M02A1 Presuppositions.

George Earle Wade, MBS

Creation and evolution are based on different presuppositions. To remain reasonable beliefs, these presuppositions must “consistently” remain supported. Evolution depends on random chance. And thus over time this randomness must consistently arrive at improvement.

Mutations occur randomly to change an organism in some more or less small way. One kind of mutation is a base mutation. “Most [base] mutations are not harmful, but some can be. A harmful mutation can result in a genetic disorder or even cancer.” -<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/mutation/>

There is also the chromosomal mutation. These affect the genes and can be inherited. “Such changes are usually very harmful.” [Ibid](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/mutation/). Downs Syndrome I’d call an example of a chromosomal mutation. “Fifteen to thirty percent of women with trisomy 21 are fertile and they have about a 50% risk of having a child with Down syndrome. … There is no evidence of a man with Down syndrome fathering a child.” <https://americanpregnancy.org/healthy-pregnancy/birth-defects/down-syndrome/>

While National Geographic praises beneficial mutations in evolution, it minimizes the effects of harmful mutations. I haven’t studied the statistics of generational increase in downs women but it has the potential for continued harm. “Although rare, pregnancies in women with Downs syndrome could become more frequent, increasing the importance of genetic, reproductive, and obstetric problems.” -<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/6211644/> Of course if a downs woman marries (couples) only with a downs man there will apparently not be pregnancies, which would minimize the effect of this chromosomal mutation, which the National Geographic article may assume. The evolution theory fails the test of consistency.

The test of consistency is a tool to not only refute non-Christians (apologetics) but to also refute professing Christians who pick and choose valid and reliable portions of scripture (polemics). A Christian who compromises on the origen of man and the earth thinks they are consistent when they also deny Christ’s miracles. “2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” There is a continuous decline as we begin denying the power of God. If He doesn’t have the power to create and to heal then how can Jesus as God possibly eradicate sin in our lives and the world, granting immortality to men and women so blind to much of the sin around us.

When reasoning against a non-biblical view we risk losing the argument against their conclusions. We must first expose their presuppositions as not fully reasonable. When talking with a non-fundamental Christian, we can ask ”do you believe that miracles are possible.” Their answer will inform you whether they believe the Bible is as an authoritative book. Fundamental Christians believe in Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, and Solus Christus.

The author of this article goes to great lengths to break down Christianity into subgroups that don’t necessarily embrace “fully” the four essentials that identify Fundamentalists. I’m not sure these distinctions neatly fall into place under the labels listed. But I agree that many if not most Christians fall prey to being influenced by contemporary models and expediency. There is too much political ambition aspired to by clergy and congregation, too much focus on entertainment to fill the pews, too much depending on charisma and so called attention to listening to new truths whispered by the Holy Spirit to so called apostles that leads away from the word of scripture. The expression “born again” means to many a one time baptism without a meaningful improvement in living like Christ.

Ecumenism can lead to compromise. The Old Testament teaches social responsibility such as protections for women, orphans and widows. It teaches respect for foreigners and justice for all, poor and wealthy alike. It limits slavery to provide freedom with a financial start at each 50th year of Jubilee. The OT even teaches environmentalism in the 7th year for the land to remain fallow. But a church that focuses to an extreme on the social gospel risks breaking down in regards to doctrine and becoming primarily an arm of political activism (which differs somewhat from political ambition that focuses on a sort of Christian sharia law and capitalism).

Some Christian movements attack LGBTQ persons and agenda. While other movements fully embrace the LGBTQ agenda and install homosexual pastors and presidents of church conferences.

Liberal radical Christians among other variants named hold presuppositions that loosen beliefs in some or all of the following ways:

1. A Rejection Of All Tenets Of Conservative Christianity.
2. All Religions Eventually Lead To Salvation.
3. Everyone Will Eventually Attain Heaven.
4. The Bible Is Not The Sole Word Of God.
5. The Bible Contains Plenty Of Errors And Primitive Ideas.
6. The Record Of Creation Is A Myth, While Evolution Is Fact.
7. Virgin Birth, Resurrection Of Christ, And Miracles Are Myths.

Neo-Orthodoxy relies on human reason and stresses the reliability and validity of human reason to critique revelation. There is a possibility of Salvation to all without Christ. I assume that in this article, elements of neo-orthodoxy seeps into many different Christian groups. Neo or new sounds good to modern peoples. Orthodox sounds stable, firm. It’s a lie that Satan uses to detract from the firm, unchanging word of God. Jesus is the Word. Jesus as God does not change with the winds of time.

In the discussion about New Age groups there’s the entry “Pantheism: All that exists is God; God is all that exists. This leads naturally to the concept of the divinity of the individual, that we are all Gods.” Among early Seventh-day Adventists leaders John Harvey Kellogg built a major health care center which advanced the health care principles promoted by our major founder. These health prospects attracted many wealthy persons and government leaders to this hospital. Unfortunately Dr. Kellogg began promulgating panteistic ideas and dividing our young church. He was subsequently disfellowshipped. Another of our leading pastors Alonzo T.Jones, disillusioned when our church was initially reluctant to embrace Grace over Law, was lured by Dr. Kellog into joining in this panteistic aberration. Pastor Jones did later rejoin the church, abandoning pantheism.

A group of Christians you didn’t identify are those who believe in a self-styled spirituality without a gathering by two or three into any church. It’s a do it yourself religion that seems to believe in “Universal Religion: Since all is God, then only one reality exists, and all religions are simply different paths to that ultimate reality.”

In talking of secular cults this article says “Their main point that they used repeatedly … was ‘If there is a God, then why would He allow for so much destruction and loss of life and property?’ and ‘Why would He allow for genocides to be committed against the Jews?’” This is a question, I think, that most Christians in times of stress and doubt ask in some form, often when a child dies. Sincere Christions don’t let doubts destroy our connection with Jesus. And at least after the 2nd coming of Jesus we have eternity to learn from Him. In the meantime, yes, we have many who so focus on this paradox that we have a ministry to face.

Secular humanism is thought of as a liberal religion that ignores God and focuses only on what man can do to improve society and our world. Without inspiration from above they rely of reason. “They tend to be at the liberal end of the spectrum on such controversial topics as abortion access; equal rights for gays, lesbians and bisexuals; same-sex marriage, physician assisted suicide, separation of church and state.” I’d add a focusing on ecology and ending racism. I will clarify that I strongly support ending racism and support separation of church and state. This separation has long been a principle in the USA, although I believe militant politics in evangelical leadership may be skewing the traditional meaning of this separation. Some leaders openly want to declare the USA a Christian nation, whatever that would mean. Different states or regions would no doubt define Christian differently, some perhaps as Christian humanism. And non-Christians and non-religious would face discrimination. I believe in evangelism to bring Christ to all. But I don’t favor discrimination against those who disagree with me.

Concluding, the Christian apologists must intimately know what we believe and know the foundation for what we believe. We must allow for enough give and take to allow 1. Us to know the presuppositions (the foundation) underpinning the understandings and beliefs of those we’re interacting with. And 2. to establish a rapport with them that lets them know we respect them as persons irrespective of our differences. We need to, in the end, leave these interactions with good will and hopefully with the opportunity, if not an actual invitation, to meet with them again.

George Earle Wade, MBS

George@wade.us.com

Primary: 22329 Berg Rd, Southfield, Mi 48033 USA

Secondary: 13063 S La Rambia Rd, Arizona City, AZ 85123 USA

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