***“Contend for the faith” -* by Espousing Intelligent Design**

[Romans 1:18-3](https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/scripture/sermons-on-romans-116-23/?keyword=Romans+1%3A16-23&ref=SermonPrint)2, [Psalms 19:1](https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/scripture/sermons-on-psalms-191/?keyword=Psalms+19%3A1&ref=SermonPrint), [Psalms 94:9](https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/scripture/sermons-on-psalms-949/?keyword=Psalms+94%3A9&ref=SermonPrint), Mark 10:1-9 February 18, 2018

 Paul wrote the Christians at Rome: *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* Romans 1:20

 In other words: even unrighteous people should know there is a God because God is revealed in the things He has made. Psalm 19:1 says it this way *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”* The Bible is unapologetic in declaring that our world has been designed, and that there is an “Intelligent Designer” (God) who made it all.

 This sermon series is called “Contending for the Faith” and as we said before, we don’t have to APOLOGIZE for our faith. We don’t need to rally to God’s defense. Our God is bigger than we are – and He doesn’t really need our help. But in spite of that, God calls us to *“contend for the faith…”* (Jude 3)

 Now there are certain scientists who through research and recent discoveries and advances in technology have come to the conclusion that the theory of gradual evolution of all things is impossible. They call their view of how the world has been formed “Intelligent Design (or ID), for they believe that it is obvious that there is an intelligent designer of this world.

 Here are some websites on Intelligent Design:

<http://www.intelligentdesign.org/faq.php>

<http://www.ideacenter.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/1143>

 Now the difference between these scientists and myself - is where we start from:

• I’m a preacher. I believe that there’s an intelligent designer of the world because I believe in God’s Word, the Bible – and that’s where I start. I believe God created the world in six days because that's what the Bible says and I really don't need the confirmation of science to accept that. I believe in creation because Jesus said it, *“..at the beginning of creation God made them male and female.”* Mark 10:6 (NIV) Jesus is God, He should know.

• But now, these scientists, while they may or may not believe in the Bible, don’t start there. They start with science – with what they can observe in nature. And these folks are convinced that science points to an Intelligent Designer as the creator of the world. So what do the polling experts say?

 Here is a website of Gallup polling on creationist versus evolutionist views to human origins. <http://news.gallup.com/poll/170822/believe-creationist-view-human-origins.aspx> The polling is from the years 1982 to 2014.

 The line on top which is pretty steady in 42-45% range is those who believe that God created humans in their present form.

 The middle line which runs around 35% is those who believe that humans evolved with God guiding the process.

 The bottom line which runs from 9 up to 19% is the classical evolutionist view that humans evolved without any input from any god.

 It is quite amazing that with evolution being taught in classrooms for more than three generations that there are still over 40% of Americans who believe in a creationist view of life.

 Now why would so many people in America believe that? Because *“God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* (Rom. 1:20)

 This points to a conflict between Scripture and those in the scientific community who are evolutionists. Now, before we go too far we need to acknowledge that there are two different things that are referred to as evolution here: “MICRO-evolution” and “MACRO-evolution.”

 MICRO-evolution is something everybody agrees on (it's even referred to in Scripture). Micro-evolution is the proven science that there are many different kinds of birds, and dogs and cats and other kinds of animals. Folks who work with cattle and sheep and other kinds of domestic animals have been doing this kind of things for centuries - it's called "selective breeding".

 When Bonnie and I got married in 1970 I was an FFA instructor in Nebraska and I was really into the new breeds of cattle coming from Europe. So we took a honeymoon trip there to look at cattle! The next year I began a breeding program taking mostly Angus and Angus crossbred cows (they are all black) and started breeding to raise up a purebred herd of several different breeds. I made little black Angus cows into purebred red & white Simmentals from Switzerland, and red Gelbviehs from Germany, and smokey white Chianina from Italy, quite some radical color and body conformation changes, but they were still cows, that’s what they’ve always been and that’s what they always will be. This is called "micro-evolution". I was an engineer of micro-evolution.

 However, there’s another kind of evolution called “MACRO-evolution”. Macro-evolution teaches that life began millions and millions of years ago. It started with inert matter (like dirt, or mud or stone) that somehow was acted upon by an outside force such as an electrical and/or chemical phenomena. And this outside force helped create the first forms of life on the planet.

 Someone once called this event the “primordial soup” where chemicals and matter interacted to create life. Over time (according to this theory) these simple life forms got together to form a committee and started creating more and more complex life forms that eventually became plant and animal life. And as these life forms became more and more complex this process ultimately led to advanced animals and birds... and eventually to humans like you and me. Here is a typical evolutionary tree diagram, like I first saw in high school biology class in 1962.

