

The Impact of Evolution

The year 2009 is the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (24 November 1859) and the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth (12 February 1809).

There is no question that the theory of evolution in its current form of neo-Darwinianism is the most pervasive theory of origins of our time. However there is much debate over the role evolution should play in both (public and Christian) schools and in a Christian understanding of Creation. Christian churches were long hostile to Darwin because his theory was seen to conflict with the literal interpretation of the biblical account of creation, but now more churches are accommodating evolution into their scriptural understanding of origins. There is a question whether Christianity is compatible or incompatible with evolution. The question of the benefits and dangers of the theory of evolution requires a thoughtful response by Christian educators. *Evolutionism* is itself a very persistent *philosophical* movement with a long history that has found its way into natural science.

Does this undermine its credibility as *science*? What does a Christian approach to science offer in relation to the theory of evolution and its role in a Christian curriculum? How do we interpret scripture in relation to the challenge of evolution theory? And how do Christian educators properly and sensitively prepare the minds of Christian students for a world that is in conflict over the question of evolution?

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