

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

July/August, 2021; Vol. 39, No. 4

Truth and Relationship

by Dave Nutting

As a young person, AOI's Scott Mauser nearly drowned in the sea of anti-God philosophies. However, God saved him "for such a time as this." Much of what follows is based on Scott's presentations discussing truth and relationship.

In his presentations, Scott encourages parents/grandparents to think of truth and relationship as the two rails of a train track. One without the other leads to a train wreck. This inequity, we believe, is decimating the church – especially its young people. According to a recent poll, 79% of those who abandoned their faith did it before college in their adolescent and teen years.¹ A May 2021 poll reveals a whopping 43% of millennials say they don't know and don't care if there is a God.² The percent of today's teens professing atheism is double the general population's.³

I wish every Christian parent and grandparent would listen to Scott's eye-opening presentation. Some of it may bring you to tears to realize what is going on. For instance, he plays a short video clip of an unfortunately common occurrence – a "friendly" professor trashing a student's faith and ridiculing her in front of the whole class. How about the various websites with the "caring" atheists showing your youth how uncaring and wicked the God of the Bible is?

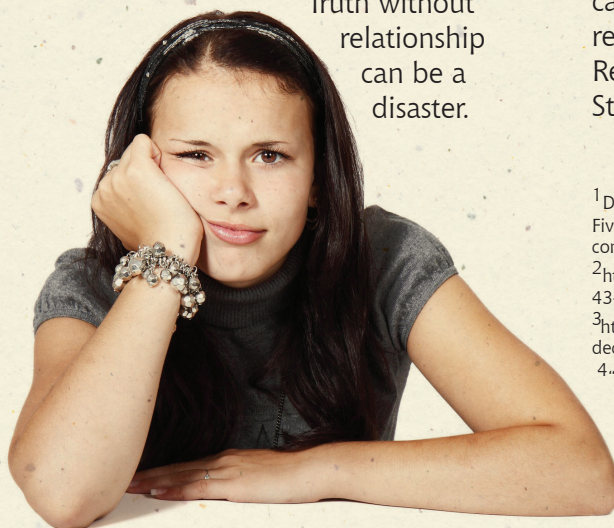
You need to grasp that today's world is very different than what

you experienced as a youngster. The attacks and ridicule are much more pointed and often vicious. Also, nearly 95% of today's youth have access to smart phones.⁴ Their "friends" could be sending them multiple links to pornography, evolution, and anti-God propaganda – a mere click away.

Young people will be devastated in their faith if they do not have the tools needed to stand firmly amidst escalating atheistic arguments and a culture that is increasingly antagonistic to Christianity. Because of this, it is crucial that parents and grandparents come alongside their youth to speak truth into their lives with intentionality. How do you do that?

Well, you can blast them with the truth. After all, 2 Cor 10:3-5 says to "destroy all arguments raised against the knowledge of God." If you're not careful though, you can blast them right off the train track!

Truth without relationship can be a disaster.



Remember, there is hope! If youth know that you love them, that you will sacrifice for them, and that you are willing to make them your priority, THEN you may have opportunity to speak truth into their lives. Parents: Being there in person and engaged with your kids speaks volumes. Grandparents: You can still have a major role from a distance. You might engage through Facetime, Skype, and Zoom or simply text on a regular basis. Also, don't forget the almost forgotten art of written letters. Kids still enjoy getting mail, even in this digital world.

In his presentation, Scott gives other valuable tools and suggestions on building relationships. That's why we are sponsoring a live Zoom call for parents and grandparents August 4, followed by a Student Crash Class that evening and the following morning. Don't miss these opportunities to equip yourself and your students! Make it a priority to develop deeper relationships with them. If you can't make it, be sure to go to the replays: DiscoverCreation.org/Maze-Replay and DiscoverCreation.org/StudentCrashClass-Replay. **AOI**

¹ Daniel Cox, "College Professors Aren't Killing Religion," FiveThirtyEight, October 10, 2017, <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/college-professors-arent-killing-religion/>.

² <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/05/20/survey-43-millennials-dont-know-care-believe-god-exists/>

³ <https://religionnews.com/2014/08/01/five-signs-great-decline-religion-america-gallup-graphs-church>

⁴ "Social Media, Social Life: Teens Reveal Their Experiences (2018)," Common Sense Media, accessed January 20, 2019, www.commonsensemedia.org/research/social-media-social-life-2018.

Why Students Ditch Their Faith by Dave Nutting



Over twenty years ago, philosopher, Richard Rorty explained his goal regarding the role of the professor vs. the parent: ***“We try to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic, religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own... we do our best to convince these students of the benefits of secularization... So we are going to go right on trying to discredit you in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your views seem silly rather than discussable.”***¹

They have been successful in college, high school, and even in the lower grades. Everywhere we travel, we hear heartbreaking stories from caring adults who know young

people, often their own kids, who have abandoned their faith. Scott Mauser lists some of the reasons students give: (Call AOI for references.)