<http://www.all-creatures.org/hope/gw/evolutionary_tree_002.gif>

 One person described the theory this way: “From Goo To You By Way Of The Zoo.”

 Now despite the fact that many scientists believe evolution is a FACT, it’s still just a theory. But why is it still just a theory? Well, in order for a theory to become a scientific fact it must pass one of 2 tests: **1st** – the theory must be able to be provably observed in nature, Or **2nd**  – it must be something that can be reproduced in the laboratory.

 The theory of Evolution fails both of those tests. If you say, "I can’t observe the evolution of birds or dogs into another life form", the evolutionist will say “Of course you can’t… that takes millions of years.” In that answer they admit their conclusions are not observable in the wild. So then you might ask: "Have you been able to do this in the laboratory, or have you at least been able to make life from non-life in the lab?” And the answer to that will again be “No.”

 Those who believe in Evolution will tell you they KNOW how things have evolved, and yet they haven’t really proved anything except to establish that they have very active imaginations.

 A heckler once mocked a Christian speaker by shouting out: “I could make a better universe than your God!" The speaker smiled and said "I won’t ask you to make a universe. But could you just make a rabbit—just to establish confidence?"

 Evolutionists pretty much despise Scientists who hold to the concept of “Intelligent Design.” But these ID scientists who believe in design challenge evolutionists on a number of fronts, we look briefly at three:

 **First** they note that no one has EVER found any true transitional fossils. For over 100 years, archeological digs have produced numerous fossils but despite the evolutionary claim that one species of plant or animal has transitioned into another form of plant or animal remains unproven.

 **Second** – they’ve challenged evolutionists on the concept of “Irreducible Complexity”. Now, you might ask: “What is irreducible complexity? That is described in the DVD that I handed out at Christmas time, “Unlocking the Mystery of Life.”

 Evolution is based on the concept that simple forms of life got together to form more complex life and these simple life forms did this by mutations and adaptation to environment. The more complex the life form, the more mutations and adaptations were needed to take place. Essentially, one simple thing added to itself to another until you have a complex life form. Evolutionists believe this is how things “evolved, even though they’ve never actually seen it happen, nor reproduced it in the laboratory.

 But Intelligent Design scientists point out that most living things of this world are just way too complex to have developed step by step. There would be no way the transitions would succeed because the complexity of the organism would never survive without the variations that make it live.

 In nature, the most obvious irreducibly complex system is your eye. In fact, Darwin (when he developed his theory of evolution) acknowledged that the eye was the most daunting question mark challenging his theory.

 **Third –**I think the biggest challenge to evolution is the discovery of DNA and research that shows the incredible degree of intelligence in the DNA that is the basis of all life. I cannot explain it better than Lee Strobel does in part 6 of his Bible Study series of “The Case for a Creator.”

(Show the first 10 minutes of Lesson 6 on DNA)

 It annoys Evolutionists to have to accept the idea that there is an Intelligent Designer. And Romans tells us why:

*“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”* Romans 1:20-23

 One of the driving forces behind evolution is the rejection of God. Not all evolutionists are driven by that aversion to God, but many are. Why? Because evolution is the ONLY alternative to God being the creator of the universe.

 And once you reject God as the creator… then all kinds of strange uncomfortable things can take place. As the Apostle Paul said to the Romans:

(Romans 1:26-32) “*Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. …Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”*

**CLOSE:**

 This is why we need to **contend for the faith** that was once delivered to the saints. Someone has to stand up and say… these things are wrong, because there are people out there who not only do sinful things but they give approval and encourage those who do them.

 But a word of CAUTION here: We’re not called by God to speak against evil because we’re righteous and the other guys aren’t. We’re to do this because - if someone doesn’t step up and say “this is wrong” - folks are going to go to hell. We’re to do this because we care what happens to people who slip into the warped and deformed practices of sin.

 God hates sin and will punish sinners who do not repent and turn away from it, as the writer to the Hebrews says *“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*  (Hebrews 10:21)

 But the Good News we have to hold on to is that Christ himself has taken our sins upon himself as the final and perfect sacrifice. As Hebrews 11:8 says: “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

 When we **contend for the faith** once delivered to the saints, we are to contend against sin so that people will be warned of the dangers of their delusions and turn to God, seek God and believe in Jesus!

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we have all inherited the DNA of sin from Adam and Eve, but thank you that you have given us the spiritual antidote for sin, the Holy Spirit who seals our faith in Christ and His victory over sin at the cross. Thank You Jesus, we give glory to You forever. Amen.