

I attend a small, American, Christian school in the metropolis of São Paulo, Brasil. For the past few years I have struggled with the method that our school uses to teach the origins of life; a professing Christian teacher presents to us the theory of evolution as if it is the truth. I have witnessed many Christians be shaken in the faith because of the conflicting views that are presented in biology and Bible classes. I am thoroughly convinced that creation is the foundation for the Christian faith; therefore I chose to research the effects of Darwin's philosophy and present what has been burning in my heart for some time. Even though I was given limited time to condense my thoughts into one paper, I have been able to speak the truth in a formal manner to those in authority over me. Although I fought opposition to my beliefs during the writing process, God has confirmed His truth in my heart. My faith has been strengthened through researching the effects of naturalism; it has become painfully apparent to me how vital creation is to the Christian beliefs. I have been able to express the reality of God's hand in six-day creation to several of my classmates who are uncertain about what is truth. One had forcefully declared that God created somehow, whether by creation or evolution, and it didn't really matter what you believed. Through reading my paper I believe the importance of believing in literal six-day creation was pointed out and the implications of evolution were revealed. My classmate has since expressed that he has been forced to reevaluate his view of the origins of life; I trust God will work in my school by expressing His truth.

# Naturalism in Modern Society

Emily Zuercher

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Emily K. Zuercher

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### Naturalism in Modern Society

Euthanasia, Nazism, moral decline, and abortion can all be attributed to the naturalistic doctrine behind evolution. Darwin's naturalistic ideology and evolutionary hypothesis are no longer confined to historical science in the classroom, but are now implemented into society as the basis for this generation's religion and moral standards. God's presence is no longer acknowledged in science and society as a whole; it is being replaced by mere ideas from man's finite imagination and an attempt to justify his actions through the natural world. The once criticized *Origin of the Species* is now firmly established not only into the modern world of biology but also into societies current belief system, and is accepted as the only adequate explanation for life on earth. Naturalism has rapidly become the foundation for this generation's ethical beliefs and it is shaping the minds of young people around the world. Therefore, it is the Christian's job to speak the truth in love to the unbelieving world by advocating for the truth of God's moral standard and by exposing the masked ~~the~~ implication of the Darwinian worldview.

Science is classified into two distinct categories: operational and historical. The former can be systematically observed, tested, repeated, and proven; the latter is an interpretation of evidence based on philosophical beliefs and presuppositions <sup>??</sup> (25). Historical science is the analysis of old evidence that cannot be proved; it is based purely on suppositions and theories of what might have occurred. Today, evolution is being accepted as a confirmed fact of operational science even though little testable evidence has been found. Just as testing or current

observations cannot prove evolution, Biblical creation also cannot be confirmed in this manner. The doctrine of creation is credible, however, because the God of the universe was present and instrumental at the beginning of the world and recorded the events of it in His Word for man. Six-day literal creation has to be accepted purely by faith, just as the naturalistic explanation also requires a “giant leap of faith” (MacArthur 11). This makes both views of the origins of life a part of *historical science*; for neither creation nor evolution’s validity can *scientifically* be tested or disproved. However, contrary to this conclusion, evolution is being taught in the classroom as if it is a product of operational science, which implies that its scientific authority should not be challenged.

Creationism is a historical theory based on religious and philosophical presuppositions that God is the creator; in the same way, evolution reflects the naturalistic belief that formed its foundation (Ham). Naturalism, as defined in Roger Patterson’s *Evolution Exposed*, is “the doctrine that scientific laws are adequate to account for all phenomena.”(22). Evolution, at its core, is the product of the naturalistic belief system; it is an explanation of evidence, using science as its justification, which explains life on earth yet excludes the possibility of any influence from God (20). This is contrary to Christian theology, which is grounded on the fact that God is the one responsible for creation and upholding it (Hebrews 11:3).

