

Metaphysics of Human Development

Dr. Christopher Cone

www.drcone.com

Blueprint or Not?

Blueprint or Not?

- **Designed or Random?**
- **Irreducible Complexity**
- **Predictability and Patterns**

What Drives the Person? **What Drives the Person?**

- Internal? External? Both?
- What shapes, motivates, causes growth?
- Depends on the definition of the person...



What Drives the Person?

What Drives the Person?

- Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)



- Compare Abraham Maslow's vs. Biblical Hierarchy of Needs



Physiological Needs – Mt 6:32

Safety Needs – 1 Cor 6:19

Love for Others – Jn 15:12

Design Fulfillment – Eph 2:10

Divine Relationship – Jn 17:3

How Does a Person Grow?

How Does a Person Grow?

- **Sigmund Freud's Model**
- **Jean Piaget's Model**
- **Erik Erikson's Model**

What is a Human Being?

What is a Human Being?

- **Chemicals and Energy? Soul? Spirit? Mind? Body? Emotions? Will? Sexual identity and urges?**
- **Plato vs. The Apostle Paul**

How Do We Know? How Do We Know?

Components of Worldview

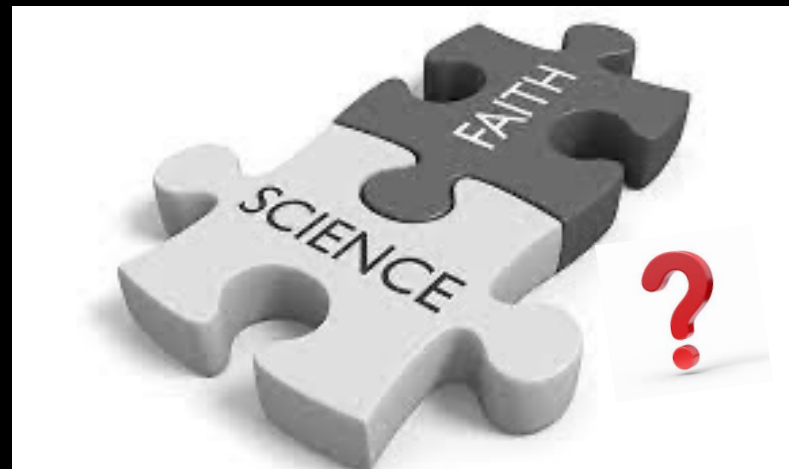


How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



SCIENCE
Adjusts its views
based on what's
observed

FAITH
Is the denial of
observation so that
belief can be preserved



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https://www.reddit.com/r/atheism/comments/1bitug/science_vs_faith/

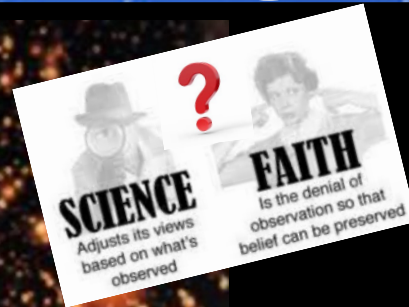
• <https://news.gcu.edu/gcu-news/conferences-material-discussion-on-faith-and-science/>

How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



The cosmos is
all that is,
or ever was,
or ever will be.

Carl Sagan



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



Our loyalties are to the species and the planet. We speak for Earth. Our obligation to survive is owed not just to ourselves but also to that Cosmos, ancient and vast, from which we spring.

— Carl Sagan —



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



Science shares with religion the claim that it answers deep questions about origins, the nature of life, and the cosmos. But there the resemblance ends. Scientific beliefs are supported by evidence, and they get results. Myths and faiths are not and do not.

— *Richard Dawkins* —



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



“Living organisms are supremely improbable. They look as if they have been designed. They are very, very complicated. They are very good at doing whatever it is they do, whether it’s flying or digging or swimming. This is not the kind of thing that matter just spontaneously does. It doesn’t fall into position where it’s good at doing anything. So the fact that living things are demands an explanation, the fact that it’s improbable demands an explanation.” – Richard Dawkins, Transcript for “Talking About Evolution with Richard

Dawkins, from *Think Tank with Ben Wattenburg*, PBS, viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/thinktank/transcript410.html>



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



"Mount Improbable is a metaphorical mountain. The height of that mountain stands for that very improbability. So on the top of the mountain, you can imagine perched the most complicated organ you can think of. **It might be the human eye.** And one side of the mountain has a steep cliff, a steep vertical precipice. And you stand at the foot of the mountain and you gaze up at this complicated thing at the heights, and you say, **that couldn't have come about by chance, that's too improbable.** And that's what is the meaning of the vertical slope. You could no more get that by sheer chance than you could leap from the bottom of the cliff to the top of the cliff in one fell swoop."

– Richard Dawkins, Transcript for "Talking About Evolution with Richard Dawkins, from *Think Tank with Ben Wattenburg*, PBS, viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/thinktank/transcript410.html>



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



“But if you go around the other side of the mountain, you find that there’s not a steep cliff at all. There’s a slow, gentle gradient, a slow, gentle slope, and getting from the bottom of the mountain to the top is an easy walk. You just saunter up it putting one step in front of the other, one foot in front of the other.”

