

Geiger, Jennifer

From: Hokit, David
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To: Addis, John; Alvey, Samuel; Geiger, Jennifer; Schendel, Marilyn
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There are two misconceptions at the heart of the evolution/creationism debate. First, many individuals incorrectly assume that evolution is incompatible with being a person of faith. Second, many individuals incorrectly assume that creation "science" is a scientific alternative to evolutionary theory.

Evolutionary theory is not a theological doctrine and is meant to explain observable patterns in nature. Science is limited to what is observable and measurable and cannot address issues of faith. Without compromising their faith traditions, many individuals (including clergy) accept evolution as a mechanistic explanation of how living organisms change through time.

Conversely, creation "science" is no more scientific than evolution is a theological proclamation. Science is a process of measuring natural (not supernatural) phenomena to test assumptions (hypotheses). But the primary assumption of creation science is a supernatural event. It is impossible to test creationism using scientific means because the mechanisms (supernatural events) are not measurable. How does one measure whether or not we are created in the likeness of God? Science does not preclude the existence of a creator, nor can it prove the existence of one.

By suggesting many testable (measurable) predictions, evolution has withstood the test of time. After more than 150 years of testing, the evolution concept has been elevated from the status of a working hypothesis to the level of theory... the most fundamental theory of modern biology. In fact, evolutionary theory pervades applied fields of biology such as medicine, agriculture, and forestry. How else can we explain changes that result in drug and pesticide resistance? Without evolution, annual flu shots would not be necessary.

Four hundred years ago, religious dogma attacked the findings of a scientist named Galileo. Now it is universally accepted that the Earth revolves around the Sun and not the reverse. Both Galileo's concept and religious faith survived this confrontation. Inevitably, both evolution and religion will continue to survive. For the success of future generations, it is critical that we allow access to books that contain the prevailing view of science.

We teach the prevailing view of science.

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