



Did God Use Evolution To Create Human Beings?

by Jeffrey D. Breshears

Truth Matters

All truth matters, but some truths matter more than others. What matters most about human beings is that we have been created in the image of God and endowed with an eternal soul. Like God, we have personality, a phenomenon that entails five attributes: (1)Self-consciousness and self-awareness; (2)Self-determination – the capacity (within certain limitations) to think and act independently and to exercise free will; (3)Intelligence – the capacity to acquire knowledge and to think rationally, critically, and creatively; (4)A sense of moral consciousness and the capacity for discerning good and evil; and (5)An innate sense of God-consciousness.

The Fundamental Questions

These five properties are unique to our soul, not to our body. In that respect, it does not matter so much how we got our body, since the crucial element that makes us human is our soul. But to concede the point that how we got our body is of secondary importance does not imply that it is *unimportant*.

All Christians believe that human beings have been created in the image of God. But when it comes to the issue of human origins, Christians hold to one of three positions: Young Earth Creationism (YEC), Old Earth Special Creationism (OESC), and Theistic Evolution (TE – also called Evolutionary Creationism).

For the Christian, there are three criteria that have to be considered regarding this and other science-related issues: (1)Is a particular position philosophically tenable (or theoretically possible)? (2)Is it scientifically credible – i.e., is there sufficient scientific evidence for this view? and (3)Is it biblically and theologically supportable?

Regarding the three aforementioned positions that Christians hold on human origins, all are philosophically tenable. After all, if God wanted to create all life forms instantaneously in a single 24-hour

day, he is certainly capable of doing so. Likewise, if God chose to use evolutionary processes to create human beings over a period of hundreds of millions of years, it is no less a miracle. But the question isn't whether a view is theoretically possible, but does it correlate to our best scientific evidence, and is it compatible with a reasonable interpretation of the Genesis creation account? For a view to be credible, it must meet all three criteria.

The controversy over human origins may not be the most pressing issue facing the church today, but the truth of the matter nonetheless has important ramifications. On October 3rd the Areopagus will sponsor a forum featuring two of the foremost Christian proponents of Old Earth Special Creationism and Theistic Evolution – **Dr. Fazale Rana** of Reasons To Believe and **Dr. Darrel Falk** of the BioLogos Foundation. This is a unique opportunity to hear the best arguments both for and against each position in a civil but uncompromising exchange of views, and to decide for yourself which position best correlates to the scientific facts as we know them and an honest and faithful interpretation of Scripture.



The Areopagus Calendar

Seminars

**Christianity Thru the Centuries
Part II: The Apostolic Age To
Constantine (c. 33-313 AD)**

Sundays
11:15 AM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 321

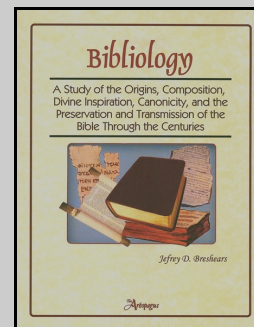
Bibliology

**A Study of the Origins, Composition,
Divine Inspiration, Canonicity,
Preservation and Transmission of the
Bible Through the Centuries**

Why should we believe the Bible was divinely-inspired, and how do we know it has been accurately preserved and transmitted through the centuries?

Tuesdays
7:15 PM

Perimeter Church / Midtown Auditorium



**How Should We Now Live?
The Challenges and Opportunities of
Living in a 'Post-Christian' America**

An interactive seminar in cultural apologetics that focuses on the current state of American culture.

Wednesdays
7:00 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church / Room 105

Areopagus Profiles

Areopagus board members and associates

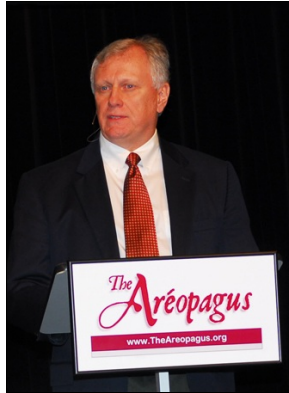
Jim Motter

I was raised one of six children in a traditional American family in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I attended a Baptist Church until the age of eleven, but soon thereafter developed a disinterest in Christianity which lured me away from the faith. I was no atheist, nor an agnostic, but I was an “apatheist” and my digression lasted several decades.

Thankfully, my spiritual wandering did not go unchallenged. My return to faith has been rich with spiritual encounters, including: an evening with a mysterious minister, a series of meetings with a brilliant Catholic priest and the great blessing of knowing Dr. Frank Harrington of Peachtree Presbyterian Church, one of the nation’s truly great preachers. It was Dr. Harrington who convinced me that belief is not a matter of blind faith, but involves imagination and reasoning. It was Dr. Harrington who also introduced me to the writings of great thinkers who just happened to be Christian. This included C.S. Lewis, but also G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy Sayers, Francis Schaeffer and others. He made church sermons resonate with truth.

My passion in life is to introduce people to the life and writings of Lewis. My teaching emphasis is on Lewis’ great masterpieces: especially *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain* and *The Great Divorce*. And I have built

similar college-level courses, one on Lewis’ uncommon multi-faceted genius and another on his profound views on epistemology, or “how we know things.”



Like C.S. Lewis, my hope is to convince new readers to search for truth with an open and engaged mind and to consider the eternally valid insights of history’s greatest thinkers with

eyes untainted by “chronological snobbery.” I consider C.S. Lewis to be the most erudite person in the history of Western civilization, and I see his extraordinary writings as the “Cliffs Notes of the Wisdom of the Ages.” If his role was to “distill” wisdom, my intent is to “unpack” Lewis for those interested in knowing the thoughts of one widely-considered to be the greatest Christian apologist of the 20th century.

As an Associate Director of The Areopagus, I am thankful for the opportunity to teach and work with this Atlanta-based apologetics organization.



Areopagus Associates

As an independent and self-sustaining ministry, the Areopagus depends upon the financial support of our Associates – those who value our ministry and contribute financially to help us expand our outreach in the metro-Atlanta area.

If you would like to partner with us as an Areopagus Associate, we welcome your involvement and value your support.

For more information please visit our website:
www.TheAreopagus.org

The Areopagus Calendar

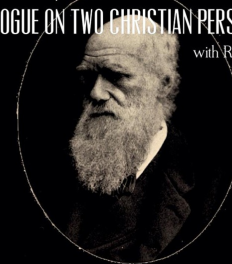
Forums

The Debate Over Human Origins

The Areopagus

Christian Study Center presents:

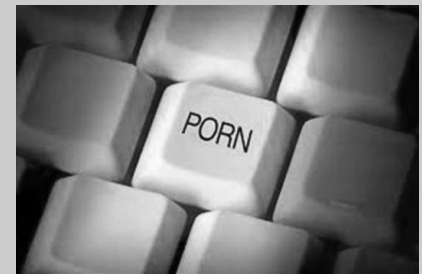
DID GOD USE EVOLUTION TO CREATE HUMAN BEINGS?
A DIALOGUE ON TWO CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES



with Reasons to Believe
and BioLogos

— Thursday, October 3rd —
7:00 PM
Perimeter Church
Fellowship Hall

Pornography, Sex-Trafficking, and the Church



What every Christian needs to know... and what we can do

A special presentation by
The True Intimacy Project

— Thursday, November 21st —
7:30 PM
Perimeter Church
Midtown Auditorium

www.TheAreopagus.org

