

You Want to Force Your Way upon Everyone Else

We often hear the charge, "You Christians want to force your religious beliefs upon everyone else." For example, those who would like to see creation science taught in public school are often accused of "trying to force your beliefs upon the rest of us." Evolution is false, therefore are not those who favor teaching it in public school attempting to do the same? In fact, because there is a great body of evidence against the theory of evolution, it must on some level be accepted by faith. Is it not the case, then, that those who favor the teaching of evolution in public school are attempting to force their religious beliefs on everyone else? Let me point out a couple of obvious things.

First, to teach anything is not the same thing as forcing it upon those who are being taught. Teaching is an attempt to persuade more than anything else, but not forceful persuasion. No good teacher holds a gun to the head of a student and declares he must believe or die. Proper teaching sets forth the evidence for a thing, the student weighs the evidence, and makes up his own mind. Sometimes he decides correctly, sometimes incorrectly, but it is his decision. Teaching creation in any setting is not forcing anything upon anyone; it is an attempt to persuade. The rants of liberals, atheists and others of, "you are trying to force your beliefs on everyone else" is bogus.

Second, notice how contradictory and self-condemning the claims are: We are reminded of Paul's statement about the Jews, "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" (Rom. 2:3). Men who claim the teaching of creation denies other people the right to have their voices heard are disingenuous. They either do not realize or do not care, that they are guilty of doing the very thing of which they accuse others! Atheists and other non-Bible believers are really the ones who are attempting to shut the mouths of the opposition.

The reality is that the Bible is either true or not true. It cannot be both. To claim otherwise would violate the law of the excluded middle. If the Bible is true (which it is,) and the Bible says that God created the heavens and earth by the spoken word, which it does (Gen. 1), and if the Bible says God did that in 6 days, which it does (Ex. 20:11), those things are either true or not true. It happens that they are true, thus the Bible believer has not only the right, but the obligation to try to persuade people that creation is true and evolution is false. We must never give up the fight for the right to disseminate truth under every circumstance. However, no one, through the offering of evidence is forcing anything upon anyone. It is an a-priori argument that the fascist is the one who accuses his opponent of fascism!

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