

Is mankind naturally good or evil?

According to the Creation account,

Evil

Although God originally created man "very good" and perfect, because of Adam and Eve's fall into sin, humanity is now sinful by nature. Our age is no less sinful than ages past. Humans are naturally inclined to do evil. Sin and its corruption of nature lead to the abuse of the weakest among us. It's only through Christ and His work in our lives that mankind is capable of doing good.

According to evolution,

Good

Mankind is generally good. Sometimes hard circumstances make people do evil things, but that is not innate to humans. Humans are also getting better over time. We humans have not reached our full potential, but mankind is currently better than it has ever been. We have greater compassion now for every race, gender, and sexuality.

What are the consequences of this view?

The belief that human beings improve over time and are inherently capable of doing good results in works of righteousness, arrogance, complacency, and **cowardice in the face of injustice**. In reality, humans are no better now than they were when Adam and Eve first sinned; we still need Jesus to save and transform us. Our beliefs are not morally right just because they exist in the present day.

What about Christian Evolution?

Christian Evolution

= the belief that God created the world by setting the process of evolution in motion

Christian Evolution interprets the Hebrew word for "day" in Genesis 1 as a long period of millions of years during which evolutionary processes took place, rather than understanding it simply as a 24-hour day.

...does this matter?

Yes. When we begin to question or change God's Word to explain away miraculous acts in some parts of Scripture, we undermine other areas, including things as central to our faith as Jesus' miraculous resurrection from the dead.

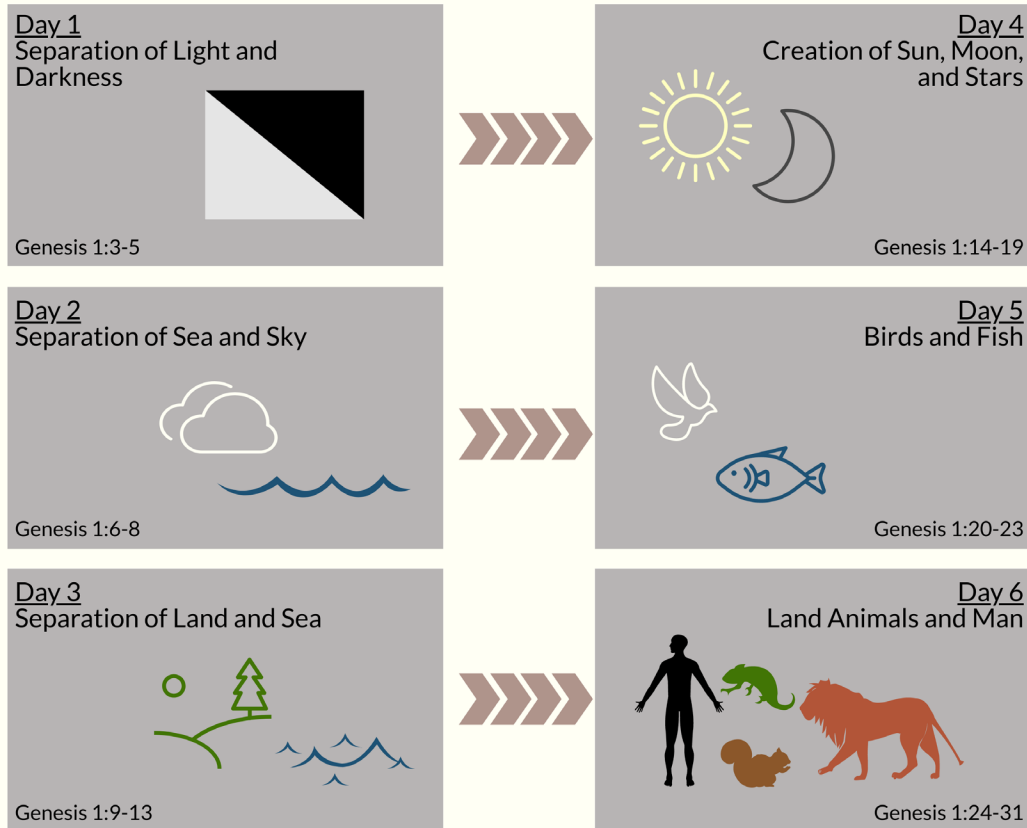
For more on how a Biblical understanding of creation informs our views on LIFE, check out our Youth4Life podcast episode "Creation vs. Evolution" or visit y4life.org.

Creation vs. Evolution

How did the world come to be?