MR. WATTENBERG: “Provided you have **a billion years** to do it.”

– Richard Dawkins, Transcript for “Talking About Evolution with Richard Dawkins, from *Think Tank with Ben Wattenburg*, PBS, viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/thinktank/transcript410.html>



How Do We Know? How Do We Know?



"MR. DAWKINS: **You've got to have a long time.** That, of course, corresponds to **Darwinian natural selection.** There is an element of chance in it, but it's not mostly chance. There's a whole series of small chance steps. Each step along the slope is a little bit better than the one before, but **it's not so much that it's unbelievable that it could have come about by chance.** But at the end of a long period of non-random natural selection, you've accumulated **lots and lots of these steps,** and the end product is far too improbable to have come about in a single step of chance." – Richard Dawkins, Transcript for "Talking About Evolution with

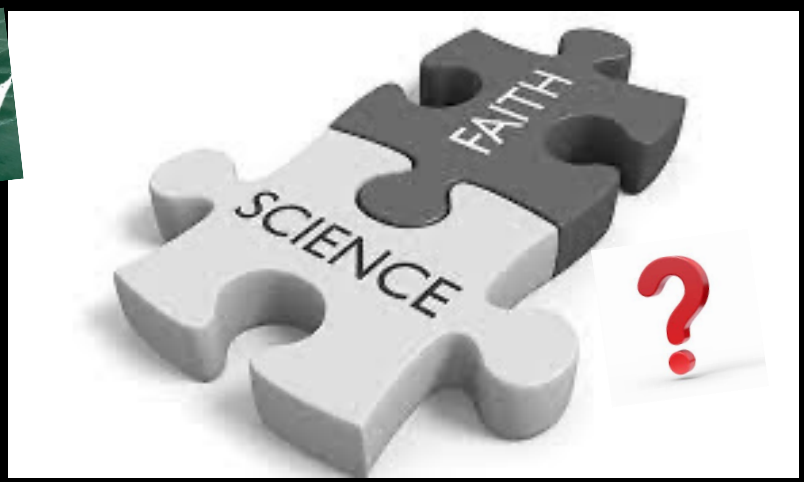
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How Do We Know? How Do We Know?

False Dichotomy

SCIENCE Adjusts its views based on what's observed	FAITH Is the denial of observation so that belief can be preserved
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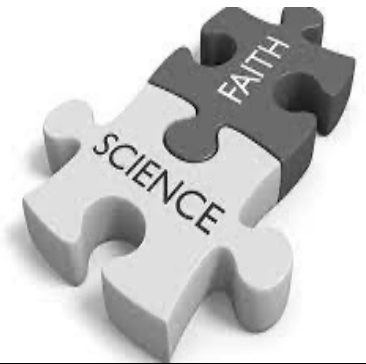
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How Do We Know? How Do We Know?

Components of Worldview



Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?



- Human evolution is the lengthy process of change **by which people originated from apelike ancestors**. **Scientific evidence** shows that the physical and behavioral traits shared by all people originated from apelike ancestors and evolved over a period of approximately six million years.

• From Introduction to Human Evolution, viewed at <https://humanorigins.si.edu/education/introduction-human-evolution>

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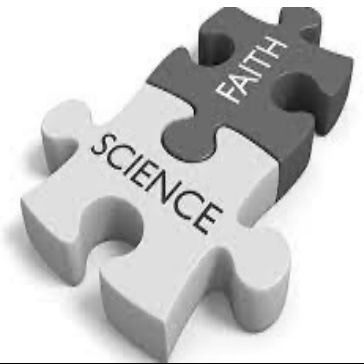
Isaiah 45:12

“It is I who ^amade the earth, and created man upon it.

I ^bstretched out the heavens with My hands

And I ¹ordained ^call their host.

Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?

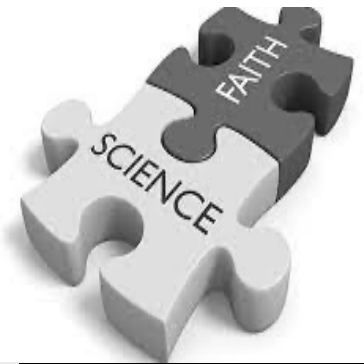


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4 And He answered and said, “Have you not read ^athat He who created *them* from the beginning **MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,**

Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?

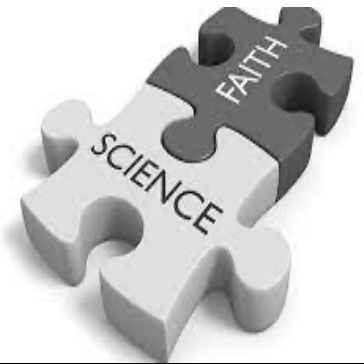


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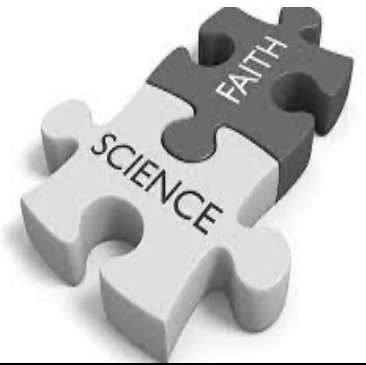
13 ^aFor it was Adam who was first ¹created, and then Eve. 1 Timothy 2:13

Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?



