

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Christian Colleges and Evolution

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

It happened again! A couple recently shared an all too familiar story about their son. As is the case with far too many students, he had gone to a Christian university and by the time he graduated, he had abandoned his faith because of the teaching of evolution.

Many people probably have no idea what their Christian alma mater and other Christian colleges are doing that undermines the faith of their students. Parents and alumni pay big money to these universities, assuming that young people will receive a quality, Christian education. Although in many respects they do, far too frequently, students come home with their faith in question and their lives in shambles.

Why? Don't these universities have chapel services and Bible classes? Yes, of course they do. However, these classes and chapel messages are often watered down, compromise clear Biblical teaching, and do not really answer questions that young people have. To make matters worse,

many classes are taught in much the same way they would be in a secular university – lacking (or even attacking)

a sound, Biblical worldview. Evolution is commonly taught as truth and evidence for creation is minimized or banned altogether. Some of these colleges are quite open about their teaching of evolution (see page 3) while others do it in subtle, deceptive ways.


WorldMag.com posted an article in February 2014 entitled, "Most evangelical colleges teach evolution," by Marvin Olasky. Besides the title, a couple of sections from that article should greatly alarm those who are concerned about the Truth:

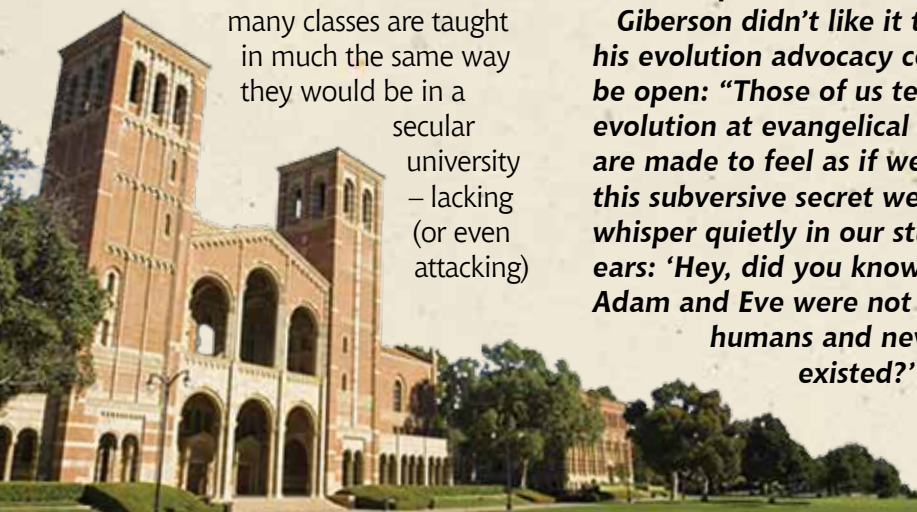
"Giberson, for many years a science professor at CCCU [Counsel for Christian Colleges and Universities]-member Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass., described how he insinuated evolution in his classroom, with one clear result: '[M]ost of the 50 percent of my students who rejected evolution at the beginning of my course accepted it by the end. My colleagues at other evangelical colleges report similar experiences.'

Giberson didn't like it that his evolution advocacy couldn't be open: "Those of us teaching evolution at evangelical colleges are made to feel as if we have this subversive secret we must whisper quietly in our students' ears: 'Hey, did you know that Adam and Eve were not the first humans and never even existed?'"

Please understand the crucial issue. Far too many students are totally blindsided by the evolutionary, naturalistic philosophies they encounter at "Christian" universities. They are particularly vulnerable as they are not expecting this kind of teaching at a "Christian" institution. Of course, some students survive with their faith intact, but are they really being prepared to take a stand for the truth of the Bible in an increasingly ungodly world?

Colossians 2:8 says emphatically, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world rather than according to Christ." (NASB)

It would seem that a "Christian" university would take that charge seriously, but in an effort to be accepted by the world, far too many are abandoning biblical truth and consequently, far too many students are being taken captive by ungodly philosophy. Parents and churches: Do your homework well and make sure that your young people are well-prepared before heading off to college. Equip them with quality resources that answer their real questions. Bring them to creation camps and seminars, encourage them in their own walk with the Lord, and do all you can to be a good example of a true disciple of Jesus. Above all, pray, pray, pray! May God help you in your efforts. 

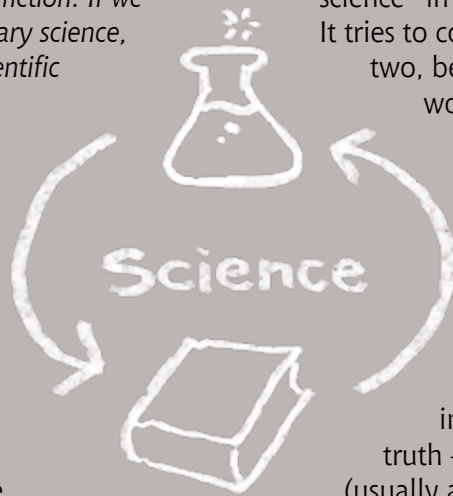


Considering Logical Fallacies: Equivocation by Scott Mauser

Have you ever heard or read a claim like this: “If Creation was taught in schools, instead of evolutionary science, then all the gadgets and advances in medicine, technology, transportation, etc. that we have today, would be the stuff of science fiction. If we abandon evolutionary science, we abandon all scientific progress!”

