

STAND FIRM AGAINST EVOLUTION

By Andy Manning

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Today we are starting a new sermon series called “Stand Firm.”

Our **theme verse** for this series is **1 Corinthians 16:13**.¹ “Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.”

The inspiration for this series comes from a statistic by the Barna Research Group in 2014 that found that 60 percent of people in their twenties who were raised in church were no longer spiritually engaged. They no longer prayed, read the Bible, or attended church.

And so I wanted to do a sermon series that helped the young people in our church to stand firm – to stay spiritually engaged as they grow up. Stay spiritually engaged in high school. Stay spiritually engaged in college. Stay spiritually engaged when you start your career, and when you get married, and when you start having kids, and when you start to make some real money, and when you go through hard times, and when you retire.

But this sermon series isn’t just for young people.

Many “Christians” fall away. They stop going to church; they stop reading their Bible; they stop praying; they get into a sinful lifestyle; they get pulled away by false teaching; or they get pulled into a cult; some even stop believing altogether.

I want to encourage all Christians in this series to stand firm.

What does it mean by stand firm? To stand firm means five things:

¹ Unless noted, all Bible verses are from the Christian Standard Bible, 2017.

1. **Hold on to sound *doctrine*, no matter what.** 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (TLB) says, “With all these things in mind, dear brothers, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the truth that we taught you in our letters and during the time we were with you.”

2. **Stay active in church, no matter what.**

Studies show that people are attending church less and less.

People who used to attend every week now attend 3 times a week; those who used to show up twice a month now show up once a month; those who used to show up once a month now show up about six times a year.

Be an every weeker. Mark church on your calendar on Sundays, and don't let anything else interfere.

Hebrews 10:25 (CEV) says, “Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.”

3. **Maintain an *intimate* love relationship with God, no matter what.**

Keep praying. Keep studying your Bible. Stay close to God.

Jesus said in **John 15:4**, “Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.”

4. **Keep *servicing* God, no matter what.**

Keep volunteering in church. Keep tithing. Keep being an active witness for Christ to your friends and family.

Jesus said in **Matthew 28:19-20**, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have

commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

5. **Keep pursuing *righteousness*, no matter what.**

Don't give in to sinful living.

If you have a moral failure, don't let it turn into a habit. Quickly get back on the road to righteousness.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33**, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”

OUR APPROACH IN THIS SERIES

Now let's talk about our approach in this sermon series.

As I reflected on the reasons that Christians fall away in these five areas, one of the main reason has to do with false teaching.

If the devil can get you to believe false teaching, then he can get you to fall away and backslide.

And so in this series I want to look **five destructive lies** that can lead you away from God.

1. **Evolution:** People are not a special act of **creation** by God; they evolved naturally from monkeys.
2. **Atheism:** God does not exist; the **material** world is all there is.
3. **Pluralism:** There are **many** paths to heaven; Jesus is not the only way.
4. **Annihilationism:** Some people go to heaven, and those that don't just cease to exist; there is no such thing as eternal **hell**.
5. **Sexual Liberation:** The Bible's restrictions on sex are **harmful**; happiness can only be found through total sexual freedom.

These ideas are being preached to us constantly through the TV, the public school system, the internet, social media, the universities, books, magazines, etc, and they are leading many Christians astray.

I believe if we can develop some strong convictions in these five areas, then we have a much better chance at standing firm.

EVOLUTION

So let's get into the subject of evolution.

Here's the lie of evolution: People are not a special act of creation by God; they evolved naturally from monkeys.

The first time I was taught evolution at school was in the sixth grade at Youngsville Middle School. When my science class got to the unit on evolution, my mother was prepared. She had already gotten permission from my teacher for me to sit in the library every day during science class and work on another project until my class was finished with evolution.

Why did my mom take me out of class? It's not that she didn't want me to learn about evolution. My parents and my church had already taught me all about it. It's just that my mom did not want me to hear about it from my public school teacher, whom I respected very much, that the theory of evolution was established fact; settled science.

She understood that evolution directly contradicts the Bible, and that if you can convince a kid that evolution is true, then you have just convinced him that the Bible is false. And so my mom was being very wise, because many people who were brought by Christian parents have fallen away because of the lie of evolution.

WHAT IS EVOLUTION?

