

Finding Life Video Series 1

Video 6: Where Do I Come From?

Hi and welcome back if you'd viewed any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am seeking to guide those who view these videos on the most important journey any human being can take...finding the purpose to our life...the reason for our existence!

The title of this video is 'Where do I come from?' In the last video, we examined the popular belief that we as human beings are nothing more than a mere physical being...that is to say we are made up of nothing more than atoms, molecules, protein, cells and a bit of biochemical energy. After using observation and reason to look at some simple and self-evident truths, we confirmed that we as human beings have a metaphysical or spiritual component to our persons...to that which makes us human. Furthermore, we used reason to conclude that our metaphysical components require a sufficient cause to explain their existence, and it is only reasonable to conclude that given the nature of our metaphysical components – our ability to reason, to know abstract concepts, to have our sentience tied to rational

thoughts, to know right from wrong or a conscience – we have a Designer who has similar characteristics or, at a minimum, who values or likes those characteristics. That is to say, that it is reasonable to believe that we as human beings, to some degree, reflect the nature or attributes of our Designer.

This is a good time to make something clear. Many will conclude by these statements that I am some sort of religious person seeking to ‘convert’ people. Let me be clear - I am not a religious person – I am not a Christian or a theologian or a bible scholar or an “intelligent design ministry leader” or any other such thing. Given the most popular definition of those types of people, I repudiate most of their beliefs and practices. Please let me repeat that in a different way. I think Christians are wrong about most of their god beliefs; I think that theologians serve very little good or useful purpose; I think that current day bible scholars are wasting their time; and I think Intelligent Design ‘ministry’ leaders are misguided. This does not mean I think these types of folks are bad people, but rather, many of their beliefs are wrong and much of their work is pretty much a waste of time.

Therefore, and at this point, suffice it to say that reason alone – reason that you have heard and hopefully understood -has led us to the place of

acknowledging *something so self-evident that any reasonable person would come to these same conclusions*. By using observation and a bit of elemental deduction we concluded that human beings are creatures that have a metaphysical component and the capacities of that metaphysical component requires a Designer, or more obviously requires a first and sufficient cause.

Ironically, our physical aspects alone clearly require a Designer. This is self-evident due to the fact that things – inorganic or organic - with relatively complex inter-related systems or sub systems that work together to make the whole work - in no way could have come together by chance, but rather require a designer – that is to say that the probability is zero that they created themselves. Let's explore and explain this important concept using a relatively simple machine, a bicycle, as an example.

A bicycle has several component systems. The frame needs to be designed to be able to bear the load of the rider at the forces they will experience using the whole machine. The frame is made up of various pieces of material joined in such a way as to both bear the load of the rider as well as connect the other component systems to the machine – it also includes a seat for the rider to rest their body on while on the machine. The machine

needs a steering system to enable the rider to direct the bike. The steering system is made up of several tubes that need to rotate while staying firmly attached to the frame as well as handle bars the rider can use to direct the front wheel. The machine needs a braking system to allow the rider to stop the bike in a safe fashion. The braking system is made up of cables, springs, clamps and pads, all working together to allow the rider to apply different amounts of friction against the wheels in order to slow the wheels rotation. The machine needs a way to move across the ground so that the rider can travel faster than just walking or running. The motion system is made up of wheel rims, rubber tires, spokes, axles and bearing to hold the wheels to the frame while still enabling the wheels to rotate freely. The machine will need an engine – in this case the rider’s muscles – and a way to transfer the power the engine produces to the means the machine will use to move forward – a drive system. This system is comprised of pedals which take the power of the engine, and transfer it to round gears which are connected to a chain which transfers the engine’s force to the rear wheel to spin the wheel.

Can you see that a relatively simple machine like a bicycle is made up of several sub systems and that the whole machine would not work without

each of the sub systems connected and working properly? Please remember that in the case of the bicycle, even the sub components – like the brake system or the propulsion or drive system – have multiple components that also reasonably require a designer.

Here are some key questions that reveal that the simple machine – the bicycle – requires a Designer. How would the drive system come together AND know how to orient itself on the frame? How would the braking system create itself AND know how to orient itself to the propulsion system and the frame? How would the steering system create itself AND know where and how to attach to the load bearing system? Is it not unreasonable to believe that a simple machine like a bicycle could somehow arise and exist without a mind designing it? The mathematical probability is essentially zero. That is to say, that even with trillions of years of trial and error, a bicycle forming itself without a mind designing it is as likely as having a can at the bottom of the pacific ocean, and you flying over the ocean in a plane not knowing where the can is, and dropping an object the same diameter of the can and it landing in the can.

So, the question is, how could even a simple machine like a bicycle exist without a mind designing both the sub systems as well as how those sub

systems have to inter-relate or connect in order for the whole machine to accomplish its purpose? Given a few billion years and the forces of nature, will even a simple machine with just a few inter-dependant sub systems arise without a designer directing its creation? The reasonable answer is no, it will not. It requires the creative conceptualization of a reasoning mind to order the components of even a simple machine.

How much more so a complicated machine with many complicated inter-related and inter-dependant sub-systems or components. For more complicated inorganic machines, consider some manufacturing plants, or an automobile or space shuttle.

