

Knowledge
creates dissonance and conflict

Wisdom
resolves dissonance
and results in virtue.



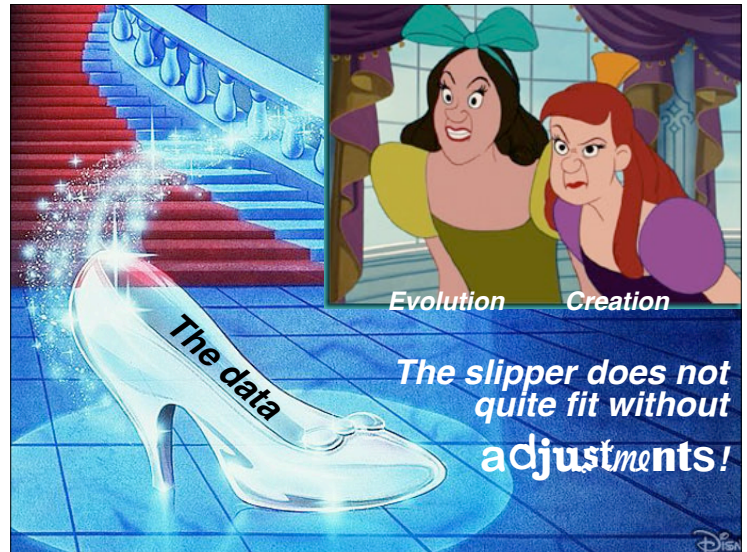
Proverbs 23:23

“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?”

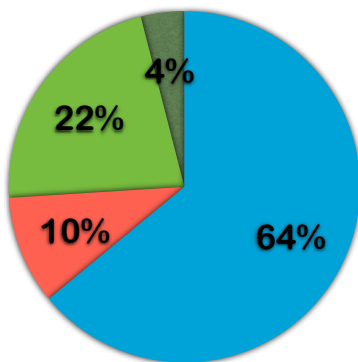
- **Molecular Evolution.** The development of organic life from inorganic matter.
- **Macro-Evolution.** The development of diverse kinds of life from simpler and very different kinds of life.
- **Micro-Evolution.** The development of variations within the same kind of life.