- What we have then here is not only change in physical form, brain size and the size of the face, but also change in behavior, and that's evolution.
- From Introduction to Human Evolution, viewed at <https://humanorigins.si.edu/education/introduction-human-evolution>
- Cranial morphology differs dramatically between humans and non-human animals due to the uniquely large brains that humans have compared to body mass (Fig. 1). **Humans have small faces compared to our large, bulbous cranial vault and this minimizes facial projection compared to non-human animals.** Human vault musculature is less well developed than in non-human animals, which often have developed sagittal and occipital
- From Watson and McClelland, "Distinguishing Human from Non-Human Animal Bone" The University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum, viewed at <https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Distinguishing%20Human%20From%20Animal%20Bone%20%28Watson%20and%20McClelland%202018%29.pdf>

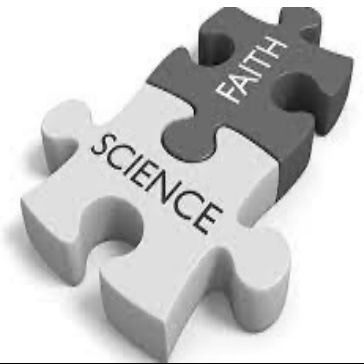
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ON THE ORIGIN OF
SPECIES BY MEANS OF
NATURAL SELECTION,
OR THE PRESERVATION OF FAVOURED
RACES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

Charles Darwin

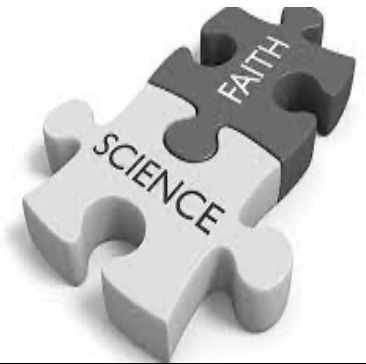
Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?



“The scientific evidence is plagued by ideology-driven interpretation, fanciful reconstructions, pathetically sparse fossil remains, “missing transitions,” and other problems. The story of human origins is subject to constant rewriting, which is to say reimagining, making firm fact-based statements perilous. Yet this reality is largely concealed from the public, including from students, even from non-specialists in relevant scientific fields. **Why?”**

David Klinghoffer, “Human Origins – The Scientific Imagination at Play” *Evolution News and Science Today*, October 26, 2021, viewed at https://evolutionnews.org/2021/10/human-origins-the-scientific-imagination-at-play/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQIAoeGuBhCBARIsAGfKY7wRG5T3p5KGeMZiffa3KXBE8tNEnjO8rNMmz80div8vREfbPf-LnsaAg5MEALw_wcB

Created or Naturally Selected? Created or Naturally Selected?



- Origin has implications
- A **Creator** worthy of our loyalty, who designed us, knows us, defines us, prescribes good?
- A **Cosmos** worthy of our loyalty, that developed us, defines us?



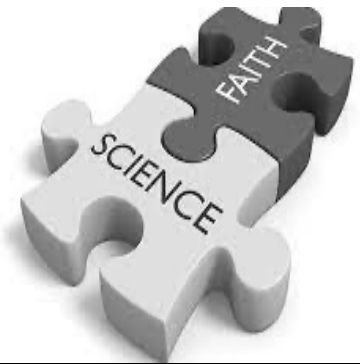
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— Carl Sagan —

11 “^aWorthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You ^bcreated all things, and because of Your will they ¹existed, and were created.”

Revelation 4:11

Valued or Random? Valued or Random?



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Can You Accept the Randomness of Life?

Our brains abhor randomness, seek patterns, and crave control.

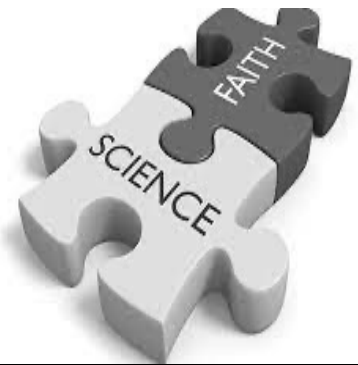
Posted November 21, 2019 | ♥ 🔗



Science Tells Us That Our World is Fundamentally Random

Despite our intuitions, science tells us that the universe is fundamentally random. This does not mean that there is no order to the universe. Rather, what science is telling us is that the whole universe and everything in it, including life on Earth in all its incredible complexity, is the product of an entirely spontaneous and unguided process.

