

the Venues

Go Deep

“Science & Religion”

Why Can't We Be Friends: Part 2

April 30, 2017

How many Superhero/Supervillain rivalries can you name? Who is your favorite?

This week's theme is Evolution and Religion. **Do you see them as rivalries or friends?**

Dr. Albert Mohler, President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary wrote, “The theory of evolution is **incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ even as it is in direct conflict with any faithful reading of the Scriptures.**”

What is your response to his statement?

_____ **I get it. I agree.**

_____ **Really? Is he serious?**

_____ *I've never thought of it like that before.*

The specific texts in question are the creation stories in Genesis 1 & 2.

As a group, list the order of creation in each chapter.

What did you discover?

Do you read these chapters as a literal play-by-play account or as poetry?

Some say we have to read it as literal history. Some say we need to read it as allegory.

Here is a principle of Bible interpretation: The way to respect the Biblical writers is to take them as they want to be taken.

How do you think the writers of Genesis 1 and 2 want to be taken? How do we know?

What impact does Bible interpretation have on the evolution debate?

Here is what Billy Graham said about the issue: *“I don't think that there's any conflict at all between science today and the Scriptures. I think the we have misinterpreted the Scriptures many times and we've tried to make the Scriptures say things they weren't meant to say I think that we have made a mistake by thinking that the Bible is a scientific book. The Bible is not a book of science. The bible is ask of redemption, and of course I accept the creation story. I believe that God did create the universe. I believe that God created man, and whether it came by an evolutionary process and at a certain point He took this person or being and made him a living soul or not, does not change the fact that God did create man...which way God did it makes no difference as to what man is and man's relationship to God.”*

Dr. Mohler or Billy Graham? Which one do you think is closer to the truth?

Sunday's teaching mentioned three views of creation:

1. Young Earth Creationism. 2. Intelligent Design 3. Theistic Evolution

Which view seems to resonate with you?

Anna, Charles Darwin's daughter, died when she was 10 years old. Her dad blamed God. That tragedy led to Charles walking away from the Christian faith. “Why would God do that?” His biographer says it **was that tragedy and not evolution that led him to agnosticism.**

Have you had a tragedy that caused you to doubt God?

What does this topic teach us about Bible reading and interpretation?

What does the fact that various sincere Christians have different views on this topic tell us? How will that fact affect our own attitude, belief, and behavior?