

BIOLOGY AND RELIGION

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- 1) History**
- 2) Evolution**
 - a) Both Fact and Theory**
 - b) What is the theory of evolution?**
 - i) First of all, evolution is change, but the question is: what is the mechanism of this change?**
 - ii) Natural selection acting upon variation in a population**
 - iii) Change in gene frequency in a population**
 - c) Evidence**
 - i) Biogeography**
 - ii) Embryology**
 - iii) Anatomy**
 - iv) Fossil Record**
 - v) Molecular Biology**
 - vi) Genetics**
 - vii) Geology**
 - viii) Astronomy**
 - d) Dangerous Ideas That Have Been Attributed to Darwin**
 - i) Common ancestry**
 - ii) Rules out the role of a creator to direct change**
 - iii) Survival of the fittest: Social Darwinism**
 - iv) Reductionism**
 - v) Design can emerge from mere order**
 - e) Darwin and Paley**
 - f) Arguments against evolution (alternatives)**
 - i) Creationism (Young Earth Creationism, Old Earth Creationism, etc.)**
 - ii) “Intelligent Design Theory”**

- g) **Problems for both science and religion**
 - i) **Science: What is Science?**
 - ii) **Religion: Trivializes God**
 - (1) **God the Charlatan**
 - (2) **God the Magician**
 - (3) **God the Mechanic**
 - (4) **Gods of Disbelief**

- 3) **What is the real problem?**
 - a) **Literal interpretation of the Bible**
 - b) **Adam & Eve**
 - c) **The Fall**
 - d) **Original Sin**

- 4) **Is there resolution?**
 - a) **John Paul II**
 - b) **Respect of magisteria**
 - c) **Grown-up version of God**

- 5) **Process and a changing view of God**
 - a) **Whitehead**
 - b) **Hartshorne**
 - c) **Teilhard de Chardin**
 - i) **The whole universe is in evolution.**
 - ii) **There is a clear direction to the cosmic evolutionary story.**
 - iii) **During the course of evolution, consciousness has grown in direct proportion to the increase in organized physical complexity.**
 - d) **John Haught**
 - i) **We have to reconcile a God who suffers versus the OT views of an omnipotent God!**
 - ii) **God has a vision, not a plan.**

- 6) **Back to evolution!**
 - a) **September 2004: International Theological Commission issued *Communion and Stewardship***

- 7) **Science, biology, evolution are not evil and have contributed significantly to our understanding of the natural world and the well-being of our fellow human beings: in fact if we resort to what is**

currently being proposed to replace the fact of evolution we come up with “Religion’s Dangerous Idea.”

- a) “Catholic educators need better teaching programs about evolution to correct the anti-evolution biases that Catholics pick up from the general society, according to a US bishop official involved in dialogue with scientists for 20 years.”**
- b) “Without a church view of human creation that is consistent with currently accepted scientific knowledge, Catholicism may begin to seem less and less realistic to more and more thoughtful people,” said David Byers, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Science and Human Values from 1984 to 2003.**

8) Conclusion

- a) Darwin’s challenge may be a gift to theology**