- “Some stuff is too far-fetched for me to believe.”
- “Too many questions that can’t be answered.”
- “I’m a scientist now, and I don’t believe in miracles.”
- “I learned about evolution when I went away to college.”
- “There is a lack of any sort of scientific or specific evidence of a creator.”
- “As I learn more about the world around me and understand things that I once did not, I find that the thought of an all-powerful being to be less and less believable.”
- “I’m doing a lot more learning, studying, and kind of making decisions myself rather than listening to someone else.”
- “I just realized somewhere along the line that I didn’t really believe it.”

- “Because I grew up and realized it was a story like Santa or the Easter Bunny.”
- “I realized that religion is in complete contradiction with the rational and scientific world, and to continue to subscribe to a religion would be hypocritical.”
- “It no longer fits into what I understand of the universe.”
- “I have a hard time believing that a good God would allow so much evil or suffering in the world.”
- “There are too many injustices in the history of Christianity.”
- “Too many questions that can’t be answered.”
- “I had a bad experience at church with a Christian.”

Most of these responses, Scott says, involve some form of unanswered, intellectual skepticism or emotional pain. This needs to be addressed with our youth! **AOI**

¹ Robert Brandom, *Rorty and His Critics* (Blackwell Publishing, 2000), 22.

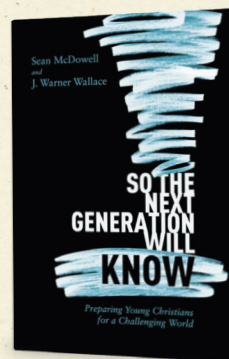
So The Next Generation Will Know: Preparing Young Christians For A Challenging World

by Dave Nutting

David C. Cook publishing writes: “As Gen Z leaves the church in record numbers, the adults in their lives feel at a loss to stop the trend. Yet there are research-based and proven strategies that help young people both own their faith and effectively engage the world around them.

“Sean McDowell, Ph.D., and Detective J. Warner Wallace have written and taught extensively on the subjects of

culture, worldview, and apologetics. In **So the Next Generation Will Know**, McDowell and Wallace provide strategies and practical tactics from their own personal experiences to help parents, youth leaders, and Christian teachers train the next generation with the



truth of the Christian worldview.”

Scott Mauser of the AOI staff uses a lot of this book in his presentations to youth and adults. I am sure you have a deep concern that the youth in your life don’t become “statistics,” so make sure you read this crucial book. It will help you aid them in the necessary training. 204 pages, **\$14 (reg. \$17)** **AOI**

Thermophiles and Creation

by Dave Nutting

When we give tours to Yellowstone National Park, vividly colored hot spring pools are at the top of the favorite list. Many visitors think that the gorgeous colors are from mineral deposits. However, almost all those beautiful colors are actually concentrations of single or multi-celled microscopic organisms called thermophiles (Greek word meaning “heat lovers”).

In Yellowstone, thermophiles can be found in the form of bacteria (single-celled with no nucleus) and Archaea [single-celled (without a nucleus). Archaea have membranes quite different from bacteria.] Other thermophiles come in the form of viruses (non-living parasitic microbes consisting of a piece of DNA or RNA covered by protein) and Eukarya (single or multi-celled organisms with a distinct membrane around the nucleus).

Thermophiles, being microbes, are extremely small and cannot be seen by the naked eye.

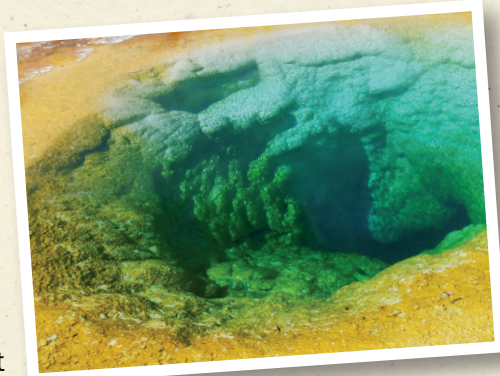
However, some of these single-celled microbes secrete a substance that will adhere to other microbes. These strands bond together into mats – sometimes as thick as lasagna! Microbes that form these thick mats specialize their cellular activity to perform different functions. For example, the microbes in the top layers can perform

photosynthesis to produce food, while those in lower layers take away waste and recycle nutrients.

Some thermophiles can only exist in a very narrow temperature range. Therefore, by observing their coloration, you can determine the water temperature:

- Green – 95° F (35° C)
- Brown – 110° F (43° C)
- Orange – 120° F (49° C)
- Yellow – 147° F (64° C)
- Blue – 198° F (92° C)

Some amazing microbes called extremophiles exist in extremely hot or acidic waters where other forms of life cannot exist. Thermophiles pose issues for evolutionary explanations.



