

But it was not this way in the beginning. When God created the universe it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31) – there was no sin, no death, no suffering. Adam and Eve were created perfectly, in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and they enjoyed close fellowship with Him.

But through Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin and death came into the world (Romans 5:12). They became sinners, separated from God – "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). This legacy was passed on to the entire human race.

Jesus, the "last Adam" (1 Cor 15:45), came into this world to overturn that legacy. He died upon the cross to take the punishment for our sins, conquering death through His resurrection.

We are all born into this world "through Adam", with a sin nature (Romans 3:23). Therefore, we need to be born again (John 3:3) "in Christ", reconciled to God through Jesus' sacrifice (Romans 5:8-11). We must repent of our sins and trust in Jesus to save us (Acts 20:21). Then, once we are reconciled to God, the way is opened up for us to be reconciled to each other (Ephesians 4:31-32).

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divorce

AND EVOLUTION

WHAT does divorce have to do with evolution? Incredibly, this quote from the evolutionary magazine *New Scientist* suggests a genetic connection:

"Divorce is written in the DNA." *A new study of twins suggests that genetic make-up has a strong influence on whether or not your marriage will last - though not whether you'll get married in the first place..."*

[*"Divorce is written in the DNA"*, H. Muir, *New Scientist*, 12/07/01]

Of course, this is absurd. But nevertheless, the quote reveals a *spiritual* connection between divorce and evolution. Instead of exercising commitment, faithfulness and responsibility, people are appealing to "evolution" to justify the sins that so often lead to divorce...

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In the beginning (according to evolution) there was only death. Life arose by accident, and we are just the end result of millions of years of chance random processes. There is no such thing as absolute truth, no such thing as "good" and "evil". There is just a moral vacuum. And that's why the philosophy of evolution is so appealing to some. If evolution is true, then there is no Creator. And if there is no Creator, it follows that we are not accountable to God for our actions. We can do whatever we want.

When you apply this philosophy to marriage, it's easy to see why people question the notion of faithfulness to one's spouse. Why should there be a life long commitment to one person? Why is it wrong to commit adultery? Why exercise personal responsibility when you can just say, "My genes made me do it"? In fact, why do we even have such an institution as marriage in the first place?

Consider what the Bible has to say. The whole reason why we have marriage goes back to the book of *Genesis*. God created Adam from the dust of the ground, and then He created Eve using part of Adam's side – this is why the Bible calls marriage a "one flesh" relationship. Adam and Eve had no parents; they were wholly committed to each other in a covenant of companionship: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:24). This is the very *foundation* for marriage. That's why, when asked a question about divorce, Jesus quoted from the book of *Genesis* and declared that the "one flesh" relationship must not be broken. He said,

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"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mark 10:6-9).

Divorce is the tearing apart of one flesh. It is painful, devastating. What comfort is there in the suggestion that divorce is genetically determined by an imagined "evolutionary" past? The truth is, divorce hurts. And in contrast to those who invent genetic "explanations", the God of the Bible *understands* the emotional toll when families are torn apart. He *grieves* over the sin: "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously." (Malachi 2:16).

God knows how painful it is, not just for parents, but for children, who are often the innocent victims. It becomes all the more tragic when you consider one of the *reasons* for "one flesh": "And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? **That he might seek a godly seed.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth." (Malachi 2:15). God created marriage and the family. It is His desire that husbands and wives come to know Him and experience the joys of marriage and the privilege of raising *godly* children in Christian homes. But sadly, as these Biblical foundations are eroded, the impact is felt not only by families but by society as a whole.

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