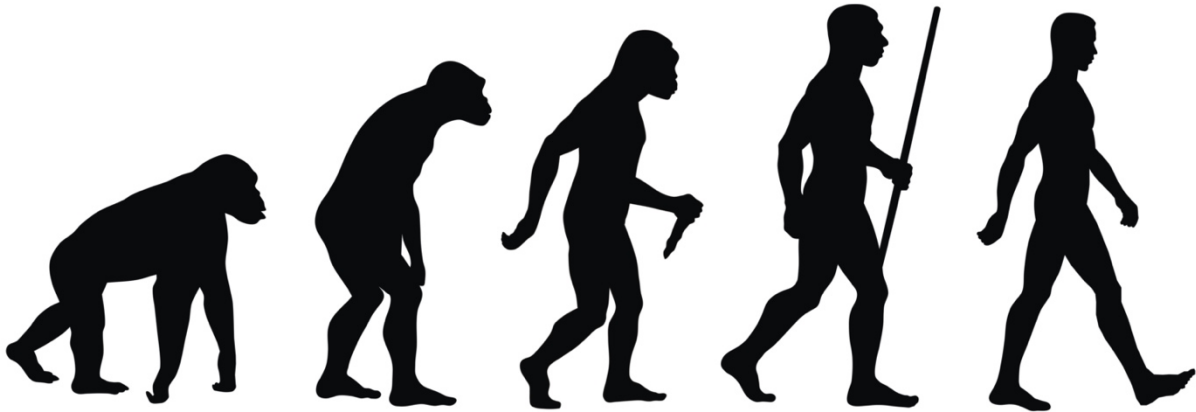


The Theory of Christian Evolution



The Theory of Human Evolution

The theory of human evolution is a belief advocated around the world by governments, by schools, by universities, in literature, and on websites. This theory has been adopted by many scientists, in spite of the fact that believing the theory requires staggering faith in unproven ideas.

History

Until the 18th century, however, many great scientists and inventors believed that we were created by God rather than believing that we evolved from some primitive life form. Those great thinkers included:

Isaac Newton, one of the inventors of calculus.

Francis Bacon, who established scientific methods for analysis and experiments.

Robert Boyle, who helped develop the sciences of chemistry and gas dynamics.

Leonardo da Vinci, who helped develop the science of hydraulics.

Some more modern scientists who were believers in creation include:

James P. Joule, who developed reversible thermodynamics.

Wernher von Braun, a pioneer of rocketry and space exploration.

The list of creation scientists throughout history includes far too many more to mention here.

In the 18th century, a spirit of unbelief swept Europe. Historians label this period the “Age of Enlightenment”. One of the proponents of unbelief was Voltaire, a man who gave himself to sensual pleasures and was guilty of incest. Voltaire, who accumulated his fortune through gambling, was outraged by the abuses of the Catholic church and turned his vengeance toward Christianity itself. It is not surprising, therefore, that Voltaire wrote “Every sensible man, every honorable man, must hold the Christian sect in horror.”

Georges Louis Leclerc, known as Comte de Buffon, was contemporary with Voltaire. Buffon was a forefather of the theory of evolution. He claimed that planets were not created by God, but that they originated through natural events. He promoted a theory that life came from a

heated oily substance. Buffon's writings influenced Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, who in turn promoted the theory of evolution.

The Influence of Spiritualism on Theories of Evolution

Emanuel Swedenborg, a Swedish theologian, scientist, and mystic, rejected the Biblical account of creation. Instead, he invented an explanation of the origin of the universe that more closely matched the theories of his day. Swedenborg believed that the sun spun out material which underwent a few explosions and stuck together to form planets. Remember the explosion idea, because that is going to evolve into something even bigger!

Swedenborg also claimed to be able to travel in the spirit world to other planets, and that he met beings from other planets, including the earth's moon. People from Mercury, Swedenborg claimed, are very similar to people from earth, but slimmer. Swedenborg apparently did not know that the temperatures on Mercury can vary from -290 F at night to 800 F during the day. Yet this is a man who helped invent the theory of evolution.

Robert Chambers, the author of one of the first popular books on evolution, was also a spiritualist. He attended seances and visited mediums – people who seek to communicate with the dead.

Charles Darwin was one of the most influential proponents of biological evolution. In spite of the sway he had on people's thought, it is interesting what he was willing to admit:

“To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree.”

