

“After [he] posted a brief critique about human evolution [on facebook], she left this comment out of frustration” A post from an atheist on what she perceived Christianity does not teach (or perhaps do).

“Instead of hitting each other over the head about evolution, maybe we could work together to solve some of this planet’s pressing problems (climate change, poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, lack of health care and educational resources, prejudice, discrimination and so forth).”

His reply - “[W]hile individual atheists are as capable of good deeds as Christians, atheism itself provides no genuine motivation for such acts. If human beings are the product of unguided evolutionary processes, then we are one among countless species that have existed on Earth. From an evolutionary standpoint, human beings are a historically contingent accident of an indiscriminate, natural process. Human life has no intrinsic value; there is no ultimate meaning or purpose to human life.

“As a case in point, in *The Selfish Gene*, Richard Dawkins (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006, 3), states emphatically:”

“Be warned that if you wish, as I do, to build a society in which individuals cooperate generously and unselfishly towards a common good, you can expect little help from biological nature. Let us try to *teach* generosity and altruism, because we are born selfish. Let us understand what our own selfish genes are up to, because we may then at least have the chance to upset their designs, something that no other species has ever aspired to do.”

Dawkins, the atheist, says that he wishes “to build a society in which individuals cooperate generously and unselfishly towards a common good”

Why?

Where did Dawkins even learn to think this way?

Certainly not from survival of the fittest! I would suggest, he admired these things in a believer he knows or knew.

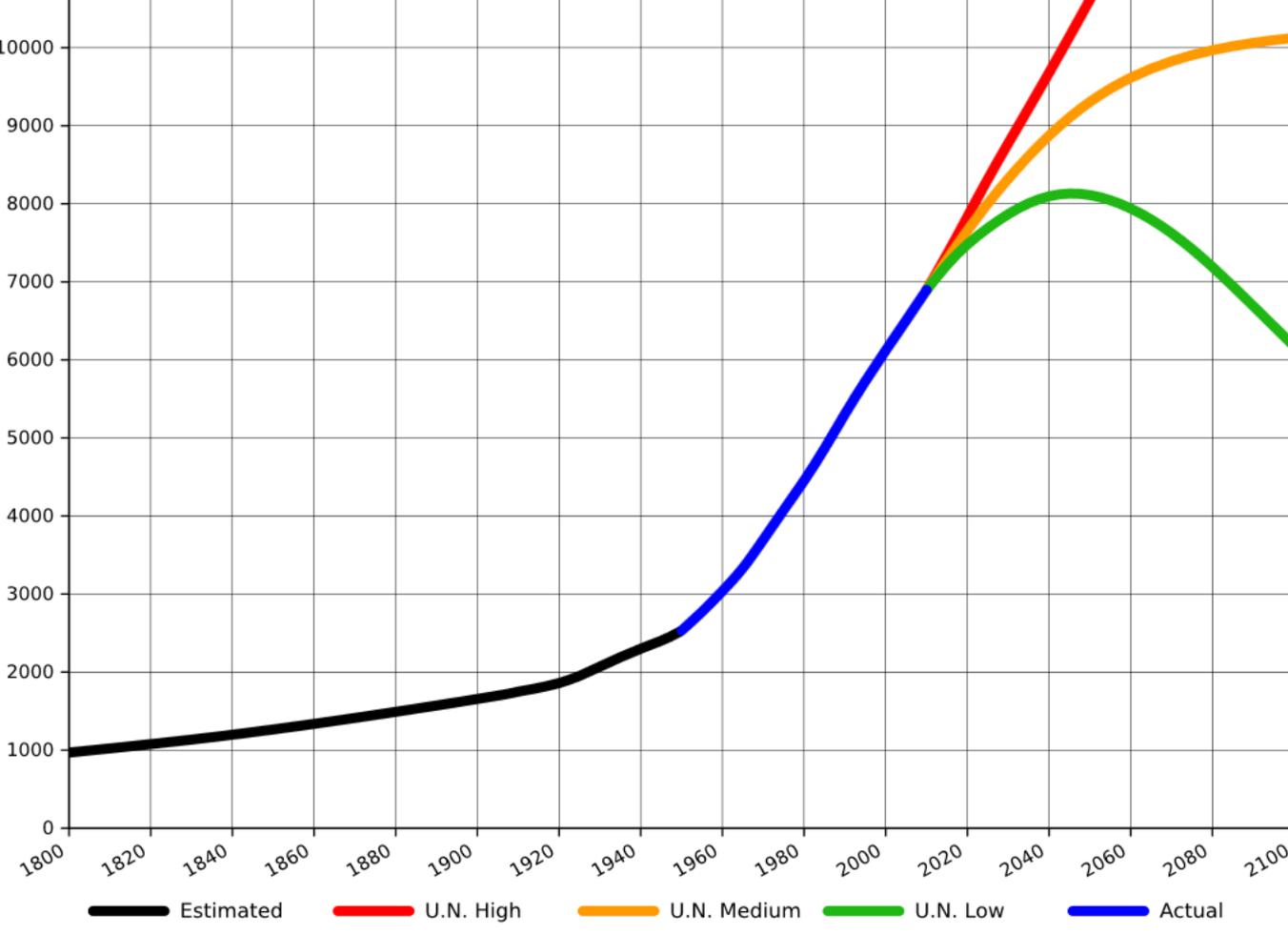
“These ideas – so clearly taught in Scripture – inspire Christians to good works. They rouse Christians to action against the injustices in our world.”

