

Part One In A Series Of Seven

Why Are We Here, And Where Are We Going?

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- God Made Us, And He Made Us Because He Loved Us.
- We Were Made To Enjoy Love-Filled Lives With God And One Another.
- Whatever Else Is True About Man, He Isn't What He Was Created To Be!
- Even Atheists Admit That '**Atheism Is Too Bad To Be True**'.

EVALUATION SHEET

Please go ahead and fill in the evaluation sheet attached.

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GREAT BARR
CHURCH OF CHRIST



GOD, LIFE AND PEOPLE

Part One in a Series of Seven



Why Are We Here, And Where Are We Going?

'caring for **PEOPLE** for **PEOPLE** matter to God' **Romans 5:8**

1. CREATION

ATHEISM IS TOO BAD TO BE TRUE

1. THE ATHEIST'S ANSWER TO OUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS.

1. How did we get here? Where did we come from? Is there someone 'out there' who lovingly made us or are we just a freakish accident which happened in a mindless universe?

Why are we here? Does life have a purpose or is it meaningless? Are we going anywhere? Are we supposed to be going anywhere? Will everything end in the ice-cold blackness when the universe dies?

2. If we're to believe what atheists have been telling us for over a hundred years, we'd say our solar system began with a chance explosion and things just turned out as they are.

3. They've told us the only difference between human life and the scum that floats on stagnant water is that human life is more complex than fungus or scum.

(That is what they've told us!)

When we look into the emptiness of space for a Father, they tell us, the only thing that stares back at us is a black empty eye-socket. The atheist, H. J. Blackham, said the greatest objection to atheism is this: 'It's too bad to be true!'

WE AREN'T SIMPLY SOPHISTICATED ANIMALS

So, here's another truth to be remembered:
In making us in his image, God made us capable of appreciating spiritual realities like truth, honour, obedience and loyalty to God and others.

God made us to give us life, joy and peace with him and with one another!

13. God didn't make us to torture, cripple or curse us. He finds no pleasure in the pain we endure (**Lamentations 3:33**). His unchanging purpose is to bless Man (**Genesis 1:28 / John 3:17**) and to offer him life which comes in intimately knowing God and being his friend (**Deuteronomy 30:15, 20 / John 17:3**).

14. So, we humans didn't arrive on earth by accident. There is Someone 'out there' who cares about us! Life is not purposeless.

We were created to enjoy love-filled lives with God and one another! We are not just complex scum and we aren't simply sophisticated animals. We've been made in the image of God to enjoy fellowship with him.

Isn't that another truth we should be pleased to understand and cherish?

MAN WAS MADE TO REFLECT THE GLORY OF GOD

10. Man (male and female) was made 'in the image of God' (Genesis 1:26-27). There are a number of truths involved in this. We're honoured to be in God's image but we're not God! What we see in the mirror is our image, it isn't us.

There's a truth we need to fully recognise: we aren't God and we shouldn't think or act as though we were!

11. Man (male and female) was given authority to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:28). The pair were never to think they earned this power, it was given to them. Just the same, they were God's representatives and were to rule for him. As an ambassador reflects the honour and dignity of the country he represents, so Man was made to reflect the honour and glory of the God he represented. The glory and honour of God is seen in his power (Psalm 19:1).

Here's another truth we need to remember: We are made to mirror the glory of God as we exercise influence and power.

12. Man was made in God's image and that meant he had the capacity for fellowship with his creator. God walked with Man in the garden (Genesis 3:8) and wanted people to live in his presence (Genesis 4:16). And he stressed the difference between Man and the animals which were not made in his image (Genesis 2:18-20).

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE GOD WANTED US TO BE HERE

4. The atheist, Teller, said: 'There is no eternal Justice in the heaven, no helping hand. The stellar depths are silent as the grave to human misery and want. The vast abyss of space is both our womb and tomb. It cares neither for our coming nor our going...'

Bertrand Russell insisted that Man's 'origin, growth, hopes, fears, loves and beliefs, are but the result of an accidental arrangement of atoms' and that in time Man will 'be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins'. Ingersoll (an atheist) thought that 'life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities... We cry aloud and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry.'

This is standard atheism! Thank God it isn't true!

II. THE ANSWER JESUS CHRIST GIVES TO OUR QUESTIONS.

5. Jesus Christ himself accepts the answer Genesis 1-2 gives to our questions. (See Matthew 19:4-6 which quotes from Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.) Genesis tells us our world was created by God! We're told that God created an earth-home and then he created Man (Genesis 1:1-27). So, we're not an 'accident' that just 'happened' — we're here because God wanted us to be here!

THERE'S NO LIFE WITHOUT LOVE

III. WHY DID GOD MAKE US?

God made us because he loves us!

6. **1 John 4:8** says God is love. That means he can never act lovelessly. **Psalm 136:5-9** tells us repeatedly that God created because his 'love endures forever'. The creation (humans included) is the loving expression of God's almighty power. God made us because he loved us!

(This truth often leads us to mutter: 'If he loves us so much, why is the world in such a mess?' (We'll say something about this in Lesson 2.)

God made us for life within loving relationships!

7. You can see from reading **Genesis 1** that God provided for Man's physical needs, even before he made Man. But humans need more than food and shelter. Man can't LIVE by bread alone! He must have love and he must have companions!

8. As far as God is concerned, there is no life without love (See **John 3:14**). And love is experienced within relationships. When someone asked Christ what God wanted above all, he answered: 'Above all, he wants you to love Him and to love your neighbours as you love yourselves.'

GOD WANTS TO BE LOVED BY US

To love God is to do what God wants and God wants to be loved by us! We were made in his image (**Genesis 5:1-2**) so we could live with him. And we were created a pair, a twosome, so we could live with one another (**Genesis 2:18-23**).

God made us to give us honour and dignity!

9. In **Psalm 8:5-6**, David says God made Man: 'A little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.'

David found it amazing that God could care for Man in this way and, Chesterton, looking at modern Man, muttered: 'Whatever else is true about Man, he isn't what he was intended to be!'

(What happened to the dignity and power God gave Man at creation? We'll say something about that in Lesson 2.)