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

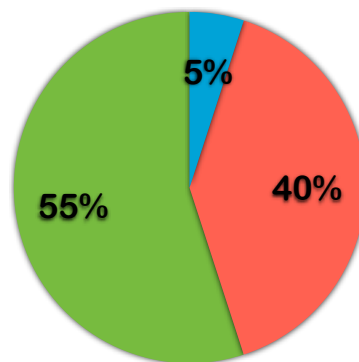
Harris Poll #52 2005



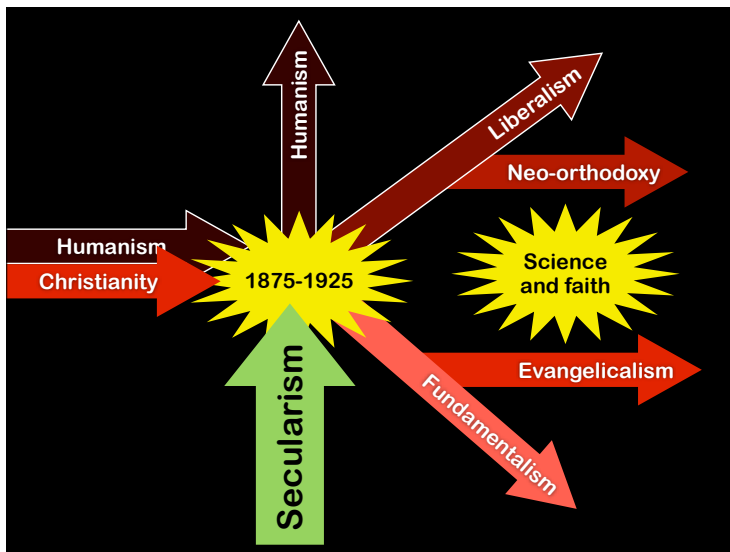
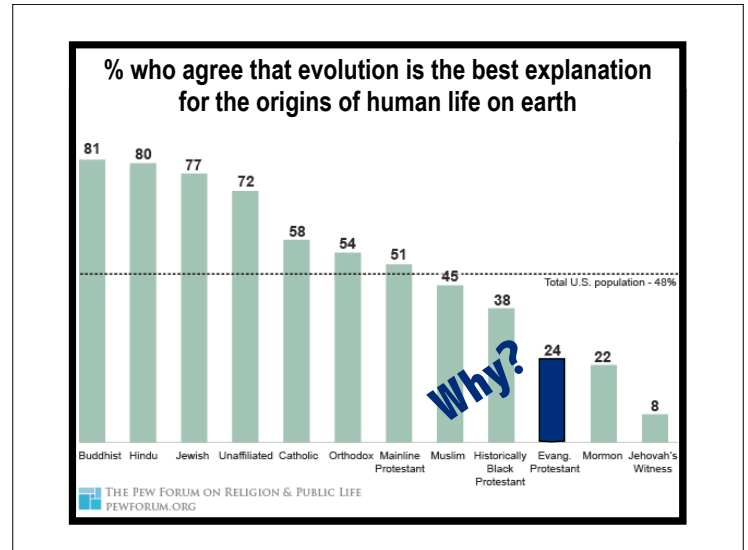
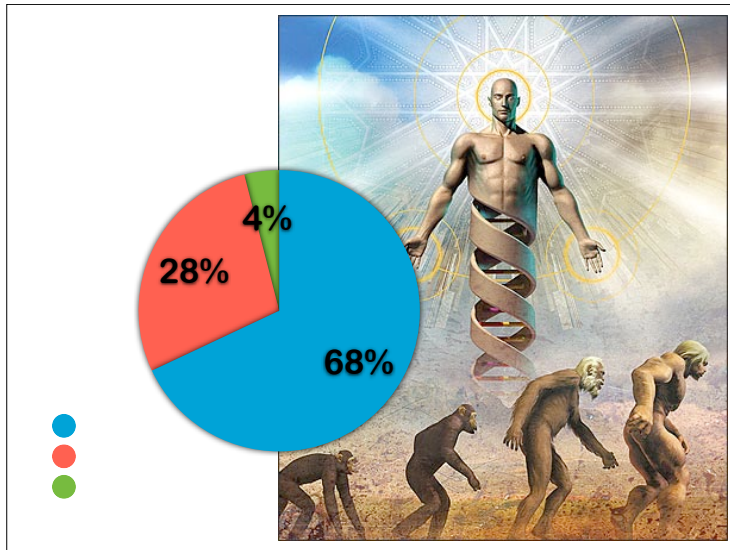
- Humans created directly by God
- Intelligent forces created humans
- Natural forces created humans
- Not sure

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.

Theists

"Evolutionists are driven by a narrow naturalistic bias!"

"Keep science out of primary causes!"

"You are anti God!"

Naturalists

"Christians are driven by an irrational religious bias!"

"Keep the Bible out of secondary means!"

"You are anti science!"

How do we view those who disagree with us?

"Could we be looking at the same data with different assumptions?"

"All who embrace evolution reject the authority of Scripture and have sold out to naturalism."

"Could we be using different definitions of science?"

"All who criticize evolution reject science and lack intelligence, information, or integrity."

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.

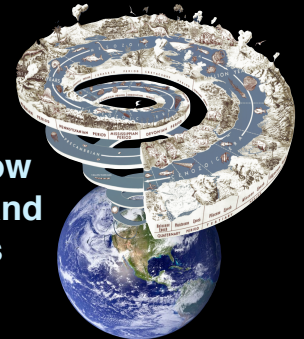
Don't overstate your fears and concerns.

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

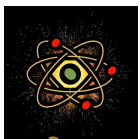
The Point

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.**