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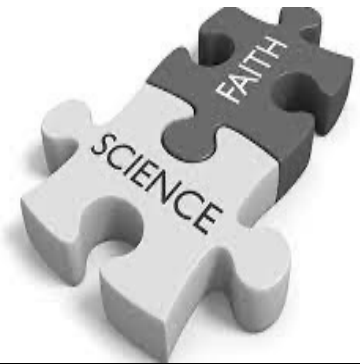
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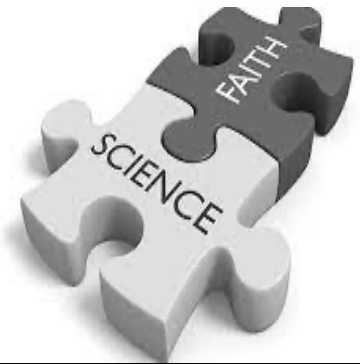


Ralph Lewis M.D.
Finding Purpose

Random processes can actually give rise to non-random processes: natural selection, the process driving biological evolution, is actually a non-random process, though it is completely unguided. And certainly, once intentional living agents have evolved through such processes, especially conscious agents like us, then the intentional actions of those agents are not random.

Not only the universe, life, and consciousness but **also purpose, meaning, and morality**, could, in fact, have emerged and evolved spontaneously and unguided. There is persuasive evidence that these qualities evolved naturally and without mystery, biologically and culturally, in humans as conscious, goal-directed social animals.⁶

Valued or Random? Valued or Random?



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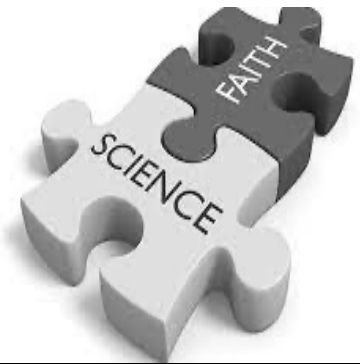


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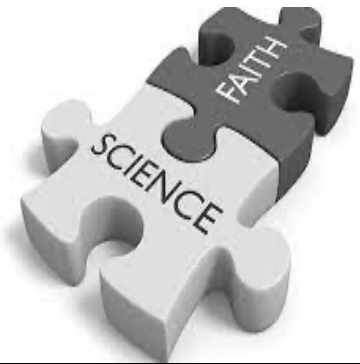


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Although coming to terms with randomness is initially frightening, it can ultimately be liberating and empowering. It can liberate us from our irrational fears and our unfounded self-blame. And shifting the emphasis to humans having to rely only on ourselves and each other empowers us and motivates us to live with a sense of interdependent purpose.

This secular humanist perspective thus emphasizes the precious precariousness of human life. It focuses us on the imperative of social responsibility and engagement, to keep advancing the collective human project of making our world safer and better for us all. Far from being nihilistic, the scientific worldview of a fundamentally random, unguided, spontaneous universe can be awe-inspiring, and foundational to building a more compassionate society.

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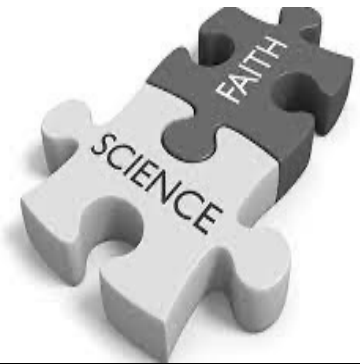


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Valued or Random? Valued or Random?



5 “Surely I will require ^{1a}your lifeblood; ^{2b}from every beast I will require it. And ²from every man, ²from every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

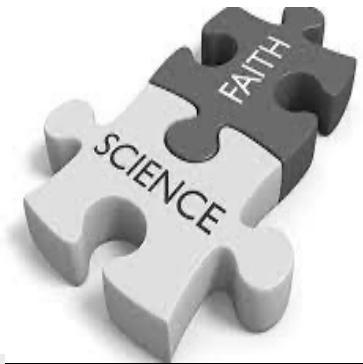
6 ^aWhoever sheds man’s blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For ^bin the image of God He made man.

Genesis 9:5-6

10 For we are His workmanship, ^acreated in ^bChrist Jesus for ^cgood works, which God ^dprepared beforehand so that we would ^ewalk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Improving or Broken? Improving or Broken?



16 The LORD God ^acommanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not ¹eat, for in the day that you eat from it ^ayou will surely die.”

Genesis 2:16-17

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they ^aknew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves ¹loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of ^athe LORD God walking in the garden in the ¹cool of the day, ^band the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:7-8

^aCursed is the ground because of you;

