

“Don’t Be a Fool”

David Flatt

When I was growing up, pop-culture icon, Mr. T, did a public service announcement for education. His tagline was, “Don’t be a fool! Stay in school!” What comes to mind when hearing the word “fool”? Maybe a high school dropout. Maybe someone who is unwise, dumb, or silly. In the Bible, the term fool is a searing indictment of character. Notice how the foolish man is described in the Psalms.

Psalms 10:1-4: “Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised. For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Psalms 14:1: “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.”

The fool described in these passages does not sound like someone who is dumb, uneducated, or silly. The fool is calculating and ambitious. The Bible uses the term fool to identify those of a certain worldview. There are three ideas contained in the meaning of this word. A fool is irrational, irreverent, and immoral.

Three Traits of a Fool

1). A fool is irrational. Being irrational is not synonymous with ignorance. In the tenth Psalm, the fool has reached a studied conclusion: “There is no god.” Today, Darwinian evolution is the system whereby many educated people have concluded, “There is no god.”

Darwinian evolution states that the universe and all life within the universe is the result of a random, undirected, purposeless accident. This thesis lacks rationality. For example, consider Oxford mathematician and believer in God, John Lennox. He has tried to demonstrate evolution’s rationality problem to evolutionists. Lennox states that scientists do science with the brain. Yet, they readily state that the brain is the result of an unguided, mindless process. If this is true, can the brain be trusted? A rational person would have to conclude, “No.” But, scientists deny this rational conclusion. Darwinian evolution has a rationality problem.

If our conclusions are irrational, we have reached the wrong conclusions. If our conclusions are not rational, we need to find new answers and explanations. Sadly, the scientific community is deeply committed to the theory of evolution. In the tenth Psalm, the fool’s irrationality is fueled by pride. The fool denies in his heart what he knows in his mind.

2). A fool is irreverent. This point gets to the attitude of a fool. A fool has no reservations about mocking God or those who believe in God. Ron Reagan Jr., the son of former President

Reagan, produced a commercial for the Freedom From Religion Foundation in 2014. At the end of the commercial, he described himself as, “Lifelong atheist, not afraid of burning in hell.”

Ron Reagan is not uneducated. He is not a clown. But, his words sound like the words of an irreverent fool. Like the fool of the tenth Psalm, he “boasts of the desires of his soul.”

3). A fool is immoral. Atheists are sometimes described as grossly immoral. They renounce God so they can stay drunk and fornicate. This may be true for some; however, the moral problem of atheism is deeper.

Atheist, Richard Dawkins once said, “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless, indifference.” If the universe is the result of an unguided, random accident, then, good and evil do not exist. Western society’s most renowned atheist acknowledged that good and evil do not matter. Darwinian evolution has a morality problem.

Social Darwinism was used as scientific reasoning to promote genocide. Mathematician and opponent of evolution, David Berlinski, once said, “What Hitler did not believe and what Stalin did not believe and what Mao did not believe and what the SS did not believe and what the Gestapo did not believe and what the NKVD did not believe and what the commissars, functionaries, swaggering executioners, Nazi doctors, Communist Party theoreticians, intellectuals, Brown Shirts, Black Shirts, gauleiters, and a thousand party hacks did not believe was that God was watching what they were doing. And as far as we can tell, very few of those carrying out the horrors of the twentieth century worried overmuch that God was watching what they were doing either. That is, after all, the meaning of a secular society.” The fourteenth Psalm says the fool does abominable deeds. Regrettably, the scientific community refuses to address this problem.

Deceased journalist and atheist, Christopher Hitchens ardently opposed genocide. He spoke against tyrannical dictators throughout his career; yet, he described God as the worst tyrant the world has ever known. Hitchens demonstrates the inconsistencies of atheism. Atheism rejects God but wants to keep morality.

Conclusion

There is a great deal of inconsistency within atheism and evolution. There is too much “irreducible complexity” in the universe to have been the result of a random, unguided, meaningless process. Despite the problems, these philosophies will continue to be promoted in society. David Berlinski aptly observed that Darwinian evolution has enabled atheists to live an intellectually fulfilled life. As long as we live in a secular culture, Darwinian evolution will continue to do the same.

The apostle Paul described men foolishly trying to suppress the truth of God (Rom. 1:18-25). Atheistic philosophy is a tool to suppress the truth. However, the truth is powerful. While

we might try to suppress the truth, truth pushes against us. The truth will continue to force itself into our lives. God cannot and will not be denied. So, don't be a fool!