Naturalism is the ~~worship~~<sup>interesting!</sup> of natural laws and ultimately self. It becomes the god that backs Darwinian evolution and is responsible for creating life as it is observed on earth. Nature is made to be an all-powerful and self-sustaining god. Hence creation and evolutionary natural selection cannot coexist for both require a separate god and sustainer; this is either God Almighty or Mother Earth. Natural selection, in and of itself, is the evolutionary process that steps into God’s place in upholding creation (Parker). The big bang theory replaces God in the

beginning of time, and evolution, by means of natural selection, is the explanation given for the origin of life. Either God created everything in the beginning and is still upholding his creation or nature spontaneously brought itself into existence and is directing its own course apart from any influence by a supernatural being (Colson and Pearcey 90). Thus, man is attempting to remove God from science and his knowledge as a whole by using a naturalistic explanation for everything through evolution and natural selection. Originally, science simply meant "knowledge"; this is the same word that is used in the original Greek text of the letter to the Romans (Patterson 22). Romans 1:28 states, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things which are not fitting." (NKJV) It is vital that the Christian must see the distinction between the two deities and take a stand supporting the fundamental beliefs given by his God.

- good  
creation/nature  
contrast

- strong  
conclusion

When the theory of evolution begins to nullify God, His Word also begins to be discredited (Colson and Pearcey 32). Since God is being completely removed from everything remotely related to the origins of life, a literal reading of Genesis 1:1 cannot be accepted as truth. Yet creation is the basis of the Christian faith; just as evolution and the big bang are the basis for naturalism (Colson and Pearcey 24). Once the foundation is removed, there is no belief left to stand on. If the Bible cannot be taken as truth, from its first words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," it is difficult for any part of it to be accepted as the literal truth (Morris). Lacking ~~in~~ this faith, the word of God thus becomes so riddled with errors and missing links in theology that there is no conceivable way that it can be the spoken word of the Most High God (Pearcey). This is an extremely dangerous position for a Christian. The cornerstone of his beliefs has been removed; he therefore has to determine when and where to start believing the Bible as the realistic truth (MacArthur 21). Discernment must then be used to determine whether the

Genesis account is a blatant lie, solely a metaphorical relation of the actual events, or the accurate history of the occurrence. Accordingly, if creation is then understood as a metaphorical event, the question is, does one believe in the literal story of the Flood, the tower of Babel, the Virgin Birth, or even Christ's resurrection (Patterson 215)? Thus, the Bible loses all its authoritative power and God's truthfulness is put into question. If these precious first words of the most read book in the world cannot be believed, it is challenging to trust the validity of the remainder of the book and the reliability of the God presented in the first few chapters. The implications of this are staggering.

If God is dead (<sup>-1</sup>in society), as Nietzsche philosophized and modern science is attempting to realize, then morals are also dead, along with all other Christian-based philosophies (MacArthur 16). Absolute values and rules exist purely because of God's standard for His creation; without God as the basis for ethics, man is left to decide what is right or wrong by his own discernment. An article in *Creation ex nihilo* expresses this thought by saying "without the Creator God of the Bible, no consistent basis for ethics is possible - morality is 'just another opinion'" (*New Scientist*). If indeed God is no longer part of the picture, moral and ethical accountability have become completely relative and groundless. Man's natural desire is to be in control and not to be held accountable to anyone. Jeffrey Dahmer, a notorious serial killer, made this painfully clear with a statement made shortly before his execution:

"If a person doesn't think that there is a God to be accountable to, then what's the point of trying to modify your behavior to keep it within acceptable ranges? I always believed the theory of evolution as truth that we all just came from the slime. When we died, you know, that was it, there is nothing, and I've since come

to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly God, and I believe that I, as well as everyone else, will be accountable to Him.”

