

Trinity Sunday

Text: Genesis 1:1-2:3

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” ²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. ¹Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Theme: Remember who Made it All

We live in an age of an epic battle. There have been many great battles in the last 100 years, World War 2, the Cold War, terrorism. However, the battle which has continued to rage through all of these other battles is whether the world came into existence all by itself through the “Big Bang” and Evolution or whether a higher being created life and everything in the universe.

This is a battle which is unlike anything that the world has ever been experienced. Throughout history, everyone believed that there was some kind of creator. They might have disagreed about who the creator was or how he created the world. But they believed that the world was created by someone. For instance, the Babylonians and Canaanites in the Old Testament era believed in creation by many gods who were not good nor was their creation. However, those people believed that the world was somehow created. That is not what our children are taught today. We are being encouraged to believe that everything came into existence all by itself by accident. Today, I would like to encourage us to remember the One who made it all.

I. There is a lot of evidence that someone must have created the world.

The battle between what has become known as “Intelligent Design” and Evolution began in the 1700's with the coming of the Enlightenment, which began to attack the idea of a creator. The best defense of creation came from a man of that era by the name of William Paley. He said to imagine that he is walking in the country and stumbles against a stone. There is no doubt that the stone could have been there ever since the beginning of time. But then he changes the object to a watch. The watch and every part of it has both **purpose and design**. It must have had someone who both designed it and built it.

That is very much like the universe and life itself. Every part of the universe is designed for life on this earth. If we were closer to the sun, the earth would be too hot. If the earth rotated slower, it would be too hot or too cold for life depending on what part of the day it was. Imagine what the tides would be like if we had no moon, a bigger moon or many moons. The earth couldn't sustain life if we had the gases that are present on other planets.

But the greatest evidence for a designer is the cell. When Charles Darwin constructed the theory of evolution, he thought that the cell was a simple organism. We now know that a living cell is one of the most intricate things in the universe. Each cell processes and holds more information than the best computers.

About 15 years ago, I did a Bible study on creation vs. Evolution. I timed it well because there was a series of articles at the time in the *Detroit News* which stated how many scientists are having doubts about Evolution. Right now there is a movie call *Expelled*, which is playing in theaters which does a good job at explaining why it is silly to believe that life came into existence all by itself. When we look at creation and consider how wonderfully made we are, we cannot help but confess with the psalmist, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.*” (Psalm 19:1)

II. The battle between creation and Evolution is important because Evolution has led to many horrible things in the past 100 years.

- A. The idea of the survival of the fittest has led to taking advantage of the poor and handicapped, racism, and the holocaust.

Many of the early American industrialists such as Andrew Carnegie were ruthless to their employees and competitors. They used Evolution as the reason. Carnegie once said, **“Not only had I got rid of theology and the supernatural, but I had found the truth of evolution. 'All is well since all grows better' became my motto, my true source of comfort, Man was not created with an instinct for his own degradation, but from the lower had risen to the higher forms.”** He saw himself as a higher form than those who worked for him or competed against him. In the early 20th century many “Eugenic” laws were passed in the United States to control the southern European, black, and handicapped population of the United States. It is a bit of a secret that there was an attempt in our own country to build a master race through sterilization programs. Darwinism and American Eugenics were very popular among the Nazis in Germany. They took it a step further and looked at the killing of “undesirables” as something positive for society. Under Hitler not only were races such as Jews and Gypsies targeted. Homes for the handicapped and mentally ill were also emptied in order to build a better, superior race.

- B. One of the consequences of Darwinism today is that this world is an end in itself.

We want to be good stewards of the planet that God has given to us. God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the whole earth. However, some of the environmental movements today make this world the final goal. We are often told that we can save the planet. The point is that this world and our short life on it is all that we will ever have. As Christians we want to care for the earth, but I am afraid that many people are starting to worship it today. The earth itself has become the god for many people.

- C. Evolution has led to moral relativism.

It used to be thought that the reason why we don't kill, have multiple partners like the animals, steal or lie is because God set the rules. We believed that there are natural laws that God put into effect and that we all have a conscience deep inside. If there is no creator, there is no one who made the rules. Today morality is simply how our society defines it. What is right and wrong is no longer decided by the creator. We get to decide. We can see just how horrible the consequences of that have been with the immorality, theft, deceiving, and lack of respect for human life that we all suffer from today. We live in a society much like the book of Judges describes, *“Everyone did as he saw fit.”* (Judges 21:25)

III. As Christians we confess that the Triune God is the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of this world.

A. God is the Creator.

Genesis 1 describes that when God made the world every part of it was good. At the conclusion of the story it says, *“God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”* (Gen 1:31) Even we were made in the image of God. Creation was beautiful. Adam and Eve loved each other with a perfect love. There was perfect harmony in the world, exactly what people long for today. There was no pollution, no fighting, no poverty. Everything was good.

B. God is also the Redeemer.

In Genesis 3 we see how sin came into the world. Adam and Eve doubted God’s goodness and love. They rebelled. Creation has never been the same. Yes, we still see marks of the goodness of creation when we enjoy the sunshine, see the flowers blooming, do well at school or athletics or fall in love. But we also see the consequences of our sin in how we pollute, how people often suffer in natural disasters, how horribly we often treat each other, and even how our strength and health begin to fade as we get older. But God also redeemed creation with the sending of His own Son. Jesus Christ took on our flesh and walked in this sinful world in order to save us. He gave a glimpse of the world to come when he healed the sick, forgave sinners, and raised the dead, but He suffered the evils of this world more than any of us ever will. He suffered in order to save us from our sins. He bore our sins on the cross, so that we can have forgiveness life and salvation in Him. Our sins have brought death and suffering into the world. Christ came to bring life, forgiveness, joy, and peace.

C. God is also the sanctifier of creation. He restores it and makes it good and holy.

He does that through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Genesis 2 it says that God breathed into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being. In Hebrew the word for “breath,” “spirit,” and “wind” are all the same. It is the word “ruach.” It was the Holy Spirit who gave Adam life. We are different from any other creature because we have both a body and a soul. It is that same Spirit, who gives us a rebirth. He brings us to faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. He gives us hope, even in the most devastating times of life. He gives us peace and joy in Christ. He gives us a renewed will that wants to do good. He reminds us of our future. When we have the Holy Spirit, we look forward to the new heavens and the new earth. We know that our bodies will die and decay, but God will raise them as glorious bodies. What will our eternal life be like? It will be very much like the Garden of Eden in the beginning. There will be plants and animals; however Revelation 21 says that there will be no more sun because God’s glory will give us light, and there will be no more night. If you read the first two chapters and the last two chapters of the Bible, Genesis 1 and 2 and Revelation 21 and 22, you will find that they are very similar. At Christ’s return, complete goodness will be restored to God’s creation. There will be no more mourning or crying or pain or sin, for all the bad things of the world will be gone. We will live in God’s goodness forever as He intended us to live in the beginning.

Today three of our young people will confess their faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Many

people will mock you for believing that there is even a God. But when you really do think about it, there is good reason to believe that the world was created by someone. The world and life could not have come into existence all by themselves. The Bible plainly says that anyone who believes that is a fool.

The Scriptures also reveal the God of love and righteousness to us, the God who created, redeemed and sanctified all creation. May He keep our hearts in faith, that we will not fall in the immorality and hopelessness of our day, but remain in the confidence, peace joy, and love that faith in Christ alone can give to us.

Amen.