

Whether or not the world and its organisms were created by God is a long-disputed concept that has left many Christians and non-Christian scientists at odds with each other. Did God, or multiple gods, create the earth and everything in it? Or did the earth and all living things gradually arise on their own, through a chain of random events that occurred independently of any supposed deity?

I am a born-again Christian, whose sins have been paid through the death of my savior Jesus Christ on the cross. Without question, I believe that the one and only eternal God created this world and everything in it, including organisms like the smallmouth bass. I am also a Biology major who cannot ignore the fact that gene frequencies change over time, in a way that favors the natural selection of certain traits in one organism over less favorable traits in another; in essence, this process defines evolution. Heated conflict has long been persistent between those who deny the world as God's creation and those that deny evolution, deeming it inconsistent with the most basic of Christian principles. My challenge for you, regardless of where you stand, is to ask yourself, "Why must creation and evolution be antagonistic viewpoints? If God created the world and all of its inhabitants, as I believe, what

prevents Him from exercising his sovereign authority over the products of his creation via evolutionary mechanisms that He controls? What prevents the author of the book of life from serving as the editor?"

Frankly, I believe that when I am holding a smallmouth bass, I hold in my hand both the creation of the almighty Architect and the product of evolutionary mechanisms that He has designed. The beauty of this ideology lies in the fact that the more I learn about complex biological processes that occur in the natural world, the more I see the majesty of God's handiwork revealed. This lies in stark contrast with the notion that acknowledging evolution necessarily forces a Christian to compromise his belief in God's creation. Rather than compromising my personal views of God, I am only acknowledging the full extent of his sovereignty over nature. As I go about my biological studies at UW-La Crosse, learning of the infinite complexities of life that remain a mystery to man from a scientific perspective, I am continuously enlightened to the fact that so many aspects of biology are rooted in processes that function in ways beyond man's comprehension. In short, I have found that the more I learn about biology, the more I see God's all-powerful hand in it.

Francis Collins, a former atheist whom later converted to Christianity, served as a leader of the Human Genome Project, which was and is one of the greatest and most unprecedented accomplishments in the history of modern science. Having pioneered the sequencing of the human genome, it is my opinion that he should be granted a fair amount of credibility within the scientific community. A book that he wrote, entitled "[The Language of God,](#)" explains how the concepts of creation and evolution actually go hand in hand, thus breaking the barriers down that have long caused great dissonance between spiritual belief in God and scientific evidence of evolution. If you do not believe what I believe, or are sitting on the fence, I suggest you try reading this book.

I gain my inspiration from world-renowned Christian bass anglers: Al Lindner, Bill Dance, and Jimmy Houston. These guys are leading authorities when it comes to the details of bass species, yet humbly acknowledge the work of God through it all.

Lord-willing, maybe you can join me as both a man of science and a man of scripture.

To He who is the original author and everlasting editor of every DNA sequence of every organism on

this planet; to Him be the glory both now and forever,  
Amen.

Sincerely & God bless,

Dustin J. Hetke

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea...'"*

-Genesis 1:26, NIV Bible