

THE CREATION SURVIVAL GUIDE

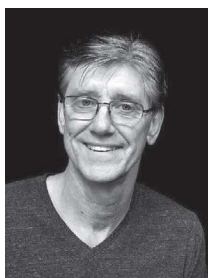
HOW TO GRADUATE
WITH YOUR FAITH INTACT

PAUL PRICE AND GARY BATES

About the Authors:



Paul Price is a writer and Events Manager at *Creation Ministries International (US)*. Paul grew up in a Christian home and was converted to Christ at a young age. Exposure to evolutionary theories in high school led to a passion for studying apologetics and creation science for many years. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in International Affairs, he spent several years living abroad with his wife Amanda as an English language instructor in South Korea and Russia. They have one daughter.



Gary Bates is the CEO of *Creation Ministries International (US)*. He has been speaking on the creation/evolution issue since 1990 and has authored dozens of articles for CMI's popular website *creation.com*. He has authored and coauthored six books, including his best-selling book *Alien Intrusion: UFOs and the evolution connection*, the only creationist book to have been a top 50 Amazon.com bestseller (now also a major motion picture). He also authored the children's book *One Big Family* with his wife Frances. They have four adult children.

THE CREATION SURVIVAL GUIDE:

How to graduate with your faith intact

Many thanks to Lita Cosner and Keaton Halley for their ideas in compiling this booklet.

First printing: 2019

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ISBN: 978-1-942773-71-9

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Published by:

Creation Book Publishers

P.O. Box 350

Powder Springs, GA 30127, USA.

Phone: 1-800-616-1264

creationbookpublishers.com



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PROLOGUE: THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is called a ‘survival guide’, but is it really that bad? Is it really a case of spiritual survival in higher education? The publishers of this booklet have been in ministry for over 40 years, so this introduction is going to be rather frank. It is not our intention to offend, but we only have a few words to convince you that this is a vitally important issue.

Both parents and students need to be aware that there are many surveys highlighting the catastrophe of students walking away from their faith after attending college—even after just one year. The figures show that up to 88 percent of young ones from evangelical homes walk away never to return.¹ Even those who *do* make it through college with their faith intact bear testimony to the open discrimination and ridicule that they and other Christian students endured, particularly those who profess a belief in biblical creation.

It is no exaggeration to say that in over 40 years CMI has ministered in thousands of churches and to hundreds of thousands of people. Every one of our speakers and scientists can vouch for the testimonies they hear from heartbroken parents whose children abandoned the faith once they left home. We hear things like, “I don’t know what we did wrong. Our son/daughter went to Sunday School and was active in the church’s youth group.” As a ministry, we take no pleasure in pointing it out, but due to our extensive experience in this area we feel the answer is glaringly obvious.

To be blunt: most of the falling away is due to ignorance about what to expect from the secular educational system and the secular world in general. Students are going to be taught humanism, evolution, and a whole host of other anti-Christian things. If we think that just attending church and listening to sermons (even if they are terrific) is going to be enough, then we are being set up

for a likely fall. A protected, secure, and active Christian home and church environment is something to be commended, but that alone will not prepare one adequately for ‘the world’. The beloved Apostle and evangelist John reminds us that:

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).

But don’t despair, there is good news (really good news!) because we know there are powerful solutions to these challenges. They will, however, require some effort. With this booklet our goal is to help students and their parents become better equipped to face these inevitable challenges of college life. We have met many students who have survived the battlefield of higher education, including many of our own scientists.

You’ve been warned! It would be wise to heed the advice being given here by those who’ve been down this path. No one, including the Lord Jesus Christ, said it was going to be easy. He reminds us:

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me (John 15:18–21).

But be encouraged:

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:2–4).

What a promise we have from the one and only, the eternal Creator God, who made all things, and “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8).

INTRODUCTION

History moves in cycles; ideas come and go, and groups rise and fall in dominance. For a long time, the Western world flourished due to a general commitment to a Christian worldview. The rule of law and liberty is a direct byproduct of that Christian worldview, and for centuries we in the West have been enjoying the benefits of increased learning and prosperity via adherence to the basic truths of God’s Word.²

As the centuries rolled on, the tides shifted. Starting with the so-called ‘Enlightenment’ in the 18th century, the philosophies guiding the West changed from being God-centered to man-centered, emphasizing secular rationalism rather than reasoning from the foundation of Scripture.³

Today, education has largely been taken over by people who do not hold a Christian worldview, and non-Christian points of view are flowing down to the students. Please note that professors and teachers aren’t always consciously attempting to indoctrinate their students—the lack of a Christian underpinning means that non-Christian philosophies are given equal, or in many cases greater, status. Young minds cannot help but be affected by these pluralistic attitudes.

