

Evolution –a Lutheran Response

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An introduction to the Lutheran Science Institute "lesson book" titled, "Evolution –a Lutheran Response."

Pdf copies of the lesson book are available at www.LutheranScience.org/LessonBook.

Color print copies may also be ordered at that website.

Key Concepts

- 1 God has chosen to create and strengthen faith solely through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament (Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:21, 2:14).
- 2 Apologetics is defending the Christian faith, often using extra-Biblical arguments (presenting claims from logic, science, history, etc.). Even though extra-Biblical arguments do not in any way increase the effectiveness of the Gospel, Scripture shows a place for them in our apologetic. The role of extra-Biblical arguments is to remove barriers to the gospel.
- 3 Science is often seen as an unbiased producer of truth. In reality, science is neither unbiased nor a producer of truth. Prominent scientists, including those who champion evolution, describe science as a biased and subjective process.
- 4 Use scientific terms correctly. Describe evolution correctly. Stay within the limits of your scientific knowledge.
- 5 Evolutionists start with countless unprovable presuppositions, more than other branches of science like physics and chemistry. The starting assumptions of evolutionists require that creation be rejected. Creation is rejected NOT on the basis of scientific conclusions, but on the basis of unprovable a priori assumptions. The three primary unprovable assumptions of evolutionists are: 1) No Creator, 2) No Flood, and 3) Deep Time, meaning billions of years.
- 6 Pointing out the assumptions of evolutionists is a strong and solid argument, one which should remain strong for decades to come. If an assumption is wrong, then all conclusions based on that assumption are invalid.
- 7 Avoid even implying that all of evolution is wrong: A creationist can agree with much of evolution theory. This is especially true of the core evolution teaching of natural selection. Natural selection really does produce new species, but always within the Biblical kind.
- 8 True parts of evolution are often used as proof that false parts of evolution are also true. In our text, Dawkins showed that natural selection produces new species within their kind, then he asks us to imagine that natural selection can also produce new kinds.
- 9 Creationists and evolutionists often agree. Point that out as you minister to creationists and to evolutionists. Discuss some of those points of agreement as a path to discussing the assumptions which guide and constrain evolutionary science.
- 10 Always remember that when witnessing to unbelievers, your goal is to present the gospel message (not to discuss creation or evolution).
- 11 Never demean evolutionists: Always remember you are Christ's ambassador to the world, meaning you are God's representative to everyone, including evolutionists. Do not belittle those to whom you represent God. Reflect the love of Christ as you minister to both creationists and to evolutionists.