

**Knowledge**  
creates dissonance and conflict

**Wisdom**  
resolves dissonance  
and results in virtue.



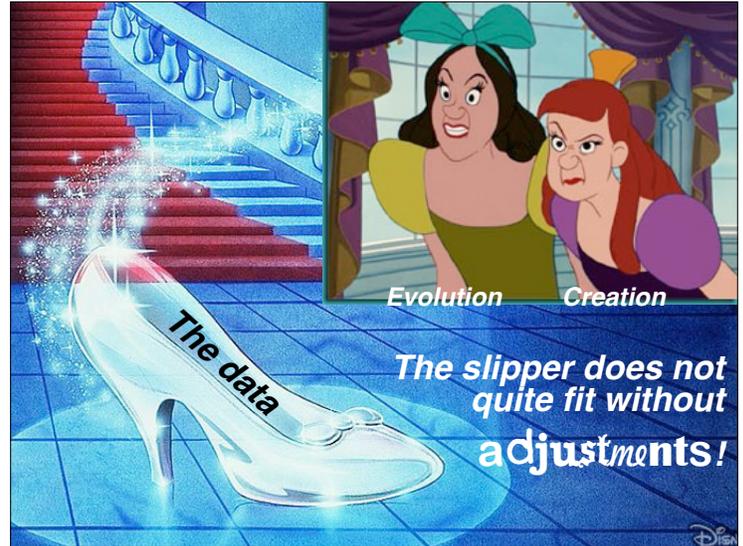
Proverbs 23:23

“Buy truth, and do not sell it.  
Get wisdom and instruction  
and understanding.”

Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the Lord is the  
beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom  
and discipline.”

- Wisdom and understanding are core Biblical values.
- Wisdom cannot be acquired from a worldview that excludes God.



### What do we mean by “Evolution?”

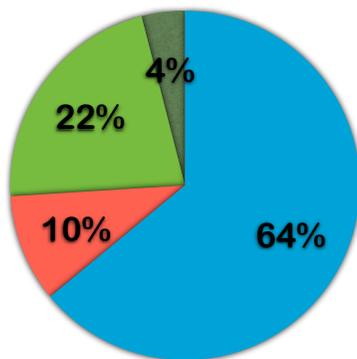
- **Molecular Evolution.** The development of organic life from inorganic matter.
- **Macro-Evolution.** The development of diverse kinds of life from simpler and very different kinds of life.
- **Micro-Evolution.** The development of variations within the same kind of life.

### The evidence for biological “macro” evolution

- **Microevolution** - Evolution can be observed on a small scale.
- **Fossil record** - There seems to be a progressive change upward through time as you look at the fossil evidence.
- **DNA** - All life shares a common building material.
- **Physical similarities** - Lower and higher forms of life share many similar physical features and characteristics.
- **Biogeography and Plate Tectonics** - Species development was effected by geography.
- **Practical usefulness** - This model has proven to be immensely useful in addressing some practical problems.
- **Naturalism** - This is the best materialistic (naturalistic) option.

