

Evolution, Intelligent Design, and Creation

Science, Faith, and the Church

Science is the study of the physical world. It seeks to measure and document natural phenomena.

Faith/theology seeks to study the metaphysical world – the world of God, His Existence, and our relationship with Him.

The Church recognizes the need for science and the need for theology. They are two sides of the same coin.

What is Intelligent Design, Evolution, and Creationism?

Evolution: Is the theory that living things came about through the natural selection of advantageous genetic mutations in an organism. Some have taken this to mean that there is no God because everything was a product of “chance.”

Intelligent Design: Traditionally included evolution but said that God ultimately created everything. However, this term has been co-opted by creationists in order to sound more “scientific”

Creationism: The theory that the world was created in 6 days as described in the Bible.

What should Catholics believe?

Timeline

God > Universe > Physical Properties/Laws, including chance and mutations > Evolution > Living Things

We must remember that if God created the Universe, then all physical laws and properties are his creation. Thus, scientists work within the confines of physical law. Since mutations, chance, and time are products of the physical world, which was created by God, then all things are created by God. Evolution should pose no threat to our Faith.

How to Bridge the Gap Between Science/Reason and Faith

St. Thomas Aquinas’s natural theology uses reason and nature as the basis of argument to go beyond the physical world to reveal the existence of God