In 1859 Charles Darwin published a book called *The Origin of Species*. It is one of the most influential books of all time.

Let me summarize the theory of Darwinian evolution by quoting Dr. R.C. Sproul.
“In the book [*The Origin of Species*] he theorizes that all living organisms on earth have descended from a single primordial form. From that single source all varieties of life have evolved and continue to evolve.”

Here are the major premises of Darwin’s theory:

1. Each individual member of a given species is different. Take dogs for example. There are many different kinds of dogs.
2. In nature, the weaker varieties of animals or plants are “killed off” by the stronger varieties due to their better ability to compete for food or withstand environmental changes.² This is called survival of the fittest, or natural selection.
3. This process, Darwin thought, would cause the surviving variety of a species to improve over time and evolve (change) into a completely new species.

Now let’s stop here for a moment.

Everyone affirms what is called adaptation within a species.

In other words it is possible for wolves to adapt over time to their changing environment; they might change colors, size, hair length, speed, maybe even the sound of their howl.

That’s called adaptation, or microevolution. It is possible for changes to occur within a species. It is possible for wolves to change over time.

We have seen that happen.

We can even speed up that process through artificial breeding.

² Dr. Carl Werner, *Evolution: The Grand Experiment*, p. 32.

But the wolves always remain wolves.

What Darwin theorized is that given enough time, the wolves would keep evolving until they became a completely new animal.

Darwin believed that this explained the origin of species. It all started with a single-celled organism that eventually evolved over millions of years into all the different kinds of plants and animals that we see today.

That is called macroevolution, and that's where evolution and the Bible clash.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND EVOLUTION

Let's look at the different ways that evolution and the Bible contradict one another.

1. The Bible says that God created each animal according to its kind.

Genesis 1:24-25 says, "24 Then God said, 'Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.' And it was so. 25 So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good."

Evolution says that all species originated from one, single-celled organism, which then evolved or changed into the many different kinds of animals that we have today.

2. The Bible says that people are made in the image of God, different from all other animals.

Genesis 1:26-27 says, "26 Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that

crawl on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.”

To be created in the image of God doesn’t just mean that we are more intelligent than the animals; it means that we have the capacity for moral reasoning, for altruistic love, and for spiritual perception.³

Evolution says that people are just animals of higher intelligence.

3. **The Bible says that God made people and all animal-kinds in the beginning.**

Exodus 20:11 says, “For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then He rested on the seventh day.”

Jesus affirmed this in **Matthew 19:4**. “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female.”

Evolution says that different kinds of animals evolved and emerged at different times, sometimes separated by millions of years.

4. **The Bible says that people and animals were created supernaturally.**

Genesis 1:20-21 explains what happened on day 5 of creation. “20 Then God said, “Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” 21 So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”

The Bible doesn’t say that God created one single-celled organism, and then everything came naturally from that through the process of evolution. No. God supernaturally created fully-formed animals in the sea and the sky. It was a miracle.

³ Ken Ham.

Evolution says that people and animals evolved through natural processes.

5. **The bible says that people and animals exist because of divine intent.**

When you read Genesis 1, you see the same words over and over again: "Then God said..."

People and animals are not here by chance. They are here because God decided to speak them into being.

Evolution says that people and animals are here by random chance / accident.

6. **The Bible says that creation exists to glorify and serve God.**

Colossians 1:16 says of Jesus, "For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him."

Evolution says that people and animals have no inherent purpose, because they are here by accident.

7. **The Bible says that life began on land.**

The first life forms were not people or animals, but vegetation.

God created animals and people on the fifth and sixth days, but He created plants and trees on the third day (Gen 1:11-13).

Evolution says that life began in the oceans.

8. **The Bible says that man was created from the dust.**

Genesis 1:7 says, "Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being."

Evolution says that man evolved from monkeys.

Now this is just the tip of the iceberg. Evolution and the Bible are incompatible. They totally contradict one another. And that's what I want you to see.

The Biblical account of origins and evolution's account of origins are completely different.

If you believe in evolution, then you cannot believe the Bible. And if you believe the Bible, then you cannot believe in evolution.

WHAT IF EVOLUTION IS TRUE?

Let me explain to you the implications if evolution is true.

