

# Can We Be Christian and Believe in Evolution?

Is belief in the Bible as God's word and belief in evolution compatible? There's a website — [biologos.com](http://biologos.com) — that says "yes." Here, under "About Us" are two of their "Core Commitments":

- We embrace the historical Christian faith, upholding the authority and inspiration of the Bible.
- We affirm evolutionary creation, recognizing God as Creator of all life over billions of years.

I'm familiar with theistic evolution — the belief that a higher power (God of the Bible or some other "intelligence") had a hand in the origin and evolution of the universe. Many in the Intelligent Design (ID) community believe that. But not all of the ID scientists would affirm, as the curators of [biologos.com](http://biologos.com) do, that "We believe the Bible is the inspired and authoritative word of God. By the Holy Spirit it is the 'living and active' means through which God speaks to the church today, bearing witness to God's Son, Jesus, as the divine Logos, or Word of God."

This is a hybrid, or a synthesis, of Christianity with belief in evolution, with a twist: the God of the Bible, and Jesus Christ himself, used the evolutionary processes to bring the world into existence.

In an article on the website, a professor attempted to answer a question posted on a forum:

"Do you find, when you're teaching, that your students have any particular difficulties in understanding the 'nuts and bolts' of how evolution works? Could the misconceptions [about evolution] be due to evolution being genuinely difficult to understand on a purely technical level?"

The professor struggles with this question of why it is so difficult to teach Christians the "truth" (as she calls it) of evolution. She, kindly, ascribes their reluctance to accept evolution to social and psychological influences. I'm surprised that, as a self-describe "Christian," she has such a difficult time understanding why students are slow to accept her reasoning. Her naiveté is strange.

For one thing, as the forum questioner said, evolution is difficult to understand. Why? Because it is illogical to believe that the world, as we see it today, came from a teaspoon of matter — or whatever theory one believes about the Big Bang or other theory of the origin of the universe. It is more logical for those who believe the Bible is God's word to believe what the psalmist says in Psalm 33:6-7,

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.  
He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;  
he puts the deeps in storehouses.*

We may not understand how God did it, but it's easier to believe that an all-powerful Creator spoke the world into existence than believing he used the strange means of evolution, with all its unanswered questions (and there are many), to do it.

The author, in her efforts to persuade kids who feel that believing in evolution means you can't believe in a creator, says:

I dispel this idea by providing a clear definition of biological evolution to show that it is completely neutral about whether a higher power is behind it. I discuss the origin of the belief that science proves that God and the supernatural realm do not exist— philosophical naturalism—and explain that this is a belief system, not a scientific conclusion. Just because we can describe something in scientific terms does not leave less room for God in the process. April Maskiewicz Cordero, PhD

I agree that “the origin of the belief that God does not exist is not a scientific conclusion but a belief system.” But I also believe that evolution itself — especially the explanations of the origin of the universe — is a belief system. That is, it is accepted by faith.

In any case, is God-ordained evolution the best explanation for the creation and existence of the universe? “Why?” The God I read about in the Bible is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.

If so, why would he need evolution to create the world?

Biological evolution may not eliminate the need for a higher power — and I appreciate that conclusion, as far as it goes — but I do think it necessarily questions the authority and inspiration of the Bible, a tenet that the team at biologos says they embrace.

David Posey