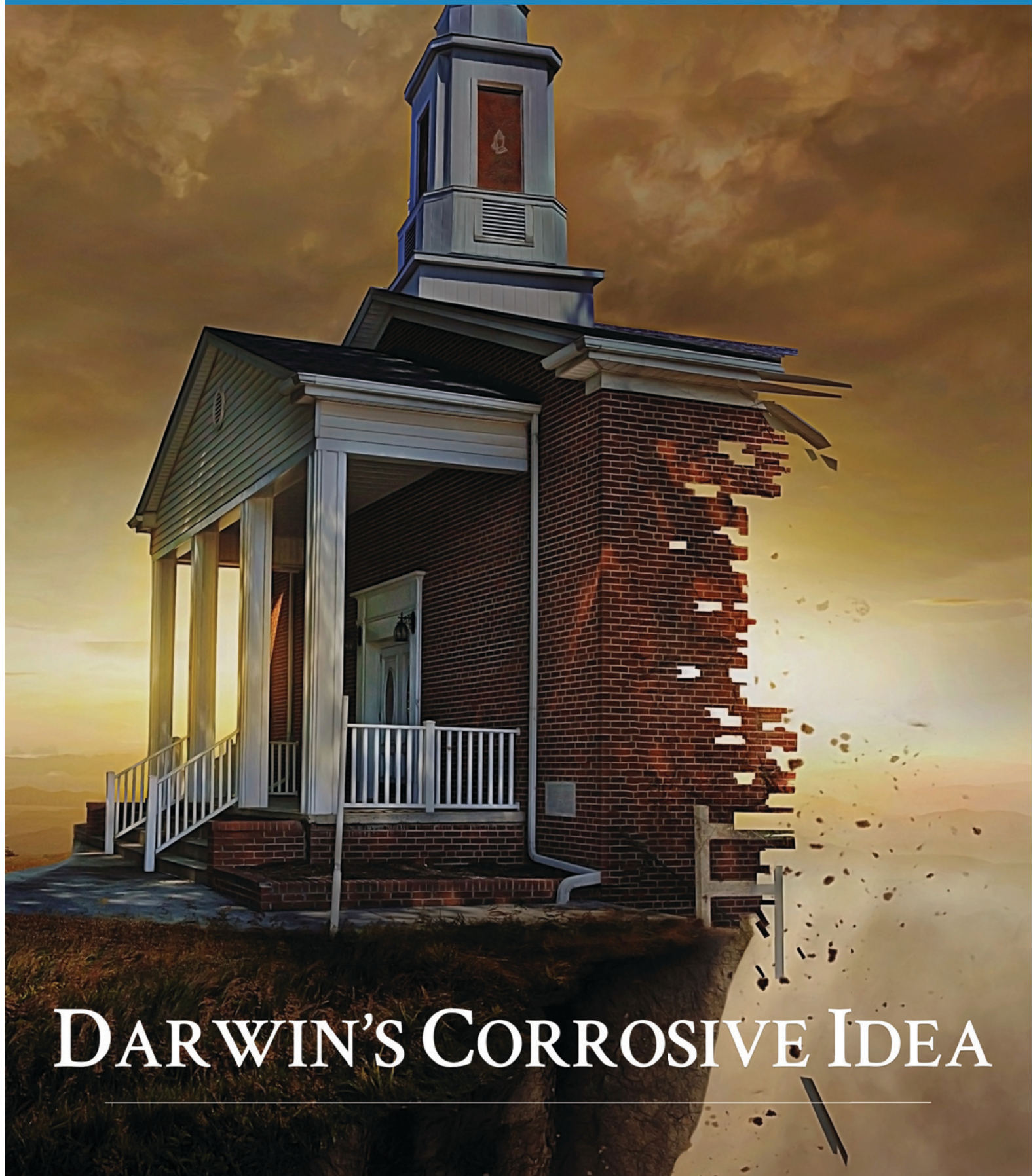


# The Impact of Evolution on Attitudes about Faith, Ethics, & Human Uniqueness



## DARWIN'S CORROSIVE IDEA



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# DARWIN'S CORROSIVE IDEA

*The Impact of Evolution on Attitudes about Faith, Ethics, and Human Uniqueness*

John G. West, PhD\*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

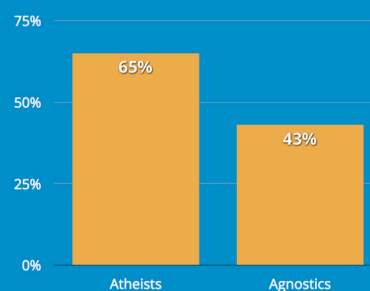
In his influential book *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, philosopher Daniel Dennett praised Darwinian evolution for being a “universal acid” that dissolves traditional religious and moral beliefs.<sup>1</sup> Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins has similarly praised Darwin for making “it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”<sup>2</sup> Although numerous studies have documented the influence of Darwinian theory and other scientific ideas on the views of cultural elites,<sup>3</sup> the impact of Darwin's theory on the attitudes of the general public has been less clear. While prominent atheists like Dawkins and Dennett have claimed Darwin's ideas (and science more generally) as a support for atheism and the rejection of traditional ethics, others—such as Christian geneticist Francis Collins—have maintained that Darwinian biology is compatible with both religious faith and religious-based ethics.<sup>4</sup>

Until now, there has been little empirical data to quantify the impact of evolutionary ideas on the religious and ethical beliefs of the general population. While previous surveys have asked about people's belief in evolution or their beliefs about other scientific ideas, most have not asked questions about how science has shaped a person's religious beliefs or worldview. Those surveys that

have asked about the impact of science on a person's religious faith typically have not explored the impact of *specific* scientific ideas such as Darwinian evolution.<sup>5</sup>

