



INTELLIGENT DESIGN, CREATIONISM, DARWINISM, AND ECKHART TOLLE

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INTELLIGENT DESIGN, CREATIONISM, AND DARWINISM

The recent movie EXPELLED, hosted by Ben Stein, overviewed numerous facets of the creationism Vs evolution debate. The primary viewpoints of the movie can best be summarized by some of the following topics:

- Freedom in America?
- Where did life come from?
- Is there truth in science?
- Intelligent Design.
- Darwinism and modern history.
- Planned Parenthood and Eugenics.
- Hitler.
- Racism.

These topics can best be summarized by the following three viewpoints that were discussed during the movie:

- Darwinism.
- Creationism.
- Intelligent Design.

Let's take a brief look at these three viewpoints and compare their basic differences:

DARWINISM

- Godless theory.
- Naturalistic (no God).
- Purposeless (random events).
- Violates the basic laws of science and the universe.
- No future.

CREATIONISM

- God centered.
- Purpose in life.
- Scientifically accurate.
- Future is secure!

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

To look at the differences between Intelligent Design (I.D.), let's first ask a basic question - - "Is I.D. Christian?" Next, let's consider a quote from I.D., - - "*Certain features of living things were designed by an intelligent cause as opposed to being formed through purely natural means.*" With the aforementioned basic question and quote, consider the following outline regarding the many highlights of Intelligent Design:

What I.D. Is

- A scientific research program that investigates the affects of intelligent causes.
- An intellectual movement that challenges Darwinism and its naturalistic legacy.
- A way of understanding divine action.
- Focus on what is designed, rather than answering who, when, why, and how.

What I.D. Is Not

- Does not attempt to be religiously motivated.
- Does not name the intelligent cause.
- Does not claim that everything is designed.

Advantages Of I.D.

- Has produced many resources that support biblical creation.
- Clarifies that Darwinism/Naturalism are based on presupposition and theories.
- I.D. is based on the presupposition that the supernatural does exist.
- Can serve as a useful tool to initiate discussions about God and creation.

Is There A Problem With I.D.?

- Allows evolution/natural causes to play a role.
- Divorces the creator from the creation.
- Individuals can decide who the creator is.
- No redeemer and no final solution for evil in this world.

Is There A Biblical Answer To The Creator, Creation, And The Future?

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"

ECKHART TOLLE

Who is Eckhart Tolle?

- Author of “The Power of Now” (2004) and “A New Earth” (2005)
- Born in 1948 in Spain, raised by father. His early days are relatively unknown.
- Cambridge educated scholar
- Lived in a state of almost continuous anxiety interspersed with periods of suicidal depression
- After turning 29, woke up early one morning with a “feeling of absolute dread.” Life had become so “utterly meaningless” that he felt nothing but a “deep loathing” for both the world and his own life. At this point, he was ready to die!
- Instead of killing himself, he experienced the unexpected. His mind stopped and he was drawn into a “vortex of energy.” He was gripped with intense fear and he heard the words “resist nothing.”
- He felt himself “sucked into a void” and passed out. He awakened the next morning filled with an odd peace.
- He then spent several years sitting on park benches “in a state of the most intense joy.”
- It was during this period that he became a spiritual teacher. People began to say he was a “mystic” that had discovered something that brings peace and meaning into our lives.

What Does Tolle Preach?

- New age-ism in a very attractive package that promises relief from what everyone wants to escape - suffering (also incorporates Hindu-ism and I am-ism).
- By embracing his outlook on the “self” (who we really are), a person can allegedly experience lasting peace.
- Tolle answers the popular question of “who are we?” According to Tolle, we are **God!**

Why The Sudden Popularity of Tolle’s Teachings?

- Likeable guy.
- Makes some insightful observations about human nature.
- Has the full backing and marketing power of Oprah Winfrey.
 - Oprah book club selection of 2008
 - Bestseller lists on Amazon and New York Times.
 - Oprah website recently proclaimed “Are you ready to be awakened?”
 - 10 week on-line course taught by Tolle (one of largest single on-line events in history of internet). Initially ½ million in 100 countries started and that has rapidly expanded.

