

WHY CREATION SHOULD MATTER TO A CHRISTIAN

In his encyclical Humani Generis (1950), my predecessor Pius XII has already affirmed that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of the faith regarding man and his vocation, provided that we do not lose sight of certain fixed points. Today, more than a half-century after the appearance of that encyclical, some new findings lead us toward the recognition of evolution as more than an hypothesis. In fact it is remarkable that this theory has had progressively greater influence on the spirit of researchers, following a series of discoveries in different scholarly disciplines. The convergence in the results of these independent studies—which was neither planned nor sought—constitutes in itself a significant argument in favor of the theory.

- Pope John Paul II, Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, 22 October 1996

American's VIEWS ON EVOLUTION/CREATIONISM (CBS News poll conducted November 18-21, 2004)

- God created humans in present form: 55%
- Humans evolved, God guided the process: 27%
- Humans evolved, God did not guide process: 13%

• A Christian's belief about Creation describes how he/she perceives God.

▪ Truth

- *Is the Bible accurate? If the Creation story is not true, how about the rest of the Bible? What happens when you start editing the Bible?*

▪ God's Character

- *Did He use a lot of mutations to make us or, are we His special creation?*

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

John 1:1-5,9 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. That was the true Light, which gives light to every man coming into the world.

▪ God's Purposes

- *Why did He make us? Are we more special to Him than the animals?*

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

▪ God's relationship to His Creation

- *Can we really know Him personally or did He wind up the universe like a mechanical clock and let it go (Deism)?*

Matthew 10:27-31 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Ephesians 3:8-13 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

• Our beliefs regarding life's origin describe how we perceive ourselves, our fellow humans, and the rest of creation.

- *Do we put eternal value on our own life as well as the lives of others?*