



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we will consider the evidence from Scripture that makes Creation a plausible explanation for the origin of all things (by the way Creation lines up with the evidence from Science as well). If Creation is true (and this writer firmly believes that it is) then you would expect a few things to be necessary. First, there would need to be a Creator and second that Creator would have to have been in existence before the creation of all things. Interestingly enough, the Bible confirms all these thoughts and more.

Scripture teaches that God existed before time began (time is an element of this world). Titus 1:2 (ESV) states "...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began..." 2 Timothy 1:9 (ESV) states "...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began..." Jesus said in John 17:24 (ESV) "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." And Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) "...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love..." And Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:20 (ESV) "...He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you..." So the Scriptures reveal Deity existed prior to the creation of the world. That is indeed necessary if Creation is true.

Also Scripture teaches that the Godhead was the creating agent (the One who brought about the creation of the heavens and the earth). In Genesis 1:1 (ESV) we read, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." In John 1:3 (ESV) it states, "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." In Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV) it is written "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Again in these verses we find another essential element to creation—a Creator!

Though all this evidence from which we draw confidence is found in Scripture, there is nothing wrong with using what the source of all knowledge/science (God) reveals to us through His word! Live confident and provide answers to everyone who asks you of the reason of the hope within you (1 Pet. 3:15).

jfb



"And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, even as God for
Christ's sake hath forgiven
you."

Ephesians 4:32

Sunday's Sermons:

AM — OFFER OF FORGIVENESS

EPHESIANS 4:25-32

PM — CHANGING SPIRITUAL CLOTHES

COLOSSIANS 3:5-14

What To Do To Become A Minister In The Church

I was reminded today of a man who came to the front door at the church building here in Elizabethtown and asked to speak with the “pastor.” When he came in and sat down he appeared to be a very sincere and genuine person. He asked me what a Baptist had to do to become a minister in our church and whether we were Christ’s Church or the Christian Church.

I am not certain exactly why he came in other than as he said “just to chat” but there were a few observations that he made that I would like to examine further. The man I spoke with what seemed to be real concern with the religious division in the world. Though, this in itself is quite commendable and even a similar concern to Christ (John 17 and the prayer for unity), his answer, though very sincere, seems to fall short of God’s ideal. He seemed to stress that since we were all so close in so many areas that perhaps we should simply drop the things that separated us. One of those things that he felt led to the division was the different names that many religious groups used to identify themselves. His answer seemed to be to change the name.

Again though I commend the man’s desire for unity among believers, I do not agree with the “agree to disagree philosophy.” In addition, though name is important, a change of name is not beneficial if the church does not teach the message as revealed by God. Remember Jesus prayed “Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth” (John 17:17). What did he mean by that statement? To sanctify is to set apart. In this instance Jesus is speaking of setting the believers apart from the world. Jesus said this was to be accomplished by the word of God—the truth!

Another point of interest for me was the man’s declaration that he had not seen anyone (other than himself) witness in public regarding their faith in the last six years. I thought this was quite a bold statement to make. Even if he has not “seen” anyone else “witnessing” to others in public, that does not mean that there are not others who are doing so. I believe that there are. There are too many here at Etown that I know who are passionate about saving souls—this man may not have seen them, but I know they are evangelizing. That being said, probably there is great room for improvement in our willingness to evangelize our friends and neighbors.

Though good old door knocking might yield some results, the greatest way for us to reach others with the Gospel is to actually teach them about Jesus. By this I do not mean simply showing a good example to those in which we have contact. I am referring to us actually teaching about Jesus through our conversations and Bible study. Could you imagine the honest souls out there in need of the Gospel? Do we believe there is still “good soil” for us to plant the seed of God’s Word? If so, surely we believe the power is still in the Gospel message (Romans 1:16).

The answer I gave the man on what he would have to do to become a minister in our congregation, is the same I would give to all. One must first submit to God’s plan of salvation including baptism so that one’s sins may be forgiven. Then after having done so continue your study in God’s word and continue your faithful walk so that you can go forth and serve/minister to others regarding the word of God.

Even Jesus indicated the importance of baptizing individuals in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He had commanded them. Interestingly enough, our Lord built into his plan of salvation, the instruction that as one becomes a disciple (Christian Acts 11:26) he or she also becomes a minister—telling others about our Gracious God’s great plan to redeem mankind! Are you a minister in our congregation? I pray that such is the case!

John F Board

Elizabethtown, KY