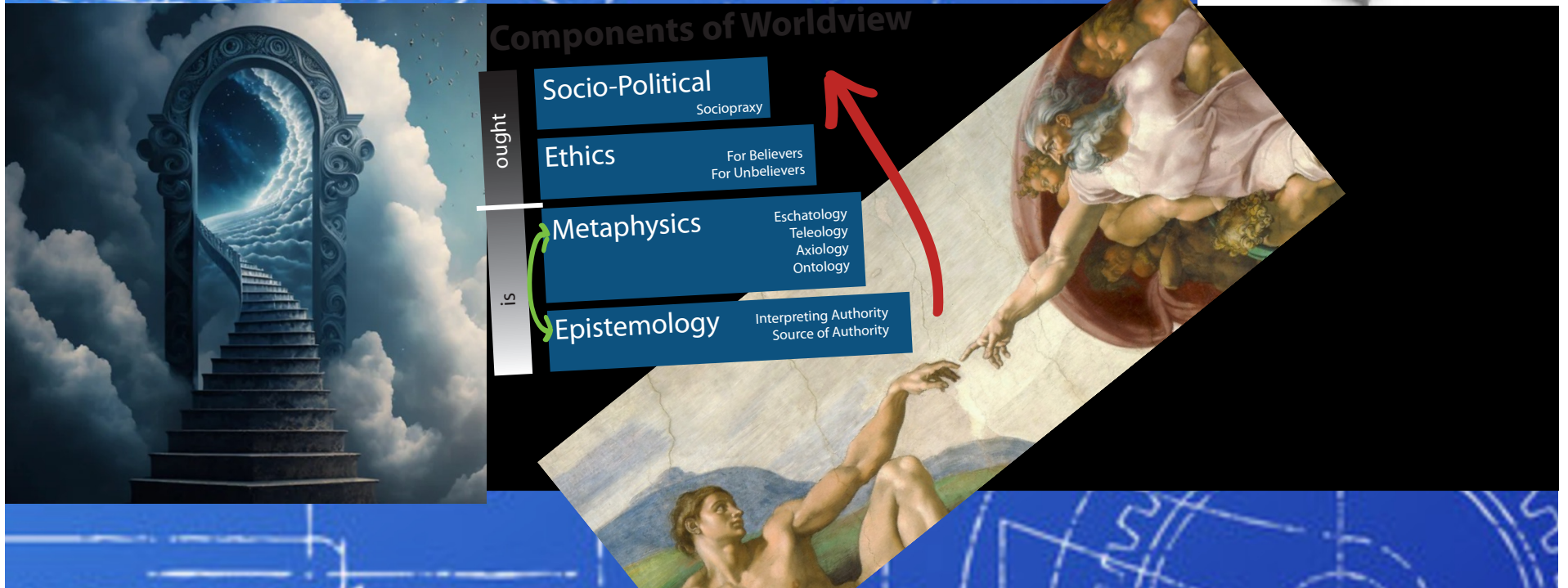
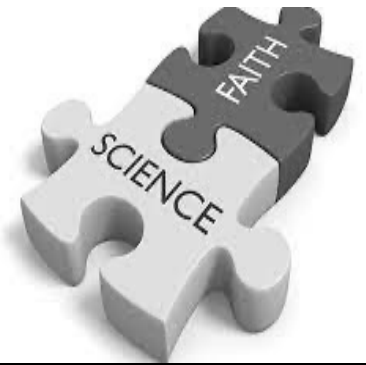
^bIn ¹toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the ¹plants of the field;

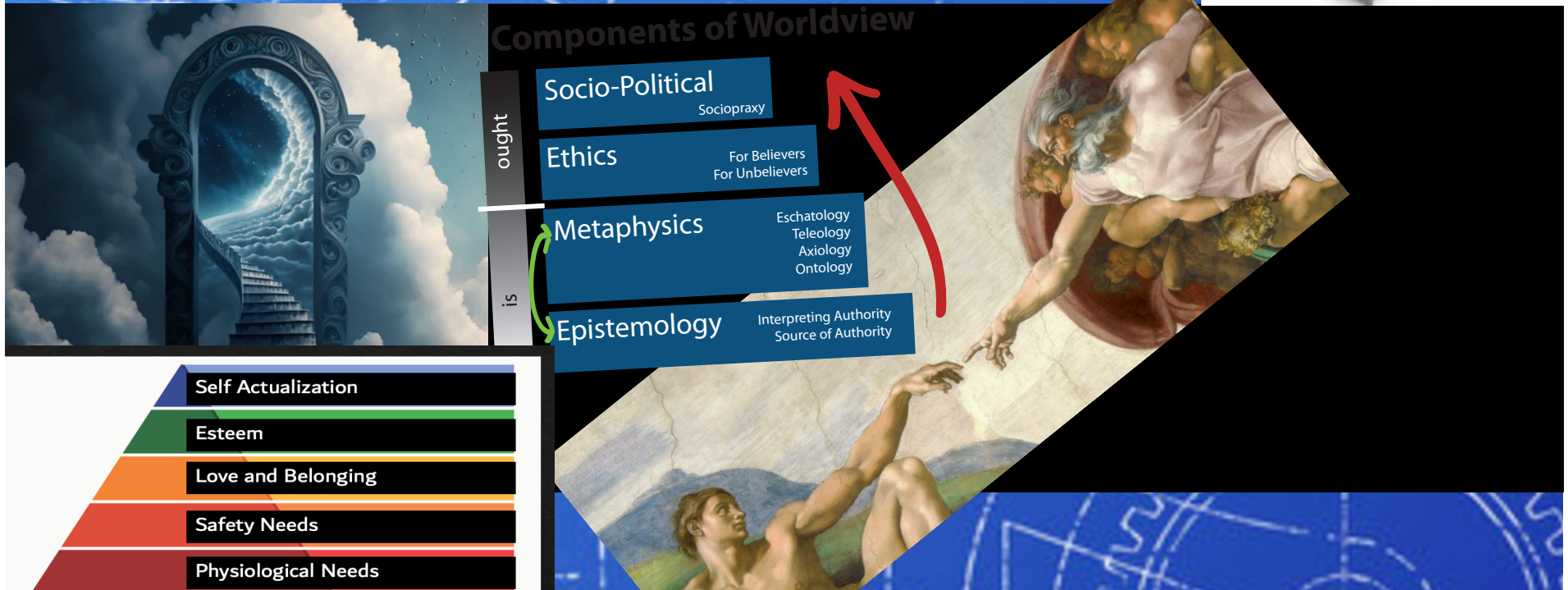
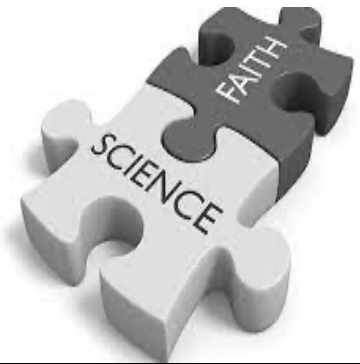
19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you ^areturn to the ground, Because ^bfrom it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:17-19