### Beliefs of the general population in America

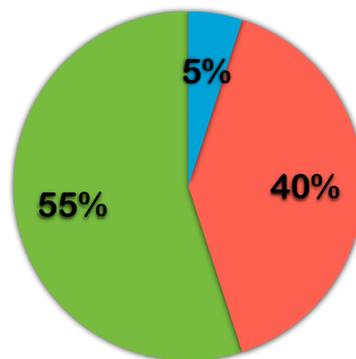
Harris Poll #52 2005



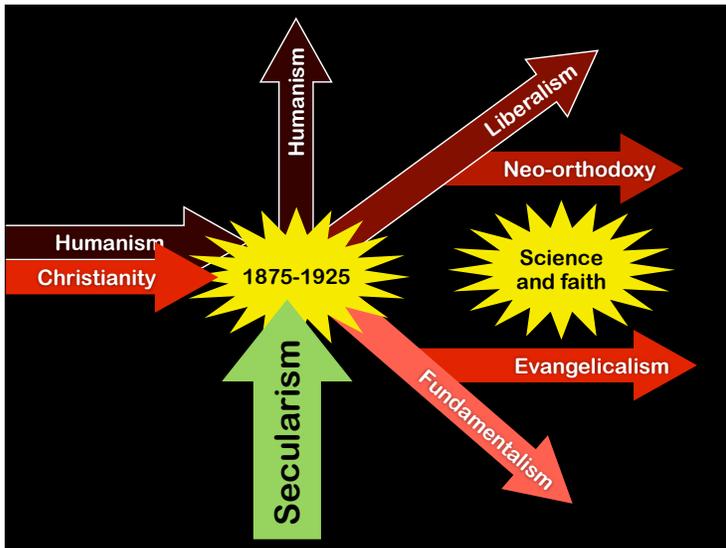
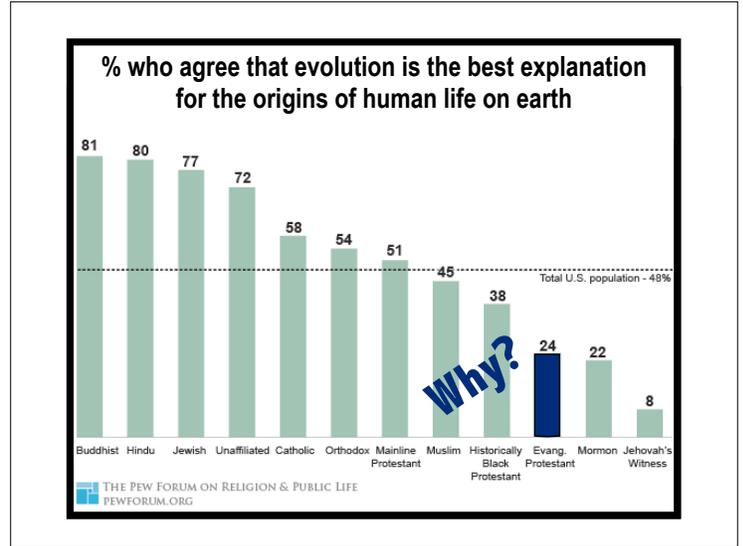
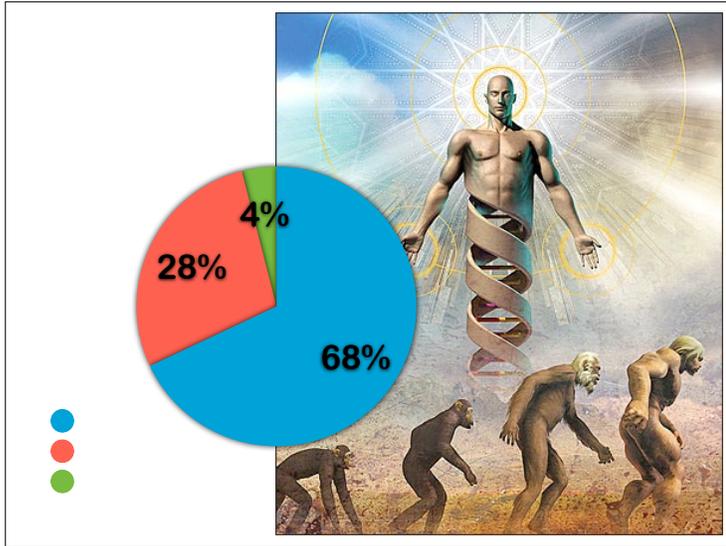
- Humans created directly by God
- Intelligent forces created humans
- Natural forces created humans
- Not sure

### Beliefs of Scientists in America

Gallup Poll 1997



- Young Earth Creationism
- God-guided Evolution
- Evolution without God



**Both sides tend to go too far in trying to remove the dissonance from their own views.**

<p><b>Theists</b></p> <p><b>“Evolutionists are driven by a narrow naturalistic bias!”</b></p> <p><b>“Keep science out of primary causes!”</b></p> <p><b>“You are anti God!”</b></p>	<p><b>Naturalists</b></p> <p><b>“Christians are driven by an irrational religious bias!”</b></p> <p><b>“Keep the Bible out of secondary means!”</b></p> <p><b>“You are anti science!”</b></p>
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**How do we view those who disagree with us?**

