

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online
- B. **Series-** We all have questions and doubts
 - 1. Doubts are good and normal
 - 2. Doubt is part of being human
 - 3. Asking questions is the key to growth.
 - a. Kids
 - 4. Especially true with spiritual growth.
 - 5. **Doubt is often a catalyst for a deeper, more complete, and more genuine spiritual life.**
 - 6. **My experience...** every new milestone was preceded by doubts and questions.
- C. But often the place people turn to to find insight into life's biggest questions sees doubt and questions as dangerous even wrong and sinful.
 - 1. The church is often defensive or hostile when it comes to hard questions and honest doubts.
 - a. 2011- over 1/3 of people 18-29 who have a xian background said, "I don't feel that I can ask my most pressing life questions in church."
 - 2. So people are left hanging, looking for answers or just giving up entirely and moving on with their life.
 - 3. Your experience?

- D. Why this series is so important.
 - 1. **The church should be a place that invites doubt and welcomes questions.**
 - 2. We are not going to answer every question...
 - 3. But want to create a culture where questions are taken seriously and encouraged.
 - 4. And hopefully create a framework through which we can search for answers together.
- E. BUT...
 - 1. We have to be willing to find/accept an answer.
 - 2. Asking questions with no desire for an answer is pointless
- 3. Prov. 18:2**
 - a. Sounds a bit like both sides of the impeachment hearings?
 - 4. Asking questions but refusing to follow where the answers lead is like...
 - 5. Fishing with no hook, changing the channel with no batteries in the remote... pointless.
 - 6. **Questions are supposed to lead to growth... not reinforce our opinions.**
 - 7. "Isn't it true the president is a bad man... or did nothing wrong?"
- F. Ground Rule...
 - 1. **We can disagree and still be in the same family.**
 - 2. You can disagree and still be a full participant in Crosscreek

II. WE

A. When it comes to searching for answers... one of the most common questions is about Origins.

1. Where did all of this... and US come from? Why? How?
2. And in the U.S. we are usually given two answers to pick from... What the Bible says OR what Science says.
3. **Bible-** God did it in 6 days no more than 10,000 yrs ago. Everything was created in its current form.
4. **Science-** The universe exploded into existence about 13.8 billion years ago and life on earth (probably elsewhere) has been evolving through natural processes for about 4 billion years.

B. And it's presented to us this way...

1. Science or Faith. Those are your choices. Pick one.
2. And once you pick... you are now enemies with people who picked differently.
3. Creationists are superstitious idiots who are ignoring the evidence and are the cause of most of society's problems
4. OR evolutionists are God hating idiots who are ignoring the evidence and are the cause of most of society's problems.

C. Truth- This is a fake war.

1. **Science and Christianity are not at war.**

2. Science studies the what and how.
3. Christianity explains the who and why.
4. Xian theology actually gave birth to modern science.
5. Why? Xianity is the only worldview, philosophy or religion that sees the world as having distinct form, complexity, and design.
6. So if there is a God who created the universe with order and laws... then an experiment done correctly today will have the same result as that experiment being done correctly 100 years ago or 100 yrs in the future
7. This idea of the universe having laws and being orderly is the basis of the scientific method and modern science.

8. **Science and Xianity perfectly compliment each other.**

D. Now the usual response is... "So they work together huh? Cute. So what about... the Bible saying..."

1. 6 days
2. Fully formed animals and planet
3. Adam and Eve
4. What do you do about that preacher boy?

E. Let's look at these writings and what they say about our origins... and I think we'll discover....

1. **The real question is not, "How are we here?" but, "Why are we here?"**

III. GOD

A. First off...

1. The Bible doesn't **SAY** anything
2. It is a collection of writings (we believe inspired by God) written by ancient Jews and less ancient Jesus-Followers.
3. These writings are not, and the writers never claim that they are, a scientific textbook.
4. The Biblical writings are a **theologically selective** telling of history that focuses on God and humans.
5. They do not tell us everything we **want** to know about our universe and history.
6. But they do tell us everything we **need** to know in order to know God and experience a new life through him.