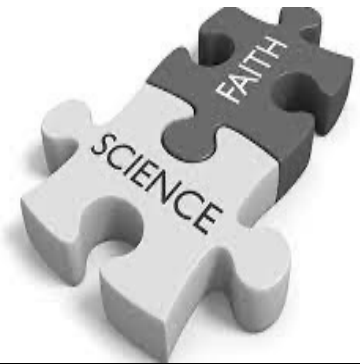
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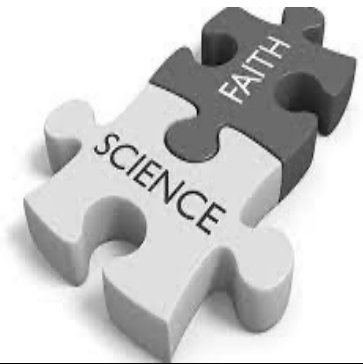
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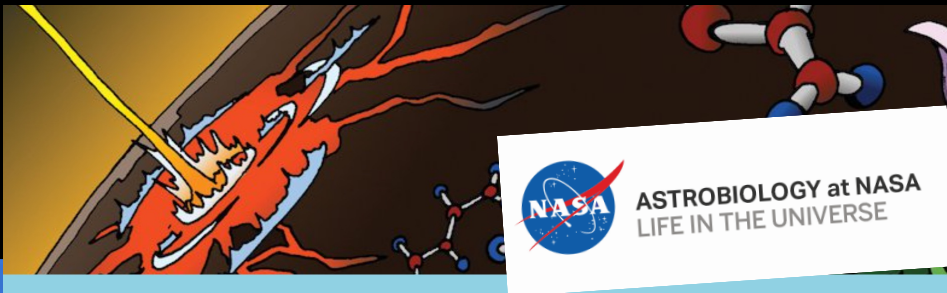


Dead or Alive? Dead or Alive?



“As we look around...we can tell things that are alive from things that are not alive. You are alive, so is a bug, a fish, and your teacher. But things like a desk, a rock, a pencil, or a building are not alive. Things that are alive do certain things, like move and grow and sometimes change. If you sit and watch a pencil for a long time without using it, **it won't change or grow** at all. It will just keep on being a pencil.”

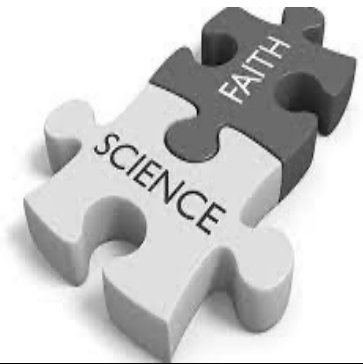
<https://astrobiology.nasa.gov/education/alp/alive-or-not/>



3. What is life?

3.5. How can we tell if something is alive or not?

Dead or Alive? Dead or Alive?



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ASTROBIOLOGY at NASA
LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

How did life originate? Living things (even ancient organisms like bacteria) are enormously complex. However, all this complexity did not leap fully-formed from the primordial soup. Instead **life almost certainly originated in a series of small steps**, each building upon the complexity that evolved previously:

1. Simple organic molecules were formed.

Simple organic molecules, similar to the nucleotide shown below, are the building blocks of life and **must have been** involved in its origin. Experiments suggest that organic molecules **could have been synthesized** in the atmosphere of early Earth and **rained down** into the oceans. From

<https://evolution.berkeley.edu/from-soup-to-cells-the-origin-of-life/how-did-life-originate/>

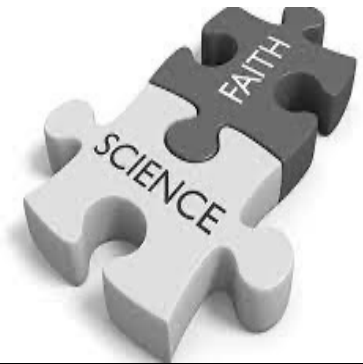


Understanding Evolution

Home Evolution 101 Teach Evolution

From soup to cells: The origin of life

Dead or Alive? Dead or Alive?