Society is rejecting the idea of absolute truth and is readily embracing Darwin’s theory because it gives them an excuse to reject God’s moral standard and therefore clear their consciences (Colson and Pearcey 87). John MacArthur affirms that, “thanks to the theory of evolution, naturalism is now the dominant religion of modern society.” Christianity, more specifically creationism, ultimately means that man must take responsibility for his actions. For this reason, naturalism has been adopted by so many people today in an attempt to rid themselves of God’s absolute truths and concrete moral standard. MacArthur eloquently affirmed, “Evolution is simply the latest means our fallen race has devised in order to suppress our innate knowledge and the biblical testimony that there is a God and we are accountable to Him.” (p. 4)

Without God as the foundation for beliefs and morality, man is viewed as solely a result of a mindless evolutionary process (Patterson 219). Humans simply become a highly evolved blob of bacteria with no soul, eternal life, or purpose whatsoever (Colson and Pearcey 131). This view of humanity becomes the very basis for the modern naturalistic worldview that the human life is of minimal value. This naturalistic view ultimately leads to horrible atrocities such as abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and even the Holocaust (Weikart). With this belief, life is considered worthless and expendable at a mother’s will or the person’s own whim (Colson and Pearcey 132). A baby becomes an organism that is not fit to live because of the inconvenience it may cause or because of the life it may be forced to live (132). An invalid or a person with a severe handicap is encouraged to end their life to save their caretaker’s precious time or money and therefore no longer be a burden to society (MacArthur 17). The Bible teaches that life is sacred; by popularizing the practices previously mentioned life is no longer valued and is taken

for granted. These can be seen as examples of Darwin's "survival of the fittest" and social Darwinism taken to extreme measures (Colson and Pearcey 133). If this is what Darwinism is ultimately promoting, it should be combated by not only Christians, but all people who value life.

Many modern moral catastrophes have been radically based on the teachings of Darwin taken so literally that the value of human life is diminished to that of a mindless beast within the evolutionary system. Kossmann, a prominent Nazi and supporter of Darwinism, firmly believed in the Aryan superiority and thus declared, "The Darwinian worldview must look upon the present sentimental conception of the value of the life of the human individual as an overestimate completely hindering the progress of humanity ... The state only has an interest in preserving the more excellent life at the expense of the less excellent" (quoted in Weikart). When God is no longer acknowledged as the creator of man, all sanctity of life is lost.

Communism is deeply rooted in Darwinism, through Marxist beliefs. Karl Marx was a devout follower of Darwin's philosophies and referred to *The Origin of the Species* as the "the book which contains the basis in natural history for our view" (MacArthur 15). Stalin adopted the Marxist ideas, and through his communist leadership millions of citizens died. An article by the Charles Darwin Research Institute recounted that Darwin's cousin, Sir Francis Galton, built on the evolution concepts and thus concluded that the African people's "average mental ability" was lower than that of the white European. The apartheid in South Africa used this concept for supporting the social discrimination between the Caucasian and African races. Although this is the idea of social Darwinism taken to the most radical level, it proves, nonetheless, the extent of the naturalistic worldview when it is fully embraced and the existence of God is nullified (Patterson 212). "The simple fact of the matter is that all the philosophical fruits of Darwinism

scary  
stuff!!



have been negative, ignoble, and destructive to the very fabric of society. The moral catastrophe that has disfigured modern Western society is also directly traceable to Darwinism and the rejection of the early chapters of Genesis," remarks John MacArthur in response to the blood shed and slaughter brought about by Stalin, Hitler, and Nietzsche's doctrine and handiwork.

Darwin's theories that were once applied exclusively to biological science have rocked the world <sup>to?</sup> on its fundamental values of life, ethics, and morality. Darwin has become the founding father of modern religion and his idea of the survival of the fittest has had catastrophic effects on the sanctity of life. The moral foundation for this generation has switched from God to Darwin and naturalism is rapidly taking hold of the minds of scientists and students alike. Furthermore, naturalism is being promoted in every aspect of society and the classroom, and is rapidly becoming the model for this generation's way of reasoning, its perspective on life, and the foundation for its religious beliefs. This generation of students must take a stand combating the blind acceptance of Darwin's ideology and the moral dilemma it creates by eliminating God and devaluing life. ✓

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