1. If evolution is true, then the Bible is wrong about creation.
2. If evolution is true, then the Jesus is wrong about creation.
3. If evolution is true, then the Bible and Jesus cannot be trusted.
4. If evolution is true, then we cannot know who God is.
5. If evolution is true, then we cannot know the meaning of life.
6. If evolution is true, then we cannot right from wrong.
7. If evolution is true, then we cannot know how to get to heaven.

In short, if evolution is true, then everything we believe as Christians must be thrown out.

If you accept evolution as true, then you will eventually fall away from God, almost without a doubt.

But I'm here to tell you today that evolution is not true. The Bible is true.

I'm here to proclaim to you that **Genesis 1:1** is true. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

REASONS TO BELIEVE IN CREATION AND NOT EVOLUTION

Let me give you the reasons to believe in creation rather than evolution.

1. The Bible teaches creation, and the Bible is true.

The Bible is God's word.

It makes this claim for itself. **2 Timothy 3:16** says, "All Scripture is inspired by God...."

Every word in this book was given by God to men to write down for us.

And since God does not lie, then every single word in this book is true. It is inspired. It is inerrant.

Psalms 19:7 says, "The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise."

There's only one thing you can trust in this world, and it is the Bible, because it is the word of God.

Science changes its mind all the time.

Doctors told my grandparents that breastfeeding was best for children; then they told my parents that formula was best for children; then they told my generation that breastfeeding was best.

One study says that caffeine is bad for you. Then another study says it is good for you.

One study says you should floss; another study says that flossing doesn't do any good.

Science changes all the time, but the Bible never changes.

1 peter 1:24-25 says, “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

2. Jesus taught creation, and He is God.

In **Matthew 19:4** Jesus affirmed the creation account in Genesis. “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female.”

Jesus was quoting Genesis 1:27.

Why does it matter what Jesus taught or believed? Because Jesus is God.

How do we know? Because He predicted that He would be crucified and rise from the grave, and then He did it.

If Jesus believed in creation, then we should believe in creation.

3. Evolution has never been observed.

So there are different kinds of animals. There is feline kind: cats, lions, tigers, etc. There is the canine kind: wolves, poodles, German shepherds. And there is human kind.

Darwinian evolution claims one kind of animal kind evolve into a completely different kind.

But this has never been observed.

If you ask an evolutionist why we can’t observe a change of kind, they would say because it takes millions of years. But that’s not science.

Glenn Sunshine said, “Interestingly enough, his theory does not fit the definition of science. For a theory to be scientific, it must be able to be validated through

the scientific method. A theory is proposed and predictions are made from it. These predictions are then tested through experimentation. If the experiment fails, the theory must be discarded or modified. If the experiment succeeds, it does not prove the theory truth, but it does make it more probably that the theory is correct. Darwinism itself is not subject to the scientific method any more than anything in history is. The past is over; you cannot revisit it, observe it, test it, or experiment on it. All you can do is look at the surviving evidence and try to make sense of it.”

We can observe microevolution, or adaptation, but nobody has ever observed macroevolution, or a change in kind.

Again, that’s not very scientific.

4. There are no transitional fossils.

Darwin explained how to refute his theory.

He said that if his theory was true, then the fossil record would show countless transitional fossils.

What is a transitional fossil? If a fish turned into a bird, for example, then the fossil record would show a fish in this layer of rock, and then it would should a bird in this layer of rock, and in the layers between it would fossils creatures that were part fish, and part bird.

Unfortunately, in Darwin’s time, no transitional fossils had been found. And this troubled him.

Darwin said, “Why then is not every stratum and every geological formation full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain, and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.”

But Darwin was very optimistic about his theory, and he predicted that within decades innumerable transitional fossils would be uncovered.

Well, here we are, 150 years later, and we have uncovered hundreds of thousands of fossils, but no transitional fossils.

But that's not the worst of it for evolutionists.

According to Darwin, the simultaneous emergence of species without gradual ascent from earlier organisms would disprove his theory.

In other words, if a bunch of fossils suddenly appeared in a layer of rock, and no transitional fossils are found beneath them, then that would disprove evolution.

And that's exactly what was found.

A few years back archeologists discovered a layer of rock called the Cambrian Explosion in which most major groups of complex animals suddenly appear, and not by gradual evolution.