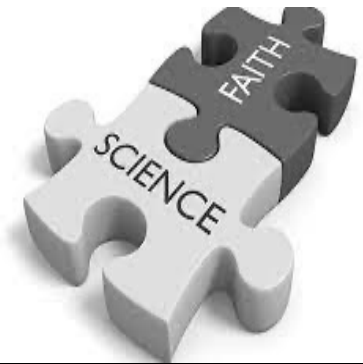


The actual nature of the first organisms and the exact circumstances of the origin of life **may be forever lost to science**...The ultimate challenge is to construct an artificial organism that can reproduce and evolve. **Creating life anew will certainly help us understand how life can start, how likely it is that it exists on other worlds and, ultimately, what life is.**

Given that we have at least an outline of potential pathways leading to the nucleobases, sugars and phosphate, the next logical step would be **to properly connect these components**. This step, however, is the one that has caused the most intense frustration in prebiotic chemistry research for the past several decades. Simply mixing the three components in water does not lead to the spontaneous formation of a nucleotide—largely because each joining reaction also involves the release of a water molecule, which does not often occur spontaneously in a watery solution. For the needed chemical bonds to form, **energy must be supplied...**” — Ricardo and Szostak “The Origin of Life on Earth” September 1, 2009, in

Scientific American viewed at <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/origin-of-life-on-earth/>

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Given that we have at least an order of magnitude more nucleobases, sugars and phosphate, the next step is to assemble these **components**. This step, however, has proven to be a source of frustration in prebiotic chemistry research. The assembly of the three nucleotide—components in water does not happen easily, largely because each joining reaction requires a molecule, which does not often occur spontaneously in a watery solution. For the needed chemical

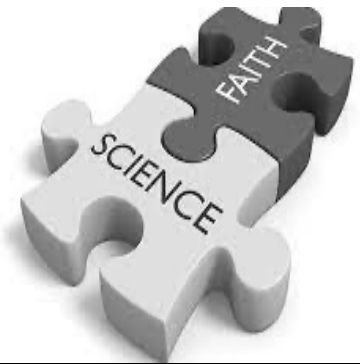
7 Then the LORD God formed man of ^adust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**; and ^bman became a living ¹being.

Genesis 2:7

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September 1, 2009, in *Scientific American* viewed at <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/origin-of-life-on-earth/>

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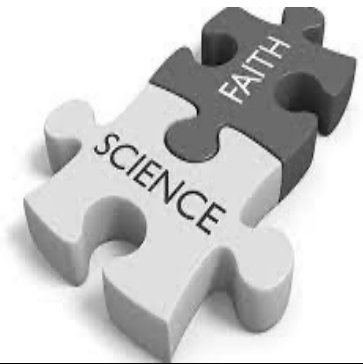
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This secular humanist perspective thus emphasizes the precious precariousness of human life. It focuses us on the imperative of social responsibility and engagement, to keep advancing the collective human project of making our world safer and better for us all. Far from being nihilistic, the scientific worldview of a fundamentally random, unguided, spontaneous universe can be awe-inspiring, and foundational to building a more compassionate society.

- 1 And you ¹were ^adead ²in your trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you ^aformerly walked according to the ¹course of ^bthis world, according to ^cthe prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in ^dthe sons of disobedience.
- 3 Among them we too all ^aformerly lived in ^bthe lusts of our flesh, ¹indulging the desires of the flesh and of the ²mind, and were ^cby ^dnature ^echildren of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Dead or Alive? Dead or Alive?



19 because ^athat which is known about God is evident ¹within them; for God made it evident to them.

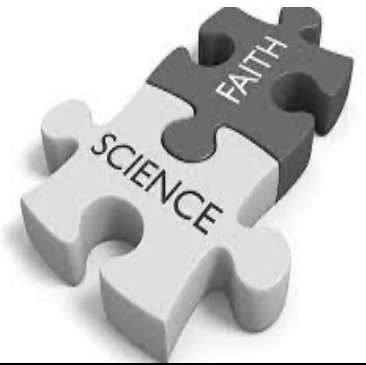
Romans 1:19-22
20 For ^asince the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, ^bbeing understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

21 For even though they knew God, they did not ¹honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became ^afutile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 ^aProfessing to be wise, they became fools,

Alive by Efforts?

Alive by Efforts?

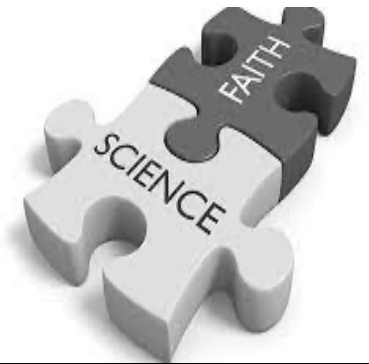


8 For ^aby grace you have been saved
^bthrough faith; and ¹that not of
yourselves, *it is* ^cthe gift of God;

9 ^anot as a result of works, ^{so that}
^bno one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

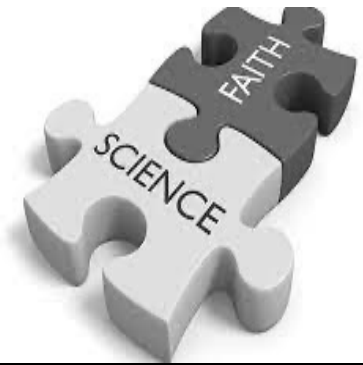
47 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who
believes ^ahas eternal life. John 6:47

How to Grow? How to Grow?