Now take the next step. What about biological or organic machines or organisms that can self-replicate, self-heal or have systems that defend against harmful agents? Can you imagine a bicycle that could fix itself without a mind intervening? Or a car that could diagnosis its own problems AND have a system that could deliver the repair! Man-kind is very creative and will probably be able to build machines like this in the future, but only because we have a mind to conceptualize and design such machines and because we have organic machines to learn from!

Take the next step. It is a fact that the complexity of, for example, the human

body far exceeds the most advanced computers and machines man has made or will be able to make in the foreseeable future even with all the accumulated knowledge and design skills. The human body alone- not even considering the brain - is an engineering and design marvel that the smartest human engineers and designers cannot even approach in terms of complexity and function. Think of all the inter-related and inter-dependant system the human body needs to function properly. The skeleton to bear the load, the joints to allow for incredible flexibility of the movement of the components; the respiratory system which provides the energy of oxygen to the cells that require it. The digestive system, the nervous system, the ability to see, and taste and smell and hear; the reproductive system; the dermatological system; the genetic code system that programs and self-directs the formation of the machine; the immune system that identifies and eliminates harmful agents. Truly, the human body makes even a space shuttle look primitive in comparison.

You need to ask yourself this simple question, dear viewer. If it is unreasonable for your car or bicycle or phone or computer to exist without someone designing it, why is it reasonable for your body to exist without someone designing it? Please let me repeat that.

If a simpler machine with inter-dependant sub systems like a car requires a designer, then why not acknowledge the self-evident truth that a more complicated machine with greater functions would require an even greater or smarter Designer? This might be the first time you are considering the possibility that you have a Designer! This ought to make you curious.

If you are a person that has been subjected to religion and you are saying, 'yeah, I know god exists', please consider the possibility that the 'god' religion has taught you about is not the Creator?

If this Designer or Creator exists, what is it/he/she like? I will use the personal pronoun 'he' to avoid having to say all three possibilities. Where does he exist? Is he still active in his Designing? Does he want anything from that which he designed? These are all reasonable questions. Does anyone have sure or at least reasonable answers? What are the ways we could use to find out?

If it is clear a Designer exists, which it is; and if it is reasonable that his creation – in this case human beings - to some degree mirrors or reflects his own characteristics or what he values in beings; then how do we contact or communicate with that being?

Here are a few possibilities. If he is a designer that has a physical body and

he exists on the same plane or dimension that we exist on, then he could use some kind of physical communication methods or technology to reach out to us. Humans have been using different technologies for many years now to listen to and for various things – SETI for example, Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence - and we have heard nothing from a possible creator or even other intelligent life forms to date.

Another possibility is that the Designer or Creator is a metaphysical being or beings who do not exist in the physical dimension we exist in.

Since we have a metaphysical component, perhaps he/they could use some metaphysical means to communicate with us? That is a possibility, but we would need the ability to understand his communication attempts. What exactly would we need or have to do in order to receive and understand his communications?

What if the creator is in some realm or dimension of existence that makes it impossible to directly communicate with us? What are his options? Well, he is our creator, so one thing he could do would be to send a special created being to communicate with us. That being could be the bridge between the two realms. How would we know that person? How could that person prove he or she was actually representing the creator? Good questions. We

will examine them in future videos.

Let's summarize at this point. There are a few things we can know for sure.

First, that we are designed beings – we need only the physical realm and mathematical probability to prove that. Second, that we have a metaphysical or spiritual component to our person – that is simply the best explanation we have – using observation and reason - for a complete picture of human nature. So, the two basic questions that arise from those two facts are first, who designed or created me and what does it/she/he want of me if anything? Second what becomes of my soul or metaphysical component of my person when my physical body dies? We will address the first question in the next few videos. The latter question can be briefly addressed here. We know that physical things break down over time...whether organic or inorganic materials, all things decay or break down. This would certainly include our physical bodies. Does this break down or decay process apply to our metaphysical components like our will, soul or mind? There is no reason to believe that metaphysical things are subject to physical forces. By definition, metaphysical means greater than or beyond physical. Again, it is reasonable to believe that metaphysical things are not subject to the same forces as physical things. We can know this to some extent by looking at the

aging process in humans. It is a fact that a person's soul or mind can and often does remain just as alive and vibrant and sharp through the aging process. That is to say that a 30 year olds capacity to love or reason can and often does grow or improve or get greater over time so that when the person is 80 years old, they are in fact a better person or at least have better metaphysical capabilities than they did earlier in their life. So, while the body degrades, the heart, soul and mind grow and improve and are undiminished. This fact supports the belief that our metaphysical components are not affected by our body ceasing to function, and that our metaphysical or spiritual components – those things which make us who we truly are – survive our body's death. Then, the reasonable question becomes, what becomes of us? If that which makes us who we really are – our personality, our thoughts, our dreams, our desires – all part of our metaphysical or spiritual component – survives our body's dying, then where to we go? Do we get to set our after-death destiny? We will take a look at that in future videos. So, to answer the question of this video, 'where did I come from', you came from a Designer who designed both your physical and metaphysical components...we will look at this more closely as the journey continues.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life and look deeper to find what you really need.