<p><b>“Could we be looking at the same data with different assumptions?”</b></p> <p><b>“All who embrace evolution reject the authority of Scripture and have sold out to naturalism.”</b></p>	<p><b>“Could we be using different definitions of science?”</b></p> <p><b>“All who criticize evolution reject science and lack intelligence, information, or integrity.”</b></p>
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## What do you see?



**Young girl?**

**Old woman?**

## Advice to the Naturalists

**Don't restrict truth and reason with narrow presuppositions.**

1. Leave room for forensic science.
2. Acknowledge assumptions.

**Don't overstate the support for a naturalistic explanation of a theory.**

1. Bio information & complexity
2. Fossil record
3. Accepted "Laws" of nature

## Advice to the Theists

**Don't let your understanding of Scripture exclude general revelation.**

1. Distinguish primary from secondary.
2. Be reasonable.
3. Respect general revelation.

**Don't overstate your fears and concerns.**

1. Confusing science with scientism.
2. Impugning motives.
3. Fearing reality / in defense of a fantasy.

## The Point

Evolutionary theory should be taught as the current working model in biology -

- but not without clarifying its narrow presuppositions and acknowledging its broad problems.



## The improbability of pure naturalism and blind chance producing -



➔ The origin of space, matter / energy, time.



➔ The origin of life from non-living elements.



➔ The origin of reproducible cells.



➔ The origin of self consciousness.

## What constitutes "primary causes" over against "secondary means?"

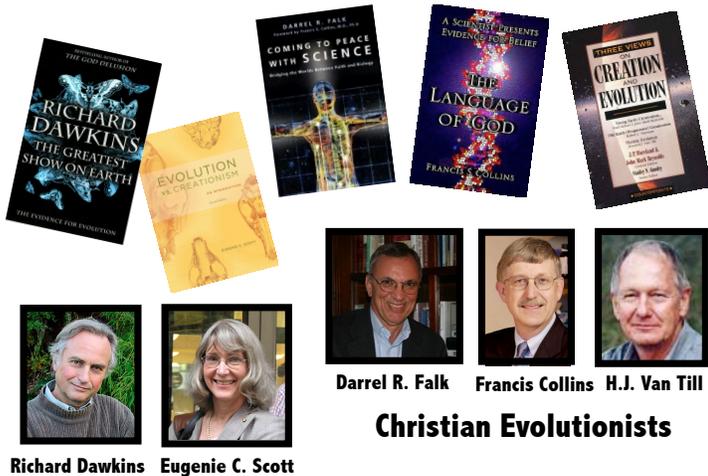
- The spiritual dimension** - immaterial.
- First cause** - creation of matter, life, man.
- Providence** - laws of nature.
- Purpose** - direction & end of nature & history.
- Miracles** - Interruption or manipulation of normal forces of nature.

## Mistakes to avoid

- Limit the domain of scientific inquiry.
- Define science too narrowly.
- Ignore the limits of human objectivity.
- Ignore the limitation of scientific investigation - tools, exposure, objectivity, assumptions, etc.
- Privatize (marginalize) theological understanding. Define reality and make decisions as though God did not exist or matter.