Is it true that we would not have iPads, the Internet, or vaccines if evolutionary science had not dethroned creationism from the public school system, or is there some bait-and-switch going on?

We need to evaluate such statements and see if they are really as persuasive as some people claim. Are there errors in reasoning that make this a fallacious assertion? This is why I think that Christians today should actively engage themselves in studying logic.



The primary logical problem with the above statement is what we would call equivocation. Equivocation is a logical fallacy that changes the meaning of a word in the middle of an argument. Do you see how the above quotation uses the word “science” in two different ways?

It tries to convince you that the two, being the same thing, would be destroyed if creation was taught.

The claim begins with what we would define as historical (origins) science. This would be a forensic exercise in discovering the truth – looking at events (usually a singular event) that occurred in the past and for which you cannot directly experiment. So, you collect the data and then try to infer the best conclusion. Creation and evolution are endeavors in historical science. This approach usually begins with philosophical presuppositions that cohere with the interpreter’s worldview.

The claim goes on to equate historical science with what we would define as operational (experimental) science – the kind of science that derives data and understanding by using the scientific method of hypothesis, testing, observation, analysis, repetition, etc. Operational science, coupled with creative, inventive genius, is how we land a man on the moon, get iPads, develop vaccines, etc.

These two types of sciences are not the same! Historical science wants to know what path the world took to get to where it is now. Operational science wants to know about current processes and find ways to make life better here on earth. The one does not fall with the other; so the above claim is very misleading. **We can perform very beneficial experimental science without any help from evolutionary theory.**

Ironically, I have heard several scientists state that evolution is actually a hindrance to some scientific endeavors... just something to ponder! **AOI**



Already Compromised by Mary Jo Nutting

Ken Ham and Greg Hall have written a very important book entitled, **Already Compromised**. The book contains “A stunning revelation about the nation’s Christian colleges!” It reports on a study of 200 Christian colleges and universities across America regarding “core faith questions ... and the results are revealing and shocking!”

This book is a real eye-opener for parents, grandparents, pastors, students, and anyone else interested in helping young people stand firmly

on the truth of God’s Word. Learn about the beginnings of the Ivy League schools and how they have forgotten the purpose of their formation. See how university presidents, vice-presidents, and heads of science and theology/religions departments answer key questions about faith, science, and the Bible. Find tips for asking the right questions in choosing a college. In addition, you will find a whole chapter addressed

directly to students, giving them keys for surviving and thriving in whatever college they choose. (This is probably my favorite chapter of the whole book – hard-hitting, relevant and practical.)

Equip yourself, your church, and your family! Get this book! Order from AOI today: **\$14.00 (FREE S/H if ordered by Sept. 30, 2014.)** Return enclosed response form or call today: 970-523-9943. **AOI**

A Critique of Baylor's Stance on Evolution

by Dave Nutting, Mary Jo Nutting, and Brian Mariani

As discussed on page 1, many Christian universities endorse, and teach, evolution. In this article, we will look at one case in point – the following “Statement about Evolution” as listed on Baylor University’s website. (<http://www.baylor.edu/biology/index.php?id=77368>)

“Evolution, a foundational principle of modern biology, is supported by overwhelming scientific evidence and is accepted by the vast majority of scientists. Because it is fundamental to the understanding of modern biology, the faculty in the Biology Department at Baylor University, Waco, TX, teach evolution throughout the biology curriculum. We are in accordance with the American Association for Advancement of Science’s statement on evolution. We are a science department, so we do not teach alternative hypotheses or philosophically deduced theories that cannot be tested rigorously.”

We beg to differ with Baylor’s statement on evolution and their policy of teaching only “evolution throughout the biology curriculum.” Here are some reasons why:

1. “Evolution, a foundational principle...fundamental to the understanding of modern biology”

Biological research typically begins with observation and experimentation. Researchers then interpret the results. Starting with a false premise will lead to a false conclusion. Today, interpretations are usually made through the “lens” of evolution. However, good research can and has been done without evolution. In fact, modern science and the scientific method were founded on a Biblical worldview. Creationists and evolutionists interpret the same data, but through different glasses. The facts are the same but it’s the interpretation that differs.

2. “...accepted by the vast majority of scientists”

Just because the majority or even certain “authorities” believe something, does not necessarily mean it is true. For example, many authorities once believed that the Earth was flat or that bloodletting could heal people. Both ideas have been debunked. Truth does not depend upon the opinion of the majority.

3. “We are in accordance with the American Association for Advancement of Science’s statement on evolution.”

What makes the American Association for the Advancement of Science the final authority? The AAAS is dedicated to teaching evolution. It has also been heavily involved in battles to ban any mention of creation or even the problems with evolution from school curricula. Hence, Baylor is basing its instruction on the opinions of men, rather than the clear teaching of Scripture. Instruction at Baylor’s biology department would be no different than most secular schools.

