

Just Thinking Apologetics

What is Intelligent Design? As the two words imply, Intelligent Design states the universe was *designed* by an *intelligent* being. This view is somewhat related to an argument made in the past by William Paley. Paley was a theologian and professor at Cambridge during the 18th century and formed an argument called the “Watchmaker Argument.” In Paley’s analogy he states that if one were to find a pocket watch lying in a field, she would never assume that the watch just happened, but instead would conclude that a person of intelligence designed the watch.

Today’s intelligent design movement doesn’t just rely on analogy, but instead takes a look at science and the available evidence to make a judgment as to what model of the created universe makes the most sense. William Dembski who holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago states, “intelligent design intersects science and theology.” The main point to be made is does the universe show evidence of design or not?

The chasm between those who support ID and those who reject it is great. Some in the scientific community say that ID is nothing more than repackaged creationism, while some scientists believe that we should follow the evidence wherever it leads. It is clear that if the universe is designed then there are theological implications. It should be noted that ID differs from Creationism in that ID is not concerned with if the designer(s) are the Judeo/Christian God. ID simply asks: “Is the universe designed?” If the universe is designed, there must be a designer. Creationism, on the other hand, assumes the God of the Bible and starts from that standpoint.