So first, the transitional fossils that Darwin predicted never showed up.

And second, contrary to evolution, the fossil record shows many animals suddenly appearing with no transitional forms beneath them.

Sounds like creation to me.

5. Irreducible complexity.

Darwin wrote that, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

What did he mean?

Well, take a mouse trap for example. A mouse trap has five parts: Platform, hammer, spring, catch, and a hold-down bar.

If you take away any of those five parts, then it has no function. It is irreducibly complex. You can't reduce it and it still have any function.

Darwin knew that if you could find a living organ or organism that was irreducibly complex, that couldn't have evolved slowly over time, then his theory would be debunked.

If you could find a complex living organism that couldn't possibly have evolved, because to take away any of its parts would make it completely pointless and inoperable, then you could disprove evolution.

That would mean that that organ had to have been created, or intelligently designed.

Biochemist **Michael Behe** calls this irreducible complexity. He defines it as “a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning.”

So if something can't function without one of its parts, then it couldn't have gradually developed, one part at a time. It had to have been created.

Well, when Darwin first came up with his theory, scientists didn't have the technology to see the inside of cells, but today we can with tools like the electron microscope.

And we have discovered several examples of irreducible complexity.

One is the flagellum, which is attached like a tail to some bacteria. **Nancy Pearcy** writes, “It is a microscopic outboard rotary motor that comes equipped with a hook, join, a drive shaft, O-rings, a stator, and a bi-directional acid-powered

motor than can hum along up to 100,000 revolutions per minute. Structures like these require dozens of precisely tailored, intricately interacting parts, which could not emerge by any gradual process. Instead the coordinated parts must somehow appear on the scene all at the same time, combined and coordinated in the right patterns, for the molecular machine to function at all.”

So according to Darwin, his theory has already been debunked.

Complex organs exist that could not have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications.

Evolution doesn't explain those complex organs, but supernatural creation does.

CONCLUSION

And so today I encourage to stand firm against evolution. It is not true. It is a myth.

This is why in 2007 Discovery Institute announced that over 700 scientists from around the world had signed a statement expressing their skepticism with Darwinian evolution. And that list has continued to grow.

These are scientists from Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Stanford, Berkeley, Princeton, MIT, etc.

In 2005 a poll found that 60% of American doctors reject Darwinian evolution.

In the book, *Darwinism: The Refutation of a Myth*, the Swedish embryologist **Soren Lovtrup** says that he believes that someday Darwinism “will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science.”

The Bible is true.

God created the heavens and the earth.

You did not come from monkeys.

God made you.

And He made you for a purpose. To know and love Him.

The 2014 movie *Unbroken* tells the amazing true story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in World War II.

In 1943, Louie and 10 others are sent on a rescue mission, and their plane crashed into the ocean. Only Louie and two others survive, and they live on two inflatable rafts. They drifted for 2,000 miles with only a few bottles of water and six chocolate bars. When they ran out, they survived on rainwater, fish, and birds.

On the 33rd day at sea, one of the men dies.

Finally, on the 47th day, Louie and his friend Phil are picked up by the Japanese as prisoners of war and sent to different POW camps.

Louie is sent to a camp in Tokyo, where he is beaten often by the leader of the camp, Corporal Watanabe. On one occasion, Watanabe forced every prisoner to punch Louie. One time Watanabe ordered Louie to lift a large beam above his head, and he ordered a guard to shoot him if he dropped it. Louis held it, despite extreme exhaustion, for 37 minutes, while looking Watanabe in the eye. This angered Watanabe, who then beat Louie severely. Louis spent two years as a POW and endured disease, starvation, and almost daily beatings with clubs, belts, and fists.

Eventually he made it back to the states and lived out his life. He ended up living until he was 97 years old, when he died after a 40-day battle with pneumonia.

As I thought about standing firm, the story of Louie Zamperini came to mind. No matter what he had to face, he stood firm. He didn't give up.

And that's my challenge for you.

You will be challenged with the lie of evolution. You will be bullied. They will tell you that all scientists believe in evolution. You will be told that evolution is based on science, and creationism is superstition. You will be told that evolution deniers are stifling scientific and technological progress. You will be told that only fools believe in creation.

But no matter what they say, stand firm on God's word: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."