4. “We are a science department, so we do not teach alternative hypotheses or philosophically deduced theories that cannot be tested rigorously.”

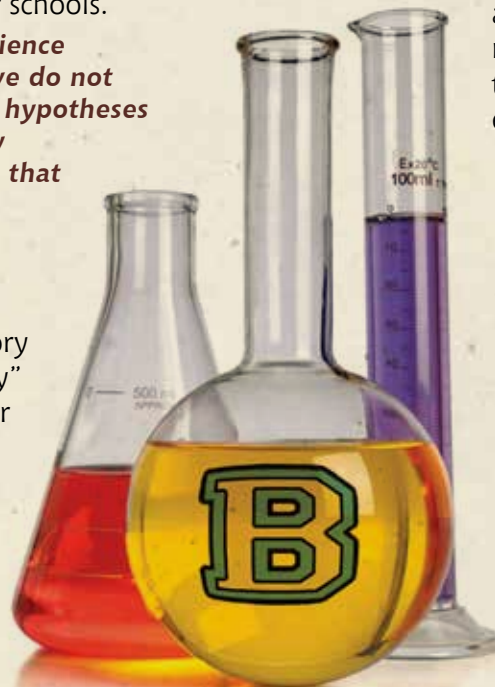
Only minor aspects of evolutionary theory can be “rigorously” tested. Most other aspects fall into the category of untestable historical science (see pg 2). In the quest to find

natural explanations of physical phenomena, secular science has embraced the philosophy of naturalism – that everything can be explained only by natural processes. Thus, even if all the data points to a supernatural God, this conclusion is excluded from science by the philosophically-deduced restraints of naturalism. By agreeing with the AAAS, Baylor is embracing naturalism in biology. Hence, creationist viewpoints are excluded based on secular assumptions and beliefs. These are deduced from philosophical naturalism which cannot be tested and which purposefully shuns anything that is not naturalistic!

Furthermore, science advances when alternative hypotheses are evaluated to see how well they fit observable evidence. Past secular theories, like rats coming from dirty rags or of the earth being flat, needed alternative hypotheses! The theory of evolution should be critically examined just like other hypotheses. Requiring students to critically assess various viewpoints sharpens their critical thinking skills.

From our analysis, we believe that the observable facts and “laws” of science are better explained by

Creation, the Fall, and the Flood rather than by the typical model of evolution brought about by time, chance, and natural processes. **We urge Baylor and other Christian universities to “choose you this day whom ye will serve.” Break free from the shackles of naturalism, and return to a consistently Biblical worldview.** AOI



Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



We regularly meet students who say they grew up in Christian homes and ended up leaving their faith as a result of taking courses in evolutionary sciences. We realize this is not the only reason students abandon their faith in college, however, from our conversations with students and research that has been done, it is a very significant one. This undermining of faith in the truth of Scripture is exacerbated by the subtle (or not so subtle) inclusion of other naturalistic philosophies and the definite lack of a strong, Biblically-consistent worldview starting with creation.

In addition, there are often other significant factors. Parents must realize that even in Christian colleges, many of the students have no real, viable personal

faith to begin with. Some are outright atheists and agnostics from the start. Many others have attended church as children, but have not yet made a personal commitment to follow God. Still others, even with a true faith, are swayed the wrong direction by strong peer pressure and the temptations encountered when living away from home for the first time. We hope that AOI's Discover Creation Training Institute (coming fall of 2015) will help equip students to withstand this attack.

If your son or daughter survived college with his/her faith intact, praise God! If not, though you may grieve, don't give up. Remember the prodigal who repented and came back to his father's house. Keep on loving. Keep on praying. Keep on living your life for the Lord. **HE** is faithful! **AOI**

Tell a Student!

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Upcoming Events

Check out www.DiscoverCreation.org for other upcoming events, camps, and VBS's. Call to schedule an AOI speaker for an event in your area.

Please stand with AOI!

Summers are financially hard on AOI, as supporters are on vacation and their schedules are erratic. Our staff keeps very busy in the summer ministering at camps, conferences, Vacation Bible Schools, and other events, which do not bring in much in the way of finances. So please, remember us in your regular prayers and giving during these busy summer months.



Final Chance!

YELLOWSTONE Creation Tour

Aug 29 – Sept 2

Join us for a creation experience in this caravan tour of Old Faithful, Artist Point, Mammoth Hot Springs, and other natural wonders of Yellowstone National Park. See geysers, hot pools, mud pots, geology, wildlife, and amazing scenery. Enjoy meals, activities, and lodging at Old Faithful Christian Ranch. **Note:** You will need to provide your own transportation and purchase a park pass for your family. Younger children are welcome but no nursery or children's program is provided. **Don't miss out!** Great for families, singles, and retirees! **Call today to register! (\$130 per adult)** For more information visit: www.DiscoverCreation.org/vacations.htm

"I missed camp this year but want to plan for next year!"

If you missed our Creation Family Adventures or the Teen Whitewater River Adventure, let us know your contact information so we can give you the dates and locations of next year's camps/tours as soon as possible.

