

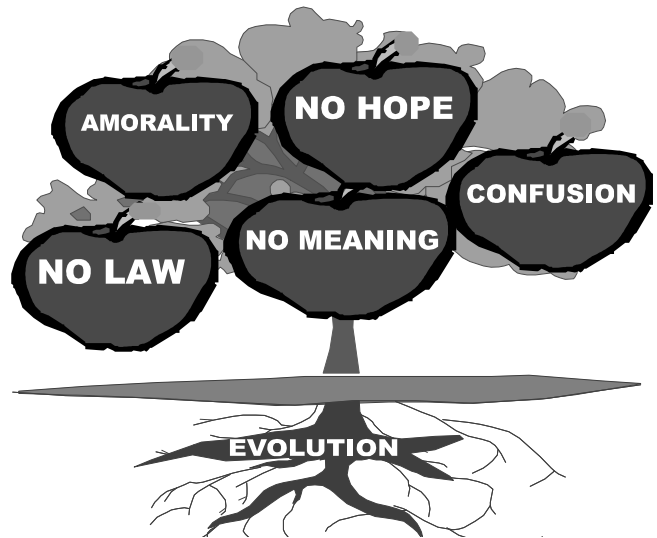
## WHY STUDY GENESIS?

**W**e're at the beginning of a direct study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis. It doesn't seem like very much material, but there's a lot of important information packed into those chapters. Our study won't cover all of the topics found there, but what we will look at is extremely important for understanding much of the rest of the Bible. The message of God's Word basically revolves around the themes of sin and salvation. This unit will cover just the first two chapters.

There are several reasons to study the book of Genesis. You might think of some of your own reasons why we should do this, but we list just three here:

1. To understand the world, past and present. In upcoming lessons, we will look at some very interesting ways in which the world was a very different place than it is today.
2. To recognize **COMPROMISE** when we see it. A good example of compromise would be when people accept part of what evolution teaches just so that others who don't believe the Bible won't laugh at them. We need to know and study the Bible so that when people teach wrong things about it, we can recognize their errors and not be led astray into false teachings.

3. To build back into our society the Godly values and principles that the Bible teaches. What do we mean by that? Well, if you plant an apple seed, what type of fruit are you going to eat from the tree that will grow? Pears? Plums? No, apples, of course! Look at the picture here to the right. It shows a tree. But, let's imagine that the seed is evolution. What do you think the "fruit" will be from a "seed" like that?



If evolution is true, then there is **NO MEANING** to life. Life only has the meaning that **YOU** give it. You are born, you live, and then you die. There is no **PURPOSE** for you to be on earth, nor is there hope when you die. There's certainly **CONFUSION**. You're just an accident of nature.

If evolution is true, then there is no such thing as **LAW**. Who says that you can't steal if you want to? Who made up that law? Some government? Why can't you murder someone if you want to? Who made up the law that says you can't do that? After all, if evolution says that we got here through *survival of the fittest*, then what's wrong with proving it?

If evolution is true, there's no such thing as **RIGHT** or **WRONG**. There's no **MORALITY**. Who said that you can't cheat? Why is it wrong to tell a lie? These things are just natural, right?

If evolution is true, there is no **ORDER** in life. Everything just happens by chance. If you do something against some law, it's not your fault. You couldn't help it! The desire to do the thing that you did was just accidentally passed down to you from your parents.

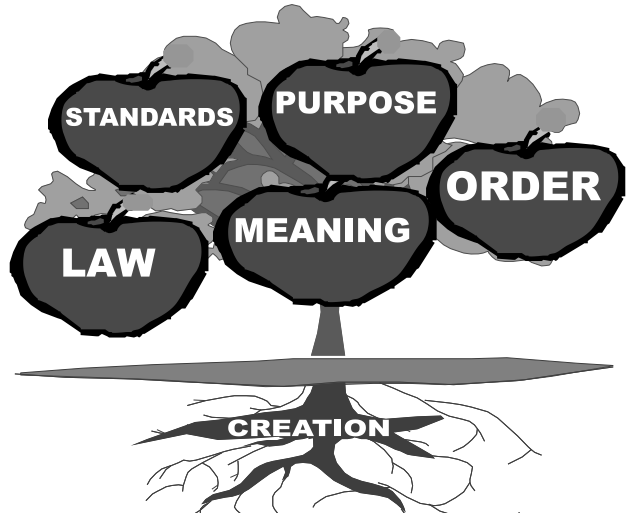


*Now, if a society believes in evolution, it soon will begin to act like it. Do you see evidence of this in the world around you? What is the news filled with? Murder, violence, perversions, drugs, suicide, robbery, etc. etc. Ask yourself a question: Should any of these things come as a surprise to us? No, they shouldn't! Yes, these things are terrible, but they are just the natural results of the teachings of evolution. Why? Because evolution gives free reign to sin by calling it "your nature".*

But, let's now look at the creation side:

If you were created, that makes a huge difference in your outlook on life. There is MEANING to life. God does not make mistakes. You are special, made in His image. You're not an accident...there is a specific PURPOSE for your existence. God loves you!

If you were created, there are LAWS to live by; not man-made laws, but God's laws for life. There are moral STANDARDS that God put in place. Many people think that if they become Christians, God wants to take away all of their



Do you enjoy sports? Any game is governed by its rules. In football, what if the referee never blew his whistle? What if the players on the field could do whatever they wanted to do? Would you enjoy the game? No, you'd get bored very quickly. *The game only has meaning because of the rules, and if they are obeyed.* It's the same with the "rules of life" that God has given. Life only has meaning and enjoyment if it's lived according to *His* rules.

"fun" by requiring that they follow His laws. This is not true! God's laws are there to *protect* us. He knows how we work since He made us. He knows what will get us into trouble, so He made laws to protect us from harm and to keep peace among men. Besides, God is the one who created "fun", too.

God also created NATURAL LAW. These are the laws by which nature

functions. These laws control things like gravity and light. If God did not make these things, and set laws by which they work, how did they come into existence, and how do they work so perfectly? Evolution can neither explain their existence, nor why they work like they do.

If you were created, there is ORDER. God is the one who placed the stars into beautiful galaxies. God is the one who created color. God is the one who created the weather systems that water the earth. God is the one who made certain atoms to form into molecules so that we have something we can use (example: two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen can chemically bond to make one, tiny molecule of water. Many millions of these molecules put together give us a tiny drop of water!). God is the one who made the laws that keep our solar system together. God is the one who made male and female (evolution CANNOT explain this!). God invented marriage. In every way, and in every living thing, God created order. Without it, there would be total chaos.

*As you can see, what you believe about origins is extremely important. The teachings of evolution have replaced the truth with a lie, they have removed God's rightful glory and credit in His creation, they serve to remove God's blessing, and they have created much doubt in God's Word.*

If we remove God from our minds as our Creator, it becomes a simple matter to remove Him from our minds as our Savior as well.