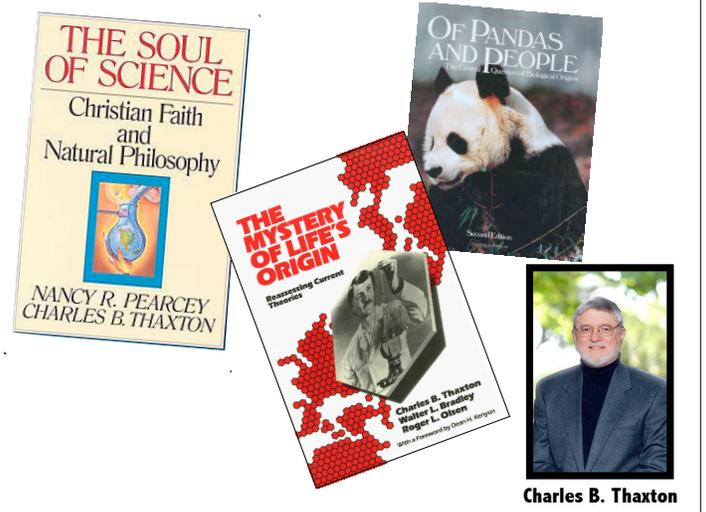
## Conclusions and implications

- Scientists must acknowledge the limited authority of science and stay within its bounds. The question of primary origins is not within the purview of science.
- Christians must not read more into the Biblical text than is warranted from a proper respect for human language and literary forms.
- Evolutionary theories are best critiqued by scientific reasoning which is honest, open, and objective.
- The human spirit (not the body) is the image bearing part of humanity (until the resurrection).
- **Discussions of human origin and nature should respect the above points.**

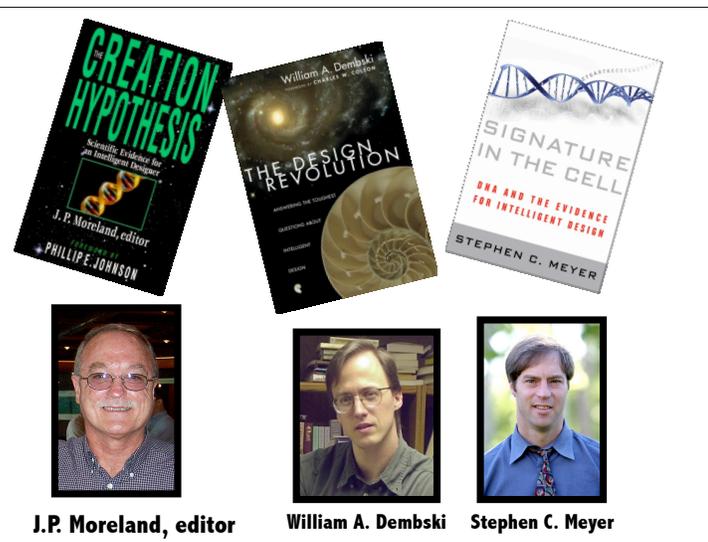


### Christian Evolutionists

Richard Dawkins Eugenie C. Scott



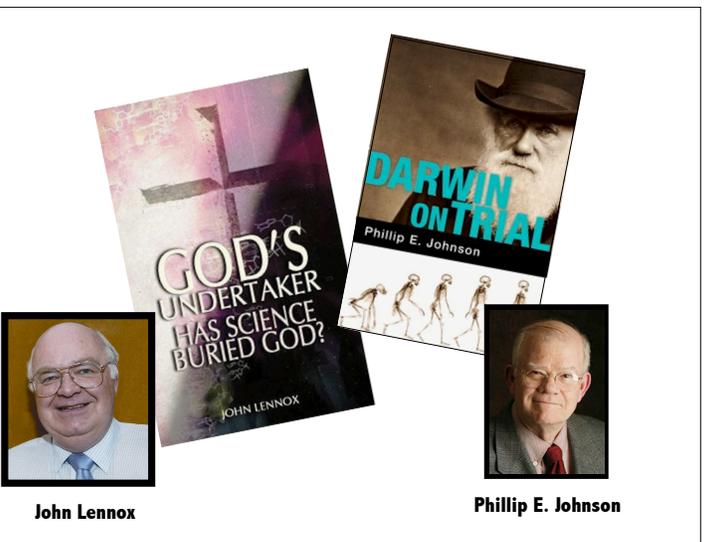
Charles B. Thaxton



J.P. Moreland, editor

William A. Dembski

Stephen C. Meyer



John Lennox

Phillip E. Johnson