of us who are concerned about these matters?

- We can support alternate forms of education such as home schooling and private schools and school choice where the tax dollars follow the child to the school of his parents' choice.
- We can support scholarships that create private school choice and home school choice.
- BUT none of that reaches the university level, where students are often overwhelmed with evolution taught as fact.

Church actions



We can and should make such studies an integral part of college and career study classes in churches.

We can and should make resources such as books and website addresses available to young adults. Discovery.org has new articles and new research available regarding Intelligent Design.

We must let students know that the universities do not give them the whole range of ideas, and that valid ideas are being censored in academia.

Options at university level

- We can lobby the alumni associations of religious universities for the inclusion of ID in the science curriculum.
- We can lobby accrediting organizations for universities to require open discussion of the full range of possibilities in order to be accredited.
- Something has to pry open academia in a way that eliminates the job discrimination issue. Until that issue is resolved, the universities will remain totally one-sided.

Churches and demographics

- Churches have historically reached the people in the culture who are traditionalists, people who enjoy group activities, people who enjoy Bible study. Churches have often failed to reach those who love science and math. One barrier is the paradigm of macroevolution. It is time to stop neglecting these unreached people groups.

Homework

In 3 sets

Homework Class 19 Set 1

- Read Galatians 6:7-10.
- What does this passage have to say about convenient explanations?
- Read Chapter Ten in DARWIN ON TRIAL. List some religious beliefs from this chapter that materialist-evolutionists have claimed are logical extensions of evolutionary theory. Then note whether their claims are consistent with each other or contradictory.

Homework Class 19 Set 1

- What problem did the Darwinists have with the American Scientific Affiliation, and why?
- What religious beliefs were expressed by atheists Julian Huxley and Theodosius Dobzhansky?
- What religious beliefs attributable to atheism were expressed in the first and second Humanist Manifestos?
- What religious beliefs did Teilhard de Chardin create from Darwinism?

Homework Class 19 Set 1

- Do their beliefs find common ground with the religious beliefs listed in the first question today?
- Do their beliefs agree with each other?
- Some materialist Darwinists want to improve humanity by scientific means and also think there is no such thing as free will or morals. Do you think they are likely to respect the wishes of the people they are attempting to improve?

Homework Class 19 Set 1

- What beliefs do you think are essential for mutual respect to be common?
- Do you think “survival of the fittest” is a foundation for mutual respect?
- The Bible lists pride—a sense of personal superiority over others—as a barrier between people and as a barrier between people and God. Does “survival of the fittest” as an idea remove such a barrier? Or does “survival of the fittest” remove moral restraints from a sense of superiority?

Homework Class 19 Set 2

- Read Psalm 1: 1-6.
- What are the consequences promised to those who delight in and meditate upon the law of the LORD?
- Whose advice are we supposed to avoid?
- Where are we supposed to avoid standing?
- Where are we supposed to avoid sitting?
- What are the consequences of belonging to the groups we are supposed to avoid – of going over to their side?

Homework Class 19 Set 2

- Read Chapter Eleven in DARWIN ON TRIAL. This chapter begins by documenting the furor that accompanied a display on evolution at the British Museum of Natural History. The display presented Darwinism as a theory based on logical deduction rather than data.
- What was the outcome of the controversy at the museum?
- Philip Johnson lists information that is problematic to macro-evolutionists. What are the items on his list?

Homework Class 19 Set 2

- What point does Philip Johnson make about the punctuated equilibrium controversy? Why it is not likely to be covered in high school biology?
- How does the “belief-knowledge distinction” effect presenting evolution as a fact in the public schools?

Homework Class 19 Set 2

- Several years ago, a public school student's mother said that the local biology teacher required students to write an essay on the following topic: "Why I Believe in Evolution." The essay received a grade that was averaged into their final grade. Do you think that is a fair essay topic?
- Research has shown that attitudes move toward ideas that a student publically affirms in front of others. Is this a fair technique to increase "science understanding" in the student population?

Homework Class 19 Set 2

- Do you think requiring a “profession of faith in evolution” from students is a proper thing for a public school teacher to do?
- Do you see how such an assignment could be used to prevent religious students from receiving letters of reference for college if they plan to enter the medical profession? Do you see any “moral hazards” or “discrimination hazards” in such an assignment?

Homework Class 19 Set 3

- Read I Peter 2:18-25.
- How do these verses apply to the situation above regarding the essay topic?
- Read I Peter 3:13-17. What attitudes are required in the essay situation?
- Read I Peter 3:18. What is a possibility God may have in mind for the situation?

Homework Class 19 Set 3

- Read Chapter Twelve in DARWIN ON TRIAL.
- What is a “risky prediction,” according to Popper?
- Why are “risky predictions” necessary for a theory to be testable?
- How do Poppers’ tests of scientific methodology fit Darwinism?

Homework Class 19 Set 3

- If a theory is so malleable that it can answer any question, is it based upon successfully navigating “risky predictions?” If no possibility exists of designing a test the theory could fail, is it falsifiable?
- Are the critics of an idea helpful for designing appropriate tests?
- What is the logical trick in changing the definition of evolution to make it appear to have been proved a fact?

Homework Class 19 Set 3

- What is it that Phillip Johnson says Darwinists never find, and why do they never find it?
- Following Popper's explanation of scientific method, Johnson says that Darwinism must do several steps to be restored to the realm of science and removed from the realm of metaphysics. What are those steps?
- What benefits would result from those steps?

Homework Class 19 Set 3

- Do you think Popper's criteria of "risky predictions" are a useful way to look at science? Why or why not?
- If Darwinism and Punctuated Equilibrium are atheistic, and Intelligent Design is agnostic, and theistic evolution and old earth creationism and young earth creationism are religious, is it possible for consideration of origins NOT to have religious implications? Do you think atheistic implications are the most fair to everyone? Where would you locate the fairness indicator on the next chart?

Where is the Fairness Meter?

Unguided atheistic evolution from molecules to humans	Criticisms of Evolution as currently explained	Intelligent Design Plus chance mechanisms	Theistic Evolution in terms of a hidden “guiding hand”	Old Earth creationists	Young Earth Creationists
The approach usually taught, and the only one allowed peacefully	Impossible, according to Gould, subject to massive political fights	<u>Ruled illegal by the courts in Pennsylvania</u>	Totally excluded	Totally excluded	Totally excluded

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.