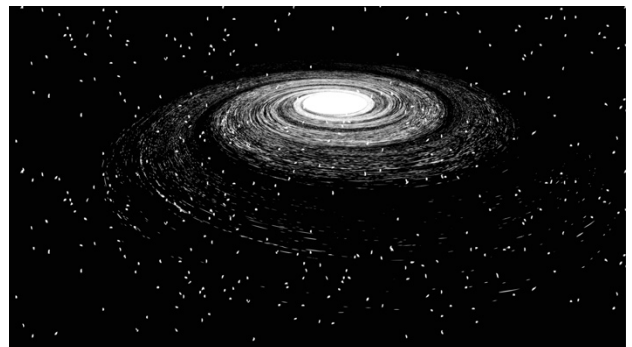
So Darwin himself admitted the absurdity of his theory, yet his theory has been widely accepted by the world. Like Voltaire, Darwin rejected Christian beliefs. In his autobiography that he wrote toward the end of his life, Darwin expressed his contempt for the Bible teaching of eternal torment.

An Evolving Theory

The theory of evolution itself is evolving:

Buffon believed that the earth was at least 74,832 years old, and came into existence as a result of a comet colliding with the sun. He did not have the idea that humans evolved from other species, however. Ernst Mayr said that Buffon “was not an evolutionary biologist, yet he was the father of evolutionism.”

Believers in evolution now estimate that the earth is about 4.6 billion years old, and that the universe itself began 13.787 + or – 0.02 billion years ago. You don't have to be a mathematician to realize



that an estimate of an event that long ago could not possibly be pinpointed with that kind of accuracy.

One belief is that all the matter in the entire universe came from a mass much smaller than a single atom. Some claim that the origin of all matter was an infinitely hot and dense single point. Nothing can be infinitely hot! The matter suddenly exploded, they say, and cooled to become the universe we see today. The explosion occurred in 10^{-32} of a second, which is an unimaginably quick event. The Big Bang theory was actually proposed by a Roman Catholic priest.

One of the modern theories of the origin of life is that it began about 3.5 to 4 billion years ago. Supposedly UV light started chemical reactions in a warm pond on earth which then resulted in the life of bacteria like organisms. The belief is that humans eventually evolved from these organisms.

If these theories are difficult for you to believe, the solution seems to be to claim that it happened over such long periods of time that you will admit that anything could have happened in that amount of time.

As scientific knowledge increases, beliefs supporting the theory of evolution continue to be proven wrong. Consequently, the theory itself continues to evolve over time, much like a chameleon that keeps changing colors to adapt to its environmental changes.

An important question to consider is why the theory of evolution was invented. Could a spirit of unbelief have played a role in offering an alternative to there being God as a Creator? Could it have been that a belief in God brings condemnation for sin, and people don't want to feel guilty about sin?

The Theory of Christian Evolution

The idea that we gradually evolve into a new species has now made its way into the nominal Christian world. This theory is being preached from pulpits around the world in all the major denominations. The theory of Christian evolution is now the accepted belief of most people professing to be Christians. Jesus compared the unrighteous to goats and the righteous to sheep. The theory of Christian evolution is that we gradually evolve from goats into sheep.

Evolution



A major proponent of this theory is Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life". His book was very popular, with 32 million copies being sold in its first decade of publication.

Just as Darwin became the most influential leader in promoting human evolution, Warren became one of the most influential religious leaders promoting Christian evolution. His Purpose Driven Movement has grown into a network of tens of thousands of congregations from every major denomination professing Christianity from around the world. His training of over 350,000 pastors and church leaders has had an impact. A survey showed that 21% of pastors listed one of Warren's books as the most helpful.

What does Warren teach that is so popular? He teaches that Christians are actually sinners that are gradually evolving into people who are more saint-like. In his book "The Purpose Driven Life", Warren says "...we must remember that the church is made up of real sinners, including ourselves. Because we're sinners, we hurt each other, sometimes intentionally and sometimes unintentionally. But instead of leaving the church, we need to stay and work it out if at all possible." (p 162, The Purpose Driven Life)

Warren uses a World War II fighting tactic as an illustration of Christian evolution. To liberate the South Pacific islands, the United States military would:

1. Weaken enemy resistance by shelling strongholds.
2. Have Marines invade the island and establish a "beach-head", which is a small part of the island which they could control.
3. Begin gaining more territory gradually.

Warren explains that "Once you open yourself to Christ, God gets a "beach-head in your life...(then) He begins the campaign to take over more and more territory until all of your life is completely his."