In order to gain insights into the impact of specific scientific ideas on popular beliefs about God and ethics, Discovery Institute conducted a nationwide survey of a representative sample of 3,664 American adults. The survey asked questions about various scientific ideas and their impact on a person's personal beliefs about God, human uniqueness, and ethics. Because one of the main survey goals was to ascertain the impact of evolutionary ideas on those who have lost their religious faith, the survey sample included 1,146

### ATHEISTS/AGNOSTICS WHO SAY DARWINIAN EVOLUTION HAS MADE GOD “LESS LIKELY”

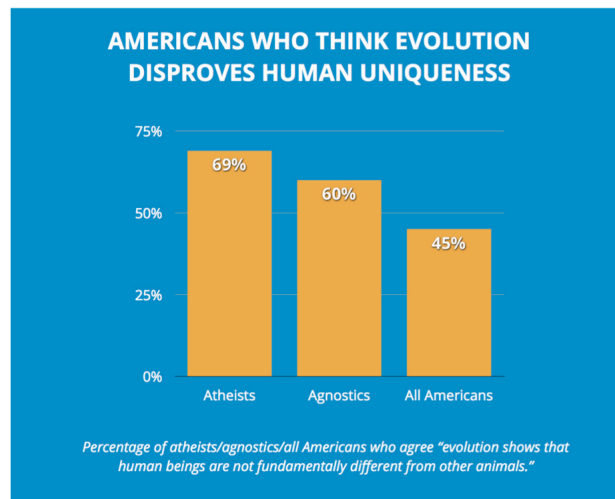


Percentage of atheists/agnostics who report that for them personally the idea that “all life forms on Earth (including humans) were produced by an unguided process of mutation and natural selection” has made God's existence “less likely.”



self-identified atheists and agnostics. Key findings of the survey include:

- 67% of atheists and 35% of agnostics believe “the findings of science make the existence of God less probable.”
- Nearly 7 in 10 atheists and more than 4 in 10 agnostics say that for them personally, unguided chemical evolution and Darwin’s mutation/natural selection mechanism have made the existence of God “less likely.”
- More than 7 in 10 atheists and nearly 4 in 10 agnostics agree with evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins that “the universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”
- By contrast, 6 in 10 theists and more than 2 in 10 agnostics say the existence in nature of “many things that are exquisitely designed and highly complex” has made the existence of God “more likely” for them personally.
- 45% of Americans as a whole, 69% of atheists, and 60% of agnostics agree that “evolution shows that human beings are not fundamentally different from other animals.”
- 55% of Americans as a whole, 71% of atheists, and 68% of agnostics agree that



“evolution shows that moral beliefs evolve over time based on their survival value in various times and places.”