What Are some Of The Problems?

- **Tolle claims that his teachings are fully compatible with Christianity (Oprah regularly assures her audience that Tolle’s views in no way contradicts Christianity).**
- Tolle misuses the Bible to support his beliefs, going so far as to say he knows what Jesus really meant in various New Testament passages. As a result, he utterly misrepresents scripture.
- Provides an easy way to God.

- His book is actually filled with prejudice against Christianity (“Christian history is a prime example of how the belief that you are in sole possession of the truth, that is to say, right, can corrupt your actions and behavior to the point of insanity”).
- Asserts that the Bible is corrupted and filled with errors. Scripture has become distorted and misinterpreted and many things have been added that had nothing to do with the original teachings.

What Does Tolle Promise?

- Along his road of enlightenment can be found an end to suffering, solutions to psychological troubles, and even cures for physical ailments. Total peace and happiness are there for the taking as well. Addictions can become a thing of the past, and everything desired can be achieved.
- Accepting his truth will supposedly cause a “shift in consciousness,” a “transformation of consciousness,” a spiritual awakening that he sees as the next step in human evolution.
- Embracing his ways will allow a person to “leap to an entirely different level of being.”
- A new earth populated by a “new species of human being.”
- Crime will be eradicated, wars will cease, selfishness and greed will no longer reign in our governments.
- New heaven and new earth!
- The benefits almost seem endless.

How Does Tolle Say “All Of the Benefits Can Be Accomplished?”

- Tolle says that thinking only hinders one’s realization of the “Truth” that he teaches.
- His truth, he maintains, can only be found by “intuition, internal knowing, and emotion.”

What Does the Bible Say?

- “The heart, the seat of emotion is deceitful above all things!” Jer 17:9

A Few Quotes From Tolle’s Teachings

- All religions are equally true and equally false, depending on how you use them.....If you believe your religion is the Truth, you are using it in the service of ego.
- Yes, you are the Truth.
- The first human beings in whom the new consciousness emerged fully became the great teachers of humanity, such as Buddha, Lao Tzu, or Jesus, although their teachings were greatly misunderstood, especially when they turned into organized religion.
- If you go deep enough in your religion, then you all get to the same place.
- We must learn to live in the present (also known as the “Now”). Only by existing in this state of awareness can we find total peace.
- God simply is. Consequently, knowing God means becoming aware of your oneness with all that is. It is not about believing. And any religion that says belief in God is about belief is actually presenting a God that is “not truly God.”

- Man made God in his own image. The eternal, the infinite, an unnamable was reduced to a mental idol that you had to believe in and worship as “My God” or “Our God.”
- Be still, meaning go to that place where the mind is no longer operating. You are just conscious without thinking, and that is the level where the eternal resides (where you are now God).
- The wisdom of this world is folly with God. What is the wisdom of this world? The movement of thought, and meaning that is defined exclusively by thought.
- It has been said that God is love, but that is not absolutely correct. God is the one life in and beyond the countless forms of life.
- Is humanity ready for a transformation of consciousness? The possibility of such a transformation has been the central message of the great wisdom teachings of humankind. The messengers - - Buddha, Jesus, and others.
- Jesus was a man who lived two thousand years ago and realized divine presence, his true nature.
- Buddha and Jesus had much less information than a person has today because humans didn’t know that much at that time, but it didn’t matter.
- You can substitute Christ for presence if that is more meaningful to you. Christ is your God-essence or the Self....The only difference between Christ and presence is that Christ refers to your indwelling divinity regardless of whether you are conscious of it or not, whereas presence means your awakened divinity or God-essence.
- Through the present moment, you have access to the power of life itself, that which has traditionally been called “God.”
- The very being that you are is truth.
- And so on.....

What Does The Bible Say?

- “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

For more information on Eckhart Tolle and his viewpoints, see the book “A New Earth An Old Deception” by Richard Abanes, Bethany House publishing.