In 2016, a study was published in *CBE—Life Sciences Education*, the journal of the American Society for Cell Biology. The goal of the paper was to advance the notion that *not enough* instructors consider it their duty to convince their students to accept evolution as true. However, many of the quotes provided in the study indicate that professors *are definitely* influencing their students away from creation and towards evolution.⁴

Why did the study not come to that conclusion? Because it depended on instructors honestly self-reporting that they are actively attempting to change the views of their students—something I doubt many instructors would admit (even to themselves). In their minds, they are merely reporting the facts and encouraging the students to think for themselves. But how are these ‘facts’ being presented? In one example, a biology instructor named Anthony had this to say:

I give them the information and I’m pretty straightforward. This is it, ***evolution is a fact, deal with it.*** But I’m not out to twist their views.⁵ [emphasis added]

Another instructor, Marie, responded:

I don’t understand how a biology student ... can do anything in science and biology without believing [in evolution].⁶

Some instructors, like John for example, didn’t even believe there was a difference between understanding evolution and accepting it as fact:

I don’t see a difference between understand and accept. If you understand, you accept. The same way if I explain how the water moves from the soils to leaves, or I explain how species evolve. They need to understand water doesn’t move from the soil to the leaves because the leaves need water, it moves because there is a gradient water potential. And species composition doesn’t change [because it needs to], it changes because one species has characteristics that increases [*sic*] their fitness. That’s what I explain and if they understand that, they accept it.⁷



Since instructors are themselves deceived into believing that evolution (in its full Darwinian sense) is indistinguishable from practical matters of observational science, such as water moving from soil to leaves, why would we not expect that same attitude to be passed along to their students?

Some teachers are more straightforward with their intentions, like Professor Bill Savage at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. In an article bemoaning the fact that conservatives are “outbreeding” liberals in America, Savage proudly states:

After a teary-eyed hug, Mom and Dad will drive their SUV off toward the nearest gas station, leaving their beloved progeny behind. ... And then they are all mine.

As if to defend himself after the shocking admission he'd just made, Savage later claims he is not attempting to indoctrinate his students, he is just helping them to ‘think for themselves’.⁸

Professor David Barash, evolutionary biologist and psychology professor at the University of Washington, is the most straightforward of all, admitting to attempting to convince his students not only of Darwinism but of full-blown atheism as well:

Every year around this time, with the college year starting, I give my students The Talk ... It's irresponsible to teach biology without evolution, and yet many students worry about reconciling their beliefs with evolutionary science. Just as many Americans don't grasp the fact that evolution is not merely a ‘theory,’ but the underpinning of all biological science, a substantial minority of my students are troubled to discover that their beliefs conflict with the course material ... The more we know of evolution, the more unavoidable is the conclusion that living things, including human beings, are produced by a natural, totally amoral process, **with no indication of a benevolent, controlling creator.**⁹ [emphasis added]

At this point, you may be thinking the solution to this problem is simply to attend a Christian college instead. But in reality, the problem of evolutionary indoctrination can be just as bad at colleges labeling themselves ‘Christian’ as it is at secular colleges; even worse, perhaps, since biology instructors at such institutions are being coached to specifically appeal to various compromise views within the professing church to gently coax their students into the acceptance of Darwinism. One such instructor, Amy, stated:

I also try and provide them other role models as well. People that they can look to outside of our institution. People like Francis Collins [the director of the National Institute of Health and an Evangelical Christian] would be a really obvious example of that type of person. Just so that they have other people to look to when they think about how to come to grips with these issues [their religious beliefs and evolution].¹⁰ Note: brackets in original.



Theistic evolution says that God used a process of millions of years of death and suffering to create.

