

## **Just Thinking Apologetics**

One of the views as to how life originated can be called naturalistic evolution. Naturalistic evolution consists of two parts. The first is naturalism, which means that everything is the result of a purely physical or naturalistic process. On this view there can be no such thing as anything outside the physical universe. The evolution part refers to Darwinian evolution where natural selection and mutations drive change within organisms. Again, on a naturalistic evolutionary view, all things in the universe came from a single explosion called the “big bang” and have evolved by purely mechanistic means.

Harvard geneticists Richard Lewontin has summarized the naturalistic evolutionary view nicely by saying, “The problem is to get (people) to reject irrational and supernatural explanations of the world, the demons that exist only in their imaginations, and to accept a social and intellectual apparatus, Science, as the *only* begetter of truth.” According to Lewontin and others who promote naturalistic evolution, science answers all questions. There is nothing besides the natural realm and only science can give us answers that have true meaning. Outside of the scientific realm, truthful answers cannot be known.

If scientific naturalism is true, what are the philosophical implications of this particular view? Does science really answer in favor or against naturalistic evolution? These questions and others will be examined in the coming weeks.