CREATION: THE GENESIS ACCOUNT

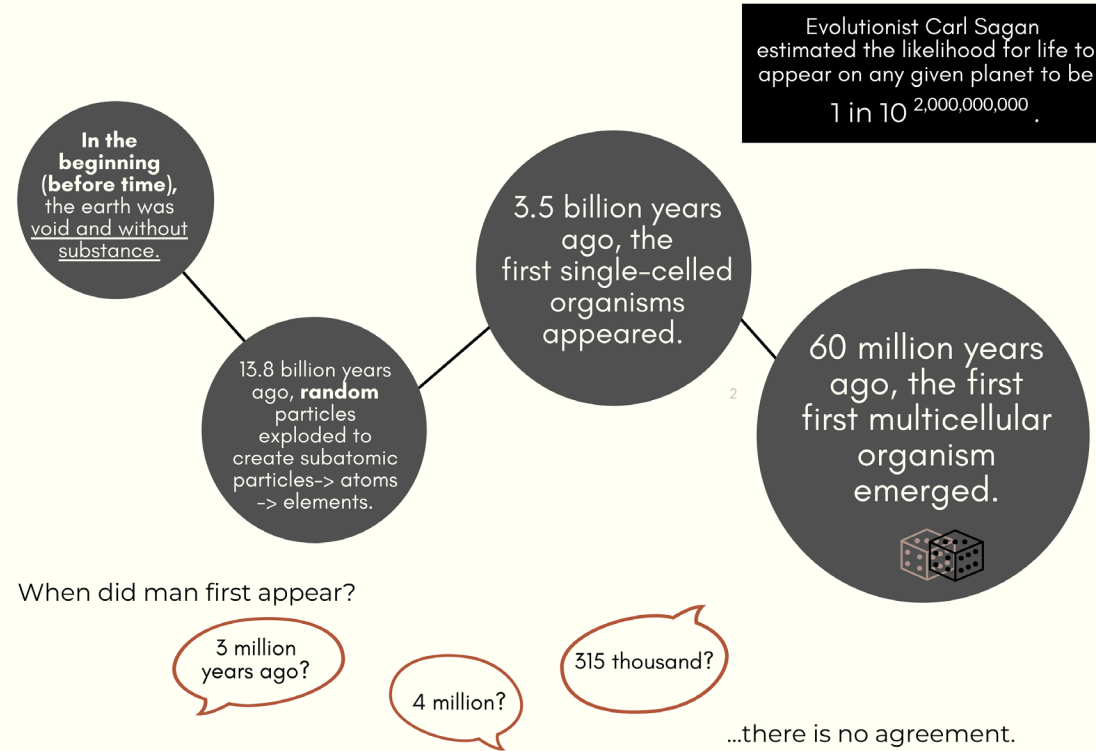
Genesis 1:1-2: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep..."



The world was created with **order and purpose**, and it was **good**.

Evolution: The Big Bang Theory

(This is the most widely accepted evolutionary theory on the origin of the universe. It contrasts God's true creation account)



Instead of the world being created with **order and purpose**, the big bang theory claims the formation of the world was **random and chaotic**, and scientists **can never know the truth** of what happened and why. Unlike God's declaration that **creation is good**, evolutionary theory claims **there are no answers; there is no greater purpose**.

<https://phys.org> | astrobiology.nasa.gov | <https://apologeticspress.org> | history.com | forbes.com | discoverymagazine.com

What's the purpose of a human life?

Creation

Humans are created in God's image and are called to trust in His plan for life, even if this brings temporary discomfort and unhappiness.

We are called to care for our neighbors, so we carry out our vocations for the good of others rather than ourselves.

Mankind is not meant merely for survival. Set above the rest of nature, we have a responsibility to care for the world God created. Human life is more valuable than all other created life.

While our choices are our own, as children of God, our lives have value and purpose. We recognize this and work to support our own lives and the lives of others.

What are the consequences of this view?

Christians know the value of human life is absolute because life is a gift from God. The rejection of this truth can lead many to the belief that the value of life is conditional. It's because of this view that members of our society are undervalued and mistreated, including the unborn, the elderly, the mentally challenged, the homeless, and so many more....

Evolution

There is no grand design for the world as a whole and humans play no special role in nature.

The ultimate purpose of humanity is survival, like every other species.

Our only obligations in life lie with our community, which help us survive. We should try to reach our full potential of self-actualization/happiness so that we may survive and leave the world a better place so the next generation can build on our success.

Beyond this, life has no meaning, and it makes sense for us to have complete control over whether we use our lives well or throw them away.