B. **Genesis and Moses.**

1. Who is Moses?
2. Purpose for writing... Explaining who this God was that had rescued them and who THEY were in relationship to HIM

C. Gen 1:1

1. The general consensus among scientists is that the universe had a beginning... Big Bang
2. And for the most part they agree on what happened up to a fraction of a second AFTER the bang.
3. Nothing in the biblical writings disagree with that...
4. So agreement!!
5. The disagreement is usually over the next 33 verses.

D. 6 Days of Creation

1. Here's where it gets sticky and where some of you are going to want to argue with me.
2. Just like all literature there are different genres in the biblical writings.
3. History, poetry, tax codes, philosophy, ancient laws, biographies, travel journals...
4. If you read a genre the wrong way confusion ensues.
5. **Poetry-** Your eyes are like two gems shining into my heart.
 - a. Figurative words used to explain a real point
6. The disagreements arise b/c some see these verses as **history** while others see it as **poetry**.
7. Which is right? Don't know. We can ask Moses someday.
8. But... It is my conclusion and the conclusion of many that **most likely** ... b/c of the flow and the words used in the original Hebrew...
9. These verses are a poetry used to show the love and care God used in creating the perfect environment for the creation he loves... humans.
10. "It was good"... for whom? US!
11. Disagree? Awesome we're still friends and can both fully follow Jesus... B/C
12. Whether its history or poetry **the point of the creation story isn't HOW God created but that HE created BECAUSE he loves us**
13. "Sure ok Jon, you hippie, what about people... come from monkeys or from dust."

E. Sure.

1. Many options here... rough overview.
2. Adam and Eve are completely literal... first two people created by God all of human race descends from them.
 - a. Difficulties... not what the evidence shows
 - b. Why did God have to create a safe garden to put them in?
 - c. How long where they there?
 - d. Who is Cain afraid of? Who lived in the city he made?
3. Adam and Eve are simply literary devices to show us the love and care of God our Heavenly Father and show that our nature is to run from him.
 - a. Difficulties... doesn't explain why there is sin in the world
 - b. Difficulties with transition fossils... but no baby t.rexes either.
 - c. Jesus spoke as if they were real.
4. Adam and Eve were real people. Who either were the first evolved homo-sapiens to be given a soul
5. OR while they were in the garden the evolutionary process was going on the outside.
 - a. Difficulties- so death before the fall? Maybe physically?
6. You can believe in any of these... or others and still Follow-Jesus.

F. Domino Fears

1. "Well if we don't take the creation account literally we can't trust anything in the biblical writings."
 2. Why?
 3. If I write poetry and then I write history you can't take me literally? I can't be trusted because of this?
 4. Also, the first non-Jewish followers of Jesus didn't even have Moses' account of creation... yet still followed Jesus and changed the world... how? Why?
 5. B/c **Even if everything science shows about our origins is accurate... none of it changes the core of Xianity.**
- G. The core of Xianity is not HOW God created... the core of Xianity is not the Bible...
1. **The core of Xianity is Jesus.**
 2. The fact that 2000 yrs ago a man claimed to be God, the God who created everything.
 3. Who said God is not a distant force or an angry or uninterested or unknowable deity... but loves us like a true Heavenly Father.
 4. Who said, that through him, not through his teachings or your thoughts on science, you can have a new transforming life and a renewed relationship with your Heavenly Father
 5. And then proved all of it by saying he would die and rise again and then actually died and rose again and was seen by hundreds of people.
 6. Xianity doesn't rise or fall on whether or not Genesis is literal or not...
 7. Xianity rises and falls on the identity of Jesus.

IV. YOU

- A. The point of Genesis is to show that there is a God, who created you on purpose... to be loved by him.
- B. You are not an accident... you are known and you are loved.
- C. You were created to have a relationship with God.
- D. A relationship Jesus, God the Son, came and died for.
- E. A relationship he longs to restore if we choose to trust and follow him.
- F. God isn't asking you to understand how everything came to be... he is asking you to understand and accept ***why*** he created **YOU**...
- G. Maybe you're not even sure there is a God...
- H. Be open to what if... ask questions... maybe even try something
- I. "God I don't know if any of this is real, but if it is... if YOU are... will you please show me somehow this week?"
- J. And then be willing to look.

V. WE

- A. Xianity and science are not at war.
- B. The two can beautifully co-exist.
- C. **We may never fully understand how we were made... but Jesus is proof that we are loved by the one who made us.**

[Interesting reading if anyone is interested in reading. ;\)](#)