

Issues with The BYU Evolution Packet, & Dogma

There were heavy battles between evolutionists and church presidents about what should be taught at BYU, the Church's school, whose professors and students are heavily subsidized by tithing dollars. Finally, they decided to pull out all religious influence in the teaching of science at BYU, and 'leave science to the scientists.' Since then, secular professors have had a hay day at BYU, teaching all the dogmatic evolution they want. Henry B Eyring Jr. (son of the evolutionist Eyring Sr.) said that "the contention was the problem." Contention was a problem, to be sure, but the source of the contention was people who rejected church doctrine, and sadly, we decided to resolve the contention by letting the evolutionists do whatever they wanted.

To teach evolution at BYU now, all you must do is give your students a five-page packet that says, "Adam was the first man," which the professors ignore or make some contradictory statement about to appease the audience, then proceed to teach that man came from monkeys. There's a whole display of human evolution from monkeys at the BYU Bean Science Museum, erected in March 2019, and this human evolution display is a permanent installment.



(Images: The Bean Science Museum at BYU)

(Here is a link to the BYU evolution packet: <https://biology.byu.edu/00000172-29e6-d079-ab7e-69efe5890000/byu-evolution-packet>)

The BYU evolution packet claims that "there has never been a formal declaration from the First Presidency addressing the general matter of organic evolution as a process for development of biological species," yet the whole point of the First Presidency statement of 1909 (which was echoed in 1925) was to make formal declarations on the subject. The BYU packet also refers to the (erroneous) Encyclopedia of Mormonism entry on evolution, which we discussed earlier.

How do we know the 1909 statement about human origins was about evolution? You can't separate evolution from its major component of human evolution. If you believe the origin of man was from God, you have no business believing in man coming from the evolution of animals. When you know man didn't come from evolution, you can reason that animals didn't either, as the whole theory was meant to explain the origin of man. Don't hold on to a fundamentally wrong theory. We all know of the bird's beak changing size to accommodate surroundings, but the real point of evolutionary theory is to teach that all life on earth occurred by an accident to begin with, and then incrementally transformed into the complex life forms (including humans) we see today. None of this is in keeping with the scriptures and doctrines of the Church.

Holding on to evolutionary theory when we know it's not how God made man is like when forger Mark Hoffman was caught setting off bombs to try and keep his crimes in forgery covered up, and even after the bombs, many secular people

in the church said something to the effect of, ‘ok, so Hoffman is a bad person and killed people. And he admitted to forging some documents. But that doesn’t mean ALL his documents were forgeries! Those are important documents!’ No, they aren’t important! When you find out that the guy is an abomination, why keep relying on him for information? It’s the same with evolution. We know this isn’t how mankind originated and the social corruption it has caused, so why are we still clinging to this stuff?

Sadly, we decided to allow the adversary’s deceptions into our institutes of higher learning and much of the whole church has become secular as a result. The conversation is one-sided, and there is little to no hope for the rising generation, who are no longer being taught creation truths at home, church, or the great BYU. Historically the Church was who presented conservative truths while people encountered radical theories of men elsewhere. BYU, as a Church-owned school, should be very different than other schools. As President Dallin H. Oaks’ 2024 correspondence with my friend said, BYU should **only make students aware of the ‘theories of men,’ not advocate them.**

President Oaks has recently admonished us to repeatedly teach basic church doctrines. Surely, doctrines about Creation, Fall, and Atonement and how these core doctrines contradict men's theories are some of the plain and precious truths that we should be focusing on! It’s hard to have a good conversation about Jesus's role without correctly addressing the absolute power of God manifest in the Creation and the neediness of man manifest in the Fall.

Spencer W. Kimball was firmly against evolution and taught that these truths will not change despite what hordes of learned people claim on the matter. He said, “**The Gods organized the earth of materials at hand, over which they had control and power. This truth is absolute. A million educated folk might speculate and determine in their minds that the earth came into being by chance.** The truth remains. The earth was made by the Gods [and] opinions do not change that. The Gods organized and **gave life to man and placed him on the earth.** This is absolute. It cannot be disproved. **A million brilliant minds might conjecture otherwise, but it is still true.**” (Spencer W. Kimball, “Absolute Truth”, *Ensign*, September 1978, p. 3). Let the evolutionists twist and turn about this, let them say Kimball wasn’t referring to Darwinian evolution, let them claim that evolution can work within the confines of God as Creator, but let those with common sense see Kimball’s words for what they plainly mean and as he clearly intended them, as part of the consistent chorus of latter-day prophets against one of the most pernicious popular movements of our time!