How are Christians to address the “planet’s pressing problems (climate change, poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, lack of health care and educational resources, prejudice, discrimination

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Gen 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.



The question is how many people does it take to fill the earth?

Until 1920, the population of the world was less than 2 billion. Food could not be produced for more than 2.5 billion until Fritz Haber learned how to make ammonia.

The shortage of food led to misery in the life of Joseph and Jacob.

Gen 41:57 Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

Gen 42:1-2 When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" (2) And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."

What happens with natural selection?

Those organisms that have superior abilities are brought to a position of power over others and should maintain control, replacing those who are of lesser position.

Or the atheist would say, “let them starve, I’m not helping.”

A ruler of France, Marie Antoinette, said, “let them eat brioche”, when told the peasants had no bread.

As you examine the causes of war before the middle of the 20th century, the wars were fought over resources, mainly the ability to produce food. For instance, in 1914, Germany had enough food to feed its population, but by 1930, it had half enough food and needed more room to grow wheat. WWII ensued over territory – Hitler called it “lebensraum” (living space).

Technology brought the ability to feed more people – making ammonia for fertilizer from the nitrogen in the air.

What brought about the increase in technology?

Literacy – found almost solely among those who believed they needed to read the Bible – Protestants and Jews.

2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, (5) which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Literacy and logical thinking (required to understand God's commands – Acts 15:19

"Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles) allowed men to learn more about the world God had created and build upon the knowledge of others.

The industrial age quickly followed the reformation– as a result of believers in Jesus Christ, who no longer believed in the power of relics (magic, black or white), to use this knowledge to help others.

Christians are taught to help others.

The parable of the good Samaritan Lk 10.33-37.

The parable of the talents Mt 25.15-46

Mat 25:44-45 "Then they themselves also will answer,
'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a
stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take
care of You?' (45) "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I
say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of
the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

What is the Christian told to do about those in poverty?

Rom 12:20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

But the Christian is also taught not to put those who can help themselves on the roll to collect food continuously.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

Eph 4.28 implies that the thief who becomes a Christian must learn a trade –*rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good*, either by an apprenticeship or by schooling, whether by his father (Heb 12.7) or by a tutor (as in Gal 3.24).

The positive effects of such teaching will be seen in continual improvements in society.

1Tim 4.8 ... *godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

On the question of poverty – The Scriptures teach that we are to help those who are truly in need.

Jas 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Acts 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. (7) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, (8) nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;

(10) For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. (11) For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. (12) Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

Christians extinguish poverty and wealth inequality.

Unlike communism which teaches that everyone should have an equal share, Christianity recognizes that allowing persons of ability to do their best results in the approval of God!

Mt 25:15 the 5 talent man

Mt 25.17 the 2 talent man

Mt 25.18 the one talent man

Well done good and faithful servant and increased responsibility

You wicked, lazy servant!

On the questions of poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, health care, educational resources, and discrimination, what is the difference between the country in which we live and the nations to the south of us?

It is not natural or human resources. The main difference is religion – a philosophy that each man will be judged on what he does and that he must strive to do his best while helping others.

On the questions of poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, health care, educational resources, and discrimination, what is the difference between the country in which we live and the nations of the middle east?

It is not natural or human resources. The main difference is religion – a philosophy that each man will be judged on what he does and that he must strive to do his best while helping others.

On the questions of poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, health care, educational resources, and discrimination, what is the difference between the country in which we live and the nations of Africa, whether north, central or south?

It is not natural or human resources. The main difference is religion – a philosophy that each man will be judged on what he does and that he must strive to do his best while helping others.

“Whether religion is made obsolete by scientific progress is a trivial question” -- Laurence Krauss
Director “Origins” at Arizona State University

To his mind the answer is of no consequence – but
what of the destiny of man?

Where we came from is an interesting study, but
the question of where we are going is more
important – both in this world and in life after this
world!

Scientific progress is only of value when it serves mankind.

Without God, there is no reason to serve mankind.

Evolution leaves God out of the equation and leads to control of science in order to control mankind by a small group of elite, whether in the form of a dictator, as in Russia, Cuba, Venezuela or Syria.

*1Tim 4.8 ... godliness has value for all things,
holding promise for both the present life and the
life to come.*

Debating whether natural selection and survival of the fittest has to do with a world view of either helping others or allowing those who are strongest to rule as they see fit.

The world view that has been shown to be superior is that of a literate world moved forward by the compassion found in Christ Jesus.

Without the desire to serve Christ and do His will, the world falls short of the literacy and compassion needed to maintain the world's present progress. The appeal to throw religion away is shown by its track record to lead to a regression in solving the world's pressing problems.

Science and true religion are not enemies, but joined together can make this world a better place as God directed.

1Tim 4.8 ... *godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Luk 11:23 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

Will you join yourself to those who wish to serve God today?

Act 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'