He supports his claim of Christian evolution with a modern version of the Bible:

"You have begun to live the new life, in which you are being made new and are becoming like the One who made you." (Col 3:10 New Century Version)

Let's compare the modern version of this scripture to the King James Version, which has been widely accepted for hundreds of years:

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col 3:10 King James Version)

The modern version of Colossians 3:10 describes an evolutionary process in which a Christian is being made new over time. The King James Version describes something very different – putting on a man which has already been made new. The teaching in Colossians about a Christian being a new man is consistent with other Bible teachings of a new birth.

If we read the scripture in context, we find very clear teaching of a conversion to Christianity rather than Christian evolution:

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Col 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Col 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

The Bible describes two states – the old man and the new man. We are to put off or crucify the old man, and to put on the new man, who is spiritually resurrected after the death of the old man. We are then to walk in newness of life:

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:4)

Rick Warren, however, claims “Although God *could* instantly transform us, he has chosen to develop us slowly.” (p 219, *The Purpose Driven Life*)

Conversion then Growth

One of the basic teachings of Christianity is that we are to be converted from the old life into a new one.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

This conversion is also called a new birth. We become newborn babes in Christ, and then as newborn babes, we grow. Jesus described this spiritual birth:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Other scriptures support the teaching of a spiritual birth:

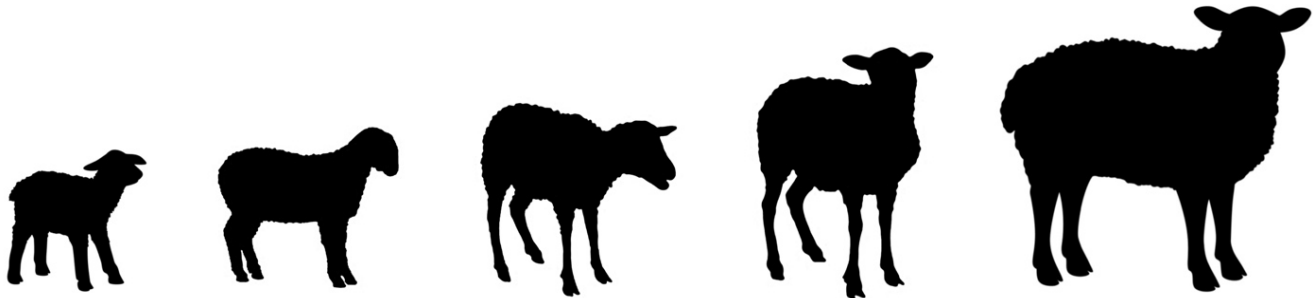
And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. (Ps 87:5)

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. (1 Pe 2:2)

A newborn baby is perfect in the sense that it has all the necessary organs, all of its fingers and toes, and everything it needs to grow into a healthy adult. What a newborn baby lacks, however, is maturity. A newborn baby is fully human. It is not an animal that evolves into a human over time. Growth and evolution are two very different things.



Growth Rather than Evolution



A goat does not evolve into a sheep. A lamb is born, and grows into an increasingly mature sheep. So it is in our Christian lives. We do not gradually evolve from being sinners into being saints. We are born as new creatures – saints of God. It is true we mature spiritually over time, but we are not evolving from the old creature, which the Bible calls the man of sin.

The theology of Christian evolution, however, presents a very different view:

“What about those problems, habits, and hurts you would like miraculously removed?”
(p 221, *The Purpose Driven Life*)

“Be patient with God and with yourself”, Warren urges, essentially suggesting that expecting deliverance is “impatience”.

The good news is that Jesus came to deliver us from our sins, not to leave us as slaves to sin, struggling for a lifetime to become free.

The Same Spirit of Unbelief

Why was the theory of Christian evolution invented? It was invented because of the same spirit of unbelief that inspired theory of human evolution.

Unbelief that the God of all creation is able to make us new creatures. Unbelief that He who said “Let there be light” and there was light can transform lives of darkness into lives of light. Unbelief in the Bible teaching of a new life in Christ – a born again experience of salvation from sin.

Just as goats do not slowly evolve into sheep over a lifetime, sinners do not evolve into saints. God did not need billions of years to create the universe. God did not need billions of years to create complex life forms. Nor does He need a lifetime to create a saint.

The Sheep and the Goats will be Separated

Jesus described the last great day, a day of judgment when the righteous are separated from the wicked:

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Jesus only describes two species – sheep and goats. No partially evolved creatures are mentioned. They simply do not exist today nor will they show up on the day of judgement.

Where is Our Faith?

Jesus asked:

Luke 18:8 ... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

People claim to be believers in Jesus Christ, but do they have faith in creation? Do they have faith in God's ability to deliver from sin? May God help us to keep the faith rather than simply profess Christianity.