Morning Glory Pool - Yellowstone

1. Hot springs around the world have the same microbes. Yet, these microbes can only survive within very narrow temperature bands. If the water is a bit hotter or colder,

they die. The question then arises: How did they get between Yellowstone and diverse places like New Zealand, the Arctic, Russia, Japan, etc., without encountering lethal conditions? Could undersea volcanism during the worldwide flood account for this?

2. Some extremophiles live at/or near the boiling water temperatures at Yellowstone. However, researchers have found that many live in even more

extreme heat – surviving conditions in undersea hydrothermal vents that spew 660° F fluids (black smokers). How did they learn to do that?

3. 1mm-long tardigrades have been shown to survive radiation doses 250 times the amount that would kill a human. They also survive freezing at -450° F, heat of 304° F, and being put in a total vacuum. (<https://creation.com/tardigrades-too-tough-for-evolution>).

So how do microbes and tardigrades “evolve” adaptations

to these “unnatural” conditions or gain extreme over-engineering capabilities? Once again, we see that God has given even the



Wikimedia Commons: journal.pone.0045682.g001-2.png

SEM Photo of a Tardigrade

smallest creatures

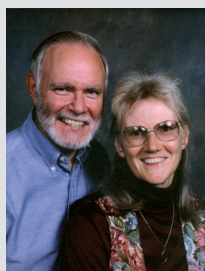
an amazing ability to “be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.” (Genesis 1:22)

According to textbooks, evolution supposedly proceeds by mutations (mistakes in the genetic code) and natural selection (survival of the fittest) operating slowly and gradually over millions of years. Unfortunately for evolutionists, these two factors do not work! After years of genetic research, highly credentialed Dr. John Sanford gave up evolution based on hard data. He says in his book, **Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome**, “If the genome must degenerate, then the Primary Axiom [mutation and natural selection] is wrong. It is not just implausible. It is not just unlikely. It is absolutely dead wrong. It is not just a false axiom. It is an unsupported and discredited hypothesis and can be confidently rejected.” (2014, p.155)

Additional Sources: John Wilson, Diane Galbraith and the National Park Service. **AOI**

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



An Alert and Invitation!

Schools and the media have been escalating their promotion of evolutionary and anti-God

philosophies. AOI invites you to join 2 short but critical online programs to help students weather the storm, stand firmly on the Word, and answer the skeptics' challenges.

1. Parents/Grandparents Alert:

Help your children/grandchildren through the maze! (Free Online Event)(**Mountain Times**)

Aug 4: 10 AM - Noon. Register at DiscoverCreation.org/Maze

2. Student's Creation/Worldview Mini-Crash-Class:

(Free: Choose your slot.)


August 4: 7-9 PM or Aug 5: 10 AM - Noon. Register at DiscoverCreation.org/StudentCrashClass

Note: Sessions will be recorded.

If you miss any of these events, you can still take part. Please register and encourage as many as possible to do so. We will then send actual Zoom links.

As you might guess from my articles, this is of extreme importance! Covid may go away. This won't! Students from elementary – high school

are getting hammered. Your kids are not exempt (even from stronger churches and homeschools)! "Safe viewing" channels and common media aren't all that safe either! Also, "friends" from church, or other homeschoolers can introduce your children/students to atheist and other websites which can have a serious impact on their faith. They are one phone click away. If your kids/grandkids aren't adequately prepared, you are leaving them extremely vulnerable in their faith.

These impactful sessions are concise, easy to understand, and highly illustrated. Also see page 1 for more information. 

Creation-Based Worldview classes:

(In person or watch via Zoom): Adults: 6-8 PM Tuesdays (Starting Sept. 7)

Advanced Middle School and Up: 3-5 PM Thursdays (Starting Sept. 9)



Yellowstone Creation Tour 2021

Affordable creation seminar & bus tour of Yellowstone. Great for the entire family!

Aug. 27-31 and Sep. 3-7. Call AOI or visit: DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/yellowstone-national-park-creation-tour/



Last
Chance!

Only \$290 per person
(Includes food, lodging, tour!)

Weekly Zoom Power Boost

As part of our outreach project to parents/grandparents and students, we plan weekly, short, follow-up Zoom sessions to give more information and answer your specific questions. Please join those sessions! Email ScottMauser@DiscoverCreation.org for more information or to ask specific questions that you wish to include in these sessions. These start on Wednesday, August 11, at 4:30 PM (Mountain Time) (10-20 minutes plus Q&A). We encourage parents and grandparents to interact and build relationships with their students.



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.DiscoverCreation.org

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2021