Francis Collins is the founder of the allegedly Christian¹¹ theistic evolutionary organization *BioLogos* and, at the time of writing, is Director of the *National Institutes of Health* in the US. Both Collins and *BioLogos* openly deny the existence of the biblical Adam and Eve.¹² If this is within the scope of so-called ‘Evangelical Christianity’, then one wonders if the term carries any valuable meaning at this point! In another example, *BioLogos* contributor Dr Karl Giberson, author of *Saving Darwin: How to be a Christian and believe in evolution*,

admitted to subversively teaching things which ran directly counter to the tradition of his Christian college. He is proud of having convinced many young students of Darwinism, but he laments the fact that many of those same students wound up leaving church altogether rather than going back to their respective home churches to become ‘agents of change’ in liberalizing them.¹³

All of this serves to show that western academia has been leading the assault against Christianity for quite some time now, and it is responsible for a major crisis within the church. But perhaps an even bigger crisis is that most parents, churches, and leaders are not aware of why young ones are leaving the faith. Christian educator Dr Bruce Shortt wrote:

Contrary to what many Christians have been led to believe, there is no such thing as a ‘neutral’ education. The overwhelming majority of children from evangelical families leave the church within two years after they graduate from high school ... only 9 percent of evangelical teens believe that there is any such thing as absolute moral truth; and, our children are being forcibly indoctrinated to believe that homosexual behavior is acceptable.¹⁴

What is there to be done? Is there a major foundational root cause for this falling away? In 2016, one of us (Gary Bates) took a film crew to the streets of local college campuses in the southern states of the US (the ‘Bible Belt’) to ask some questions of the students there. The following four questions were asked:

- 1) Were you brought up in church? (If yes, then...)
- 2) Do you believe in creation or evolution?
- 3) At church, were you ever presented with creation apologetics?
- 4) Do you still attend church?

The results, as shown in our mini-documentary *FALLOUT!*, were very interesting: the overwhelming majority of young people who had not been exposed to creation apologetics in church said they

now embrace evolution and no longer attend church. However, every student interviewed who *had been* equipped with such information at church still retained their Christian faith in college, and every respondent who affirmed biblical creation was also still in regular church attendance.¹⁵ Sadly, this was the situation for only a handful of the students interviewed.

This confirms what a university chaplain wrote to *Creation Ministries International* some years ago. When talking about the corrosive effects of evolutionary teaching, Craig Tasker wrote:

This constant ‘brainwashing’ destroys the faith of many Christians each year. Our surveys indicate that 80% of first year students believe in a God who is there. By their second year only 15% believe in God.¹⁶

Christian students who are misled to believe that evolution is a demonstrable scientific fact are often led to a slippery slope of unbelief in the Bible. If the very first book of the Bible, which claims God to be the Creator, is undermined, then where does the ‘truth’ really begin in Scripture? If the Bible’s historical claims cannot be trusted, is it any wonder these same young people also then reject the Bible’s moral teachings?

The fact that students are attending universities without having proper training in the types of arguments that evolutionists use (and why they are wrong) is having disastrous results in the culture at large. As one reporter put it, “... if you ask a younger American how humans arose, you’re likely to get an answer that has nothing to do with God.”¹⁷



Students: have a realistic understanding of what the secular culture is like and expect college to be a hostile environment for your Christian faith—especially at secular institutions. Go to college with the mindset that you are entering a spiritual battleground and that many (if not most) of your instructors are likely to be on the wrong side of that battle—often because they are ignorant of the overwhelming evidence supporting the truth of the Bible. Looking at it in this way will help you to make the most of your opportunities to witness to others, and it will also prevent you from being taken off guard. Get equipped for battle! As the Apostle Paul put it,

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).

What follows is a list of suggestions in the form of *Dos* and *Don'ts* which we hope will be helpful to students of all ages, but especially those of you embarking on study at a university.

1. DO BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR TEACHER OR PROFESSOR

As a student, your primary job is to learn from your teacher. While the classroom is certainly a battleground of ideas, acting as a warrior in the classroom in an overt way is not a good strategic move! You are expected to be learning from your instructors, not the other way around. Absolutely do not attempt to call out your teacher publicly or embarrass them. Put yourself in their position. What if you were teaching a class on creation in your church and an evolutionist were present? It would not be respectful of your authority as a teacher for

them to stand up and openly contradict you. Remember, the Bible tells us to be respectful of authority—for example 1 Peter 5:5 says:

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Taking a combative or rebellious attitude will not reflect on you well as a Christian, and on top of that, it will set you up for academic failure. Why goad the person who has the power to determine your grades and ultimate success or failure in the class?

