

Facts of the Faith (1)

Acts 17:22-28

--Intro

John 8:32 “And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

I Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you....”

Paul was in the middle of:

Epicureans—atheists—those who believed that matter (substance that makes up any physical object) is all there is and that it is eternal and has no creator.

Stoics—everything was God (He couldn't have created Himself)—Similar to pantheists—Hindu.

Mankind for years has been trying to answer three questions:

1. Where did I come from?
2. Why am I here?
3. Where am I going?

“Science has tried to answer the first question, philosophy wrestles with the second, but only the Christian faith can answer all three!”

I. God is the Ultimate Creator!

A) Where did we come from?

Evolutionist: You are a product of evolution. Thousands/ millions of years/ humans branched off from their common ancestor chimpanzees 5-7 million years ago.

Fact: Evolutionists have failed to produce a missing link.

Fact: Evolution cannot be repeated, tested, or observed.

Evolutionist: Evolution is a process of mutation, but that does not explain the higher complexities of man. (Intellect, ability to reason, abstract thought, sense of humor, spirit—only humans have a spiritual dimension like God and the angels).

Where did we come from?

Fact: The bible answers that question completely.

Vs 24a, 25b “God, who made the world and everything in it....²⁵.... He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”

Latin—Ex-Ni-Hilo—From nothing!

Vs 26 “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth,”

Genesis 1:26-27 ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;..... ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

B) Where did life come from?

Evolutionists: Failed to explain the origin of life.

Fact: The bible answers that question!!!

Vs 26 “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth,”

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Zechariah 12:1 “Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:”

Life is no accident or coincidence.

Illustration: Psych--Genes

II. God is a Sovereign Creator!

Vs 26b, 27 “and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...27...so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;”—explain

: A little boy was walking home from and he was enjoying the wonders of creation. He held a caterpillar, blew the parachute-like seeds of a fluffy milk weed, and spotted a bird's nest high in a tree.

His neighbor asked him where he had been on such a fine day. “Sunday school,” the boy replied. “I've learned about God.”

The man said, “That's a fine way to spend the day, but I will give you a quarter if you can tell me where God is.”

The boy quickly replied, “I'll give you a dollar if you can tell me where God ain't”.

A) Why am I here?

Evolutionist: Evolution cannot give purpose or meaning to life/ Evolution fails to explain the reason and purpose for man's existence.

Fact: The bible again answers this question!

Elohim—Genesis 1:1-2:3; Hb—plural from of El. Usually viewed as the plural of majesty. Reflects the transcendence of God. Points to the power and majesty of Creator God!!! High above Creation!!!!

Yahweh—Hb verb—hayah—“to be.” Eternally existing quality of God, all sufficient & relational aspects of God. Genesis 2:4-4:26—relation to creation, especially to man.

Adonai—Jews would not pronounce God's name, (YHWH) substitute—my Lord, my Master.

You are here because:

1. God wants you to search for and find Him so that you can have a relationship/ fellowship with Him. (He has sought us out)!
2. He wants to use us to advance His kingdom of people! Glorify God.

How has God revealed Himself to us?

a. Natural revelation

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament (expanse of heaven) shows His handiwork.”

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,

Romans 2:14 “for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law...15..who show the work of the law written on their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.....”

b. Special revelation

Hebrews 1:1-2 “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom He made the worlds;”

B) How were you made?

Psalms 139:13-14 “For You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother’s womb...14...I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Psalms 139:15 “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me.....” -- meaning—special.

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”-- purpose

C) Where am I going?

Vs 31 “He has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Story: Combining the sharpness of the Hubble Space Telescope with the light-collecting ability of the W.M. Keck Telescope, a team of astronomers has discovered a galaxy an estimated 13 billion light-years away, the farthest to date. Bright, dense knots of massive stars power this galaxy, the brightest of which is 10 million times as powerful as our sun. Named the Pistol Star for the shape of the gas cloud that surrounds it, it releases the same amount of energy in 6 seconds that the sun puts out in year.

God formed every galaxy and every object in each one, however, **the greatest creation is you!!!**

III. Further discrepancies with Evolution.

Evolutionists: Argue that things are going from a less ordered state to a more ordered state.

This is contradictory for two reasons:

- A)** Contradicts the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (most well-

established principles in science), which states, “that the natural tendency is for things to go from a more ordered to less ordered state. Strong witness against evolution.

Illustration: My baseball glove is deteriorating as we speak...it is aging and decaying rather than getting better.

Noted atheist, Isaac Asimov acknowledged that “as far as we know, all changes are in the direction of increasing disorder, of increasing randomness, of running down.

Strobel, “It is quite easy to understand why so many scientists have changed their minds in the last thirty years, agreeing that the universe cannot reasonably be explained as a cosmic accident...Evidence for an intelligent designer becomes more compelling the more we understand about our carefully crafted habitat.”

Anthony Flew, “one of the world’s leading atheists, converted to philosophical theism, saying on Fox News: “My whole life has been guided by the principle; Follow the evidence, where ever it leads. A super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature.”

- B)** To the evolutionary humanist, if man is getting better, why does it appear that we are getting worse?

Observation: The reason people choose to believe in evolution they don’t want to be accountable to God...the One who made them.

How to defend your position as a Christian:

- A)** Use science to help defend your position, and then move to biblical truth. 2nd Law of Thermodynamics, mutation!

- B)** Use love in your defense!!! Avoid “going off” on someone!!!
- C)** Be willing to listen to their position, and then in return ask them to listen to yours.
- D)** Avoid be offended if they reject your position!!
- E)** Always pray before your opportunity!!!
- F)** Ask God for the ability to present the truth!