- Human growth and development must consider more than physical, mental, and emotional aspects.
- Mind, body, emotion, will, etc., are all subsets of human identity and relate to the spirit, not the other way around.
- Spiritual considerations (growth, development, health) are of the highest importance

How to Grow? How to Grow?



Romans 12:1-2
1 Therefore ^aI urge you, brethren, ² by the mercies of God, to ^bpresent your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, ¹acceptable to God, *which is your ²spiritual service of worship.*

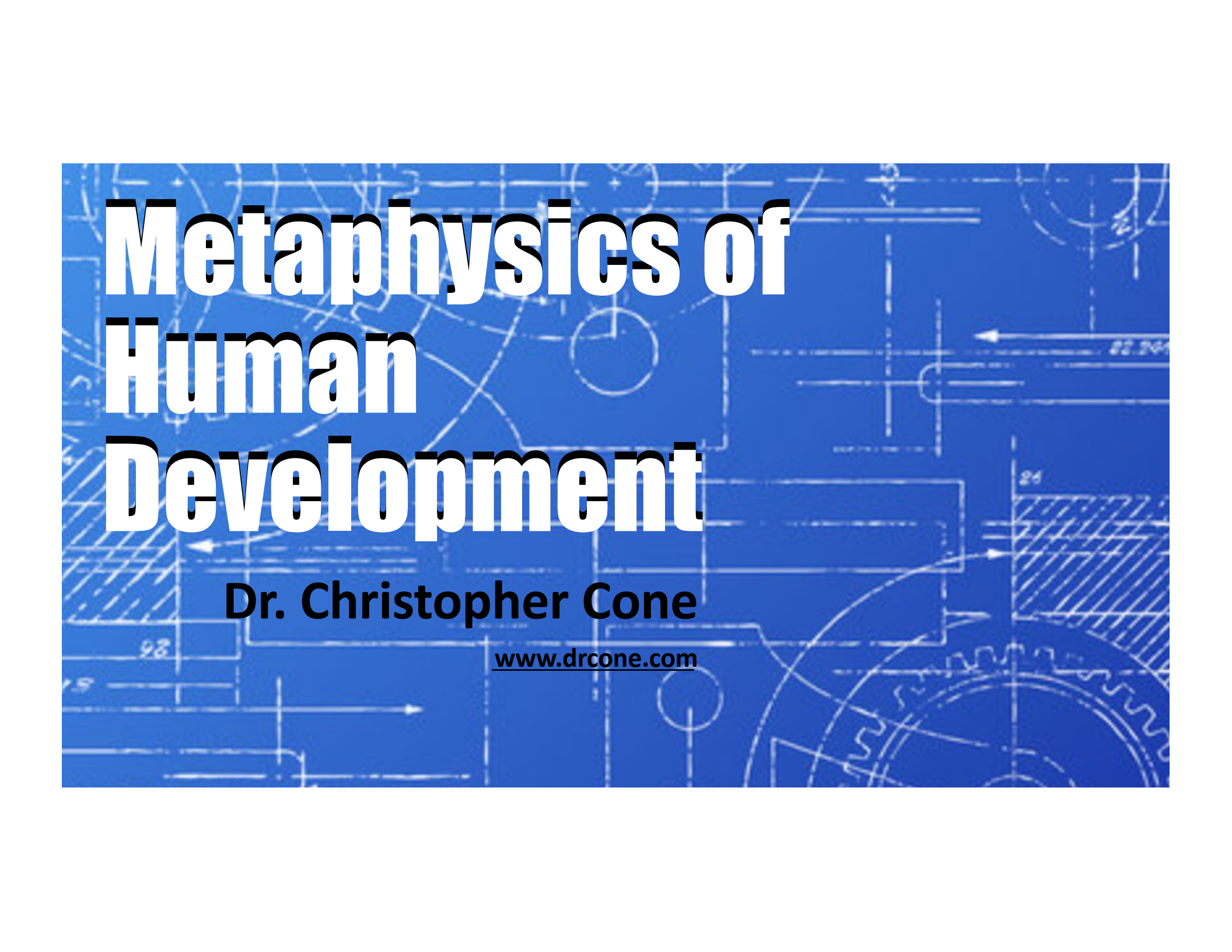
And do not ^abe conformed to ^bthis ¹world, but be transformed by the ^crenewing of your *mind*, so that you may ^{2d}prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ³acceptable and perfect.

Who are you???

Who are you???

Components of Worldview





Metaphysics of Human Development

Dr. Christopher Cone

www.drcone.com