

“Secular Humanism and a Christian Response”

Worldview Camp – Pine Haven Christian Assembly
Event Webpage: <https://richknopp.com/worldviewcamp24/>

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Introduction

- A. Guiding Scriptures.
 1. Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
 2. 2 Cor. 10:5 “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”
- B. Secular Humanism (Modernism).
 1. Acronym:
 - a. **N** _____
 - b. **O** _____
 - c. **S** _____
 - d. **E** _____
 2. Emphasis: _____ and _____.
 3. Symbol: _____
 4. Object illustration: _____
 5. Motto: “We can _____ it—without God.”
 6. Examples: Richard Dawkins; Bill Nye; Sam Harris; Neil deGrasse Tyson; John Dewey; Francis Crick; B. F. Skinner; *Avatar* humans; *The Titanic*; *Big Bang Theory*.
 7. Biblical Connections: Hosea 12:6; Mark 10:23-25; Acts 17 Epicurean philosophers; Luke 12:15-23; Luke 15:11-14; Matt. 16:26; Phil. 3:18-19; Isa. 5:21.
- C. Teens on science, the Bible, and atheism:
 1. 13% of GenZ are _____.
 2. 42% of teens say the Bible and science are in _____.
- D. How to respond?
 1. Be _____ (1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; Jude 22).
 2. Be _____ (Mark 11:27-33).
 3. Expose problems _____ the worldview (2 Cor. 10:5).

I. What about the Basis for Morality and Justice?

- A. Why *should* we be good?
- B. What are the logical implications of the worldview?
 1. Example: *The Natural History of Rape*
 2. Example: “The Goat or Who is Sylvia?”
 3. Peter Singer: “We are animals.... _____ across the species barrier ceases to be an offense to our status as human beings.”
 4. Will Provine: “We _____, we _____, and we’re _____.”

II. What about the ORIGIN of the UNIVERSE?

- A. Scripture points to a beginning (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Isaiah 45:12; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3).
- B. “Big Bang cosmology”:

1. The universe _____.
2. Big Bang proposed (Hubble in 1920s), opposed, but eventually accepted (1960s).

“What we found is evidence for the birth of the universe.... It’s like looking at God” (George Smoot, leader of the Cosmic Background Explorer project).

C. An important argument for God (see William Lane Craig: www.reasonablefaith.org).

1. Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

D. Prominent non-creationist options about our universe:

1. It is _____.
2. It caused _____.
3. It is just one of an *infinite* number of universes that pop into existence (multiverse theory).

Stephen Hawking (atheist): “Bodies such as stars or black holes cannot just appear out of nothing. But a whole universe can.... Because there is a law like gravity, *the universe can and will create itself from nothing*” (*The Grand Design*, 180; emphasis added).

Alex Rosenberg (atheist): “Why is there a universe at all? No reason at all. Why is there a multiverse in which universes pop into existence for no reason at all? No reason at all! (Alex Rosenberg, *The Atheist's Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions*, Kindle, pp. 38-39).

E. The Bible and the “Big Bang.”

III. What about the **ORIGIN** of LIFE?

- A. The universe was fine-tuned **JUST** _____ for life.
- B. Precise physical constants. (cf. The “Goldilocks Principle”).
 1. e.g. Expansion rate of the universe.
 2. e.g. Strength of gravity.
 3. e.g. Number of electrons to protons (e.g. illustration of dimes).

Fred Hoyle (non-creationist): “A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature” (emphasis added).

C. The wonders of **DNA**.

1. DNA gives instructions for the construction of every living cell.
2. How did it get its vast _____?
3. The DNA in one human body, if stretched end-to-end, would reach over _____ billion miles and store _____ gigabytes of information!
4. DNA could store all of the world’s data in one room!

Bill Gates (co-founder of Microsoft): “DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”

Francis Crick (atheist and co-discoverer of DNA): “An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense . . . [the origin of life] is ‘almost a miracle.’”

Antony Flew (at age of 81 converted from atheism to theism): “I think the most impressive arguments for God’s existence are those that are supported by recent scientific discoveries.... I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite Intelligence.” (*There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*, p. 88).

D. Relevant Scriptures (Isaiah 45:18; Ps. 19-12; Rom. 1:20).