

6-5-22 Sermon #22

EVOLUTION VS. CREATIONISM

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?"

The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so was all mankind made.." Two days later the girl asked her father the same question.. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his.

PRAY

“Splendor”

Genesis 1:9 9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. 20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.22 God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. 24 And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

God made all of these things and today I would like to get you to think about all the different places that you go to or a place that is breath taking and majestic. When we go on vacations, we think of places that reveal splendor and beauty. We mentally connect with all the new things to see. For some people, it may be beaches. For others it can be the wilderness or mountain regions. Some like camping or just hiking the nature trails. Some love to go to different sporting events or visit different golf courses or maybe you like to go on cruises. This fascination of God’s beauty starts all the way back to our childhoods. Think back to when you were a child and try to remember what your imagination made you want to enjoy.

Example; When I was a child, I remember my dad setting up a fish tank. I remember watching him put it together. At first, all it was just a glass box and I had no idea what he was going to do with it. As he added things, it started to come together and after he added the water, he was done. He explained to me that the water had to reach a specific temperature before he could add the fish. I didn't want to wait but I had no choice. I was just a little boy and the next day, when he added the fish, the tank became alive.

This reminded me of Genesis 1:20-22 [20](#) And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky."[21](#) So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.[22](#) God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

I stood there and just stared and looked and looked. Watching the fish swim around was just mesmerizing.

I also think about when Trish and I ride my motorcycle. We like to get into the country and go southeast. Sometimes we'll get high up on a hill and just stop and look at the beauty of the landscape. We both talk about how much beauty God gives and between my love of water and these majestic views, God proves to me how real he is.

The evidence of God is right in front of our eyes. No matter what it is, when we connect our minds with our hearts, God is right in the middle of it. We also have forms of beauty that mankind creates. I think about how people decorate their homes with Christmas lights. Christmas is when many people make Christ come alive. I love the way people use their light displays to tell the story of Christ. We also connect with art. People love to go to art expo's and just stare at the way an artist paints. They get lost in the beauty of it. I think of musicians and how they get lost in playing an instrument.

We all have gifts from God and He's also given us so many different things that can touch our hearts in a good way.

I love picturing when Trish held each of our kids and grandkids in the hospital. They were just new born and she was mesmerized with them. I can picture times when I've seen a loved one accomplish their dream. Seeing them smile fills my heart with joy.

The Glory and the artistic hand of God is everywhere around us. God can also be seen in simple ways. Sitting on the back porch in the morning with a cup of coffee and listening to the birds. Whenever we connect with God's creations, then we know Christ is in our hearts. Can you picture Jesus sitting at the right hand of God? We've been exploring prayer and we've also talked about being able to pray in all things. I remember when COVID first came to us. Trish and I have some serious health issues so like most people, we just stayed home. During a conversation with a friend, I told him that I was going to just go on vacation with God. Because of being a big fan of Ecclesiastes and because of knowing that life is all about seasons, I knew this too would change.

Let's read Ecclesiastes 3, *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.* then in verse 11 *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

Believing God and knowing that God designed the Earth is what helps us have strength. When we use our prayers, we're allowing Christ to walk with us at all times. Here at First church, were in a new season of time. We've all been going through some new experiences and I'm so glad that we've agreed to call on God for His strength and to build this church for Christ. Having each other to walk with and having each other to walk alongside, is what I count on. Seeing all the love, the gentleness, the kindness and (*some good food today*) is how we know God is in our midst. I know that we live in a world of hardship, pain and sorrow. This will always be. Every one of us have had times when we really needed a friend.

As a new pastor, one of the biggest blessings that I've experienced is that my heart has been touched in a way that I didn't know. God's been showing me a new meaning to compassion. God's elevated my desire to pray even more. Christ has once again, showed me how much prayer is vital to all of us. What I mean by this is; I've never been good at going to visit people in hospitals or going to funerals. I did it but it's a hard thing for me. When I visit Ken, John, Gail or when I just talk to Carol or someone else that's struggling, I wish I could just touch them and make it all go away. Prayer allows me to offer them compassion. This week, God allowed me to listen to Jim, Cindy, Diane and their loved ones, and it really made me lean on God even more. All of these people have shown me that we really do need each other prayers. God just keeps showing me how important it is to be present with others and how important it is to be prayerful for each other. Prayer really does help lift our spirit.

We believe that God desires that “all” should be saved and come to believe in Christ. One of the biggest gifts for believers is; We can come to Him for relief. Taking a meal to someone or even when we hold a door open for a stranger, it tells others that God cares. Speaking a kind word or just touching the hand of someone hurting goes miles and miles for them.

God truly is a “God of Love”.

Try to think about HEAVEN. I think of being in Jesus house. I picture all the Glory and splendor of “HEAVEN”. The hope, the beauty, the endless sea of God’s glory is what makes the splendor of HEAVEN our new home. All who come to believe will get to live in this kingdom. Just like how we use our minds to remember places of beauty, do that with Heaven. The end of 2 Corinthians 10:5, says *we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*. A great way of taking our thoughts captive is to think about things that God created and about what is ahead of us. It’s a great way to fight against things that we have no control of. The ultimate hope for all Christians is “Heaven”. How do you see Heaven? Heaven is our forever home. Unlike Disney, Heaven is truly where our dreams “really” do come true!!! Maybe you picture heaven as a field of flowers with rivers of flowing water. Some people picture heaven to be like the garden of Eden. It could be filled with plants, birds and wild animals that we can be at peace with. What creature is going to be your favorite pet?. Some people picture Heaven as a way to being re-united with loved ones or with family members who they’ve never met. In revelations 21 We’re told about the new heavens and the new Earth. We will see the throne of God. We will see Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father. What a mental image that can be. We’ll know what “Glory” really looks like. Seeing the light that gives more light than the sun is what we’ll all get to see. We will have joy and happiness “forever”. What does that look like? “Laughter” that never ends, “no” more sorrow, “no” more tears, “no” more fears. Christ came to let us place this in our hearts. Can you picture birds landing in your hand. and all the children gathered around Jesus. One of my favorite stories in the bible is when Jesus answered the disciples question about who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

This is in Matthew 18 *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.* Little children don’t have any connection to this world. They just want to laugh and play. When they get hurt or saddened in some way, they get to be comforted by a loving mom and dad. Children never want to be alone for to long. They want their mom and dad to hold them, hug them, kiss them and protect them at all times. We don’t have to be afraid to let God do this for us. Christ came to give us life and to give us life abundantly. In times of joy and in times of trouble, we need to know that God is present. We need to give ourselves a mental break and sometimes we need to just take a vacation from our minds.

In closing I would like to share Revelation 21 1:4 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”