



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want to share a thought that I obtained from a magazine given to me by Gwen Wilkins Sunday evening. The magazine is called *Acts and Facts* and though

those in our brotherhood do not produce it, it does have some excellent thoughts in the realm of apologetics. I hope to share a good concept that is suggested in one of the articles.

The thrust of the article is to ask the question, "Do pointed questions make a person think?" The author uses good examples of pointed questions like those employed by God to Adam as well as improper questions like the deceptive question of Satan in Gen. 3:1 that caused Adam and Eve to question God's word. But the questions I want to share are some that we can use to help people to think seriously about the theory of evolution. If in doing so we can get them to turn from this false religion, we have served a good purpose.

Consider the following questions to ask the next time you are in a discussion with someone who rejects Creation and holds to evolutionism:

1. Why are the "missing links" still missing?
2. Why were the evolutionary scientists so easily fooled by the Piltdown Man hoax?
3. Why does the information regarding the ice core layer fit the biblical data but clashes with the evolutionary idea of uniformitarianism?
4. Why do evolutionists continue to use arguments that have been discredited such as vestigial organs and Haeckel's recapitulating embryos?

I believe asking questions such as these will cause people to think. Be prepared though because when you put someone on the spot with questions that challenge their thinking, they can become frustrated and lash out. Be careful to be prepared to answer yourself without lashing back at them.

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Titus 2:1 says, "But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." The term "sound" is defined in this instance as "based on reason, sense, or judgment," or it can also be defined as, "competent, reliable, or holding acceptable views." "Doctrine" is defined as "a belief or set of beliefs."

Mitchell's Weekly Manna
Mitchell Lockhart

First in order to have SOUND doctrine it cannot be based off of feeling or how we think would be pleasing to God. When we study or teach doctrine it has to be a doctrine founded not only on scripture but reason. Studying the word of God can sometimes require interpretation. Our interpreting of the Bible should be done with reason, sense and judgment.

When studying the Bible, how do you study it? Depending upon how you study it can determine how you live it out. The way you live it out can determine how you teach it. Do you study the Bible with reason, sense or good judgment? Do not base your beliefs upon feeling or emotion but strive to read the Bible and teach with sound doctrine to keep from being judged for your way of teaching and your lack of truth.

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Make plans to be with us for
Vacation Bible School
beginning July 16!

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — If You're a Christian You Love
1 John 4:7-8**

**P.M. — In Pieces
Matthew 11:25-30**

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

We have all most likely heard the saying “Freedom is not Free.” Again most often, this phrase is tied to the sacrifices made by the soldiers who have fought and sometimes died to ensure our freedoms. If you doubt how seriously Americans view the concept of Freedom is not Free simply go back to the last NFL football season and read about how many American’s were willing to give up something they love dearly (rooting for their favorite NFL team) because they were offended by some who the fans viewed as not showing the proper respect to a symbol that represents freedom to Americans. There is still much to be settled in this particular debate but such is not the focus of this article.

As Christians, we too must always remember that Freedom is not Free. To what am I referring? Well I am not intending to enter the debate about the freedoms provided to Americans—no my thoughts are of a much higher subject! I want us to consider the freedoms provided to us as Christians in Christ (remember please always that to get into Christ a person must be baptized into Christ Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:1-6). Our freedom in Christ is certainly not free; it has cost dearly.

First consider how the freedom we have in Christ cost God dearly. From before the creation of the heavens and the earth and all that in them is...God knew that man would have a need of salvation (Acts 2:23; Eph. 1). John writes eloquently (through inspiration) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...(John 3:16). God gave the greatest gift and it was at the agonizing cost of His Son. Our freedom from sin is definitely not free to God the Father.

Our freedom likewise is not free to Jesus. We all know how difficult it is to love our enemies and practice good will toward them. Rom. 5:6-8 tells us that while we were enemies and sinners, lost hopelessly in sin, that Christ died for us! His death was prophesied to be one where He would bear God’s wrath for sin...a wrath that we deserved to bear for our sin. Christ was willing to die in our stead. His was a substitutionary sacrifice (John 1:29; Matt. 20:28; I Peter 2:24; 3:18). For Christ, freedom was definitely not free.

Through God’s grace and Christ’s sacrifice freedom from sin is made available to you and me—but this freedom is not free to us either. Though called the free gift of God through Christ, we understand even in such contexts that we must be willing to accept the gracious gift from God of His Son—we do so through obedience. Eph. 5:8-9 reveals that we are saved by grace through faith. It is indeed a gift of God and we cannot claim any works we have done merit our salvation. That being said, James additionally reveals that faith without works is dead. A contextual study of faith in Heb. 11 and James 1-2 teaches us that our faith response involves obedience to what the Godhead has required of us as a response to their gracious gift of salvation.

There are a number of areas that we need to remember and reflect regarding the phrase “Freedom is not Free.” For the Christian the freedom that ought to bring the greatest emotive response and call to action is the freedom from sin provided by God!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*