Data for this nationwide survey was collected from March 17-20, 2016 using SurveyMonkey Audience, a nationally representative panel of more than 6 million people recruited from the 30+ million people who take SurveyMonkey surveys each month. The SurveyMonkey platform has been utilized for public opinion surveys by NBC News, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other media organizations. Survey respondents were randomly sampled from members of SurveyMonkey Audience in the United States who are 18 years of age or older. More detailed information about the survey’s methodology is presented in Section 3.



## 1. THE IMPACT OF EVOLUTION AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC IDEAS ON BELIEF IN GOD

“I don’t [believe in God] but I really want to... I’m constantly struggling. But looking right at the facts—evolution and science—they’re saying, no there is none.”

*Kyle Simpson, age 27, interviewed by NPR.<sup>6</sup>*

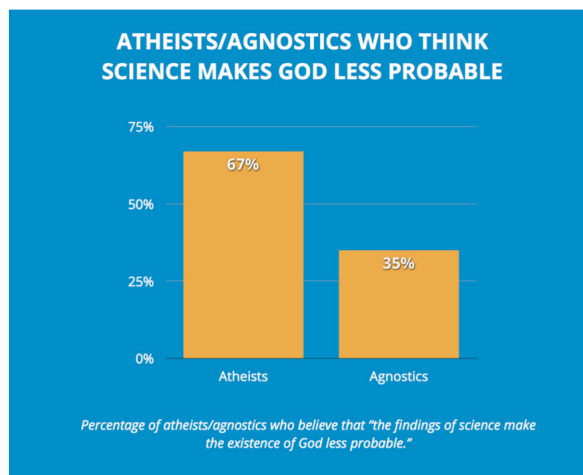
The Pew Research Center reported earlier in 2016 that “science” was frequently cited by respondents in one of its recent surveys as a reason they lost their religious beliefs:

About half of current religious “nones” who were raised in a religion (49%) indicate that a lack of belief led them to move away from religion. This includes many respondents who mention “science” as the reason they do not believe in religious teachings, including one who said “I’m a scientist now, and I don’t believe in miracles.”<sup>7</sup>

Another respondent to the same Pew survey identified “learning about evolution when I went away to college” as the reason for losing his or her

religious beliefs. However, Pew provided no quantitative breakdown of the percentage of those abandoning their religious beliefs who cited either science in general or evolution in particular as influencing their loss of faith.

According to the new survey reported here, an overwhelming 67% of self-identified atheists and 35% of self-identified agnostics say “the findings of science make the existence of God less probable,” while 30% of atheists and 60% of agnostics say “the findings of science are neutral with regard to the



existence of God.” Self-identified theists are evenly split between those who think “the findings of science make the existence of God more probable” (48%) and those who think “the findings of science are neutral with regard to the existence of God” (48%).<sup>8</sup>

In order to determine which specific ideas from science have influenced a person’s beliefs about the existence of God, respondents were given an inventory of eight science-related ideas often raised in popular discussions of science and faith. They were then asked “for you personally, which of the following ideas have made the existence of God less likely, more likely, or have had no impact on your belief in the existence of God.” Inventory items included:

- The universe began with the Big Bang nearly 14 billion years ago.
- Life began from non-life through an unguided process of chemical evolution.
- All life forms on Earth (including humans) are descended from a single common ancestor.
- All life forms on Earth (including humans) were produced by an unguided process of mutation and natural selection.
- Nature is filled with disease and death.
- Nature is filled with many things that are useless or poorly designed.
- The laws of physics are fine-tuned to allow life to develop in the universe. If they were the slightest bit different, life could not exist.
- Nature is filled with many things that are exquisitely designed and highly complex.

## SCIENCE-RELATED IDEAS WITH THE MOST IMPACT ON THE LOSS OF BELIEF IN GOD

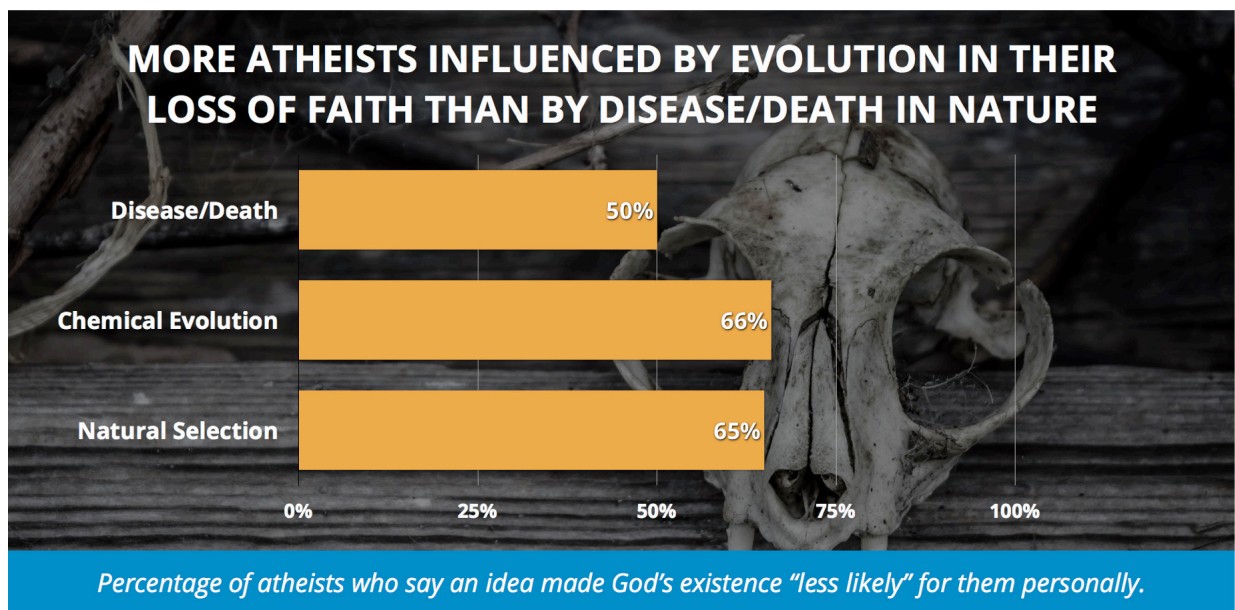
Which science-related ideas have had the biggest impact on the erosion of religious faith? Two ideas influenced the most people by far in their loss of faith: unguided chemical evolution and unguided Darwinian evolution in biology.

- 66% of atheists and 44% of agnostics said that for them personally, the idea that “life began from non-life through an unguided process of chemical evolution” has made the existence of God “less likely.”
- 65% of atheists and 43% of agnostics said that for them personally, the idea that “all life forms on Earth (including humans) were produced by an unguided process of mutation and natural selection” has made the existence of God “less likely.”

For atheists, the next most influential idea in making the existence of God “less likely” is the evolutionary claim that “all life forms on Earth (including humans) are descended from a single common ancestor.” Some 55% of atheists indicate that this idea has made the existence of God less likely for them personally.

However, the survey shows that the Darwinian mechanism of unguided mutations and natural selection is far more influential when it comes to questions about the existence of God than common ancestry. Even 44% of atheists and 70% of agnostics say that the idea of common ancestry either has no impact on their belief in God or it makes the existence of God more likely.

Among self-identified theists, meanwhile, 39% think universal common ancestry makes God more likely and another 65% say the claim has no impact



on their belief in God's existence.

This does not mean that views about common ancestry are unimportant. For example, they may play a role in shaping views about human uniqueness and the status of human morality (see Section 2 of this report). But when it comes to debates over the existence of God, the vast majority of theists and agnostics do not seem to believe that claims about common ancestry are particularly relevant, and nearly half of atheists appear to agree.

What about the impact of so-called "natural evil" on people's loss of faith? In public conversations about science and the loss of faith, the existence of disease and death feature prominently, as do alleged examples of poor design and useless features found in nature. It is noteworthy that while these ideas do impact a large proportion of self-described atheists and agnostics, *this survey suggests they are influential for significantly fewer atheists and agnostics than unguided chemical and biological evolution*. Indeed, disease/death and poor design made the existence of God less likely for only half of atheists and less than a third of agnostics, whereas chemical