

Title	Creation: The Key to Effective Evangelism and Christian Education
Topic/Field	social science and humanities
Target audience	General / Family
<p>This talk has specific application to evangelism and Christian education. It is substantially modified from one originally developed by Terry Mortenson of AiG.</p> <p>In order to believe and be saved, one must understand and accept certain basic truths, including that God exists and is the Creator of all things, and thus that we have been made by Him and are answerable to Him for our actions. All the major doctrines about God, creation, Man, sin, death, and judgment are based in the historical records of the first three chapters of Genesis.</p> <p>The Bible records that a perfect creation was corrupted by sin and cursed. Death is the result of sin, not part of God's original plan. This is the foundation stone of the gospel message. In contrast, the secular long ages / evolution myth claims that death is a natural, integral part of the evolutionary process which produced us. We need to be aware of whether people's worldview is Biblical or secular when we are sharing the gospel with them. If their worldview is secular / long ages / evolution, they must first understand the facts of creation, Fall and curse before the gospel can be comprehensible to them.</p> <p>When Peter preached to Jews on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, he could assume that they already understood God, the Fall, and death as the penalty for sin. Thus, he could go directly to expositing Jesus as the Messiah, crucified for our sins, and risen from the dead.</p> <p>In contrast, the situation faced by the apostle Paul at Athens in Acts 17 was radically different. The philosophers even at that early date were mostly already believers in long ages / old earth, and some of them were actually evolutionists as well. The common people thought the gods were at least partly material and were not the original creators of the universe. Thus, Paul's audience first needed to understand that the true God was not at all part of the creation, but was the independent Creator of all, and that He had made mankind directly. Otherwise, the gospel would not be meaningful to them.</p> <p>Similarly, many people today do not even believe that God exists. They think humans and everything else evolved by random chance, and that death is not a consequence of sin, but an integral part of the evolution process which 'created' us. Therefore, the gospel of forgiveness of sin and freedom from death seems to be irrelevant nonsense. We need to first show them that the non-material, supernatural Creator exists, and that death is the consequence of sin before they can understand the gospel.</p> <p>This is also highly relevant to children growing up within the Church. Six days out of the week, in public schools and through the media, they are bombarded with long ages and evolution, and even explicit denials of God and the Bible. The result is many children abandon their nominal belief in God and Christianity during their teen years because no one answered their questions about science. Surveys in the U.S. show that at least 60% of children brought up in evangelical churches have left by the time they are in their 20s.</p>	

The solution is to make sure our children's faith is founded on the historical facts in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. We need to directly address the doubts in their hearts and provide scientific evidence to help them believe in creation and the Bible.

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### Curriculum Vitae

Due to residence in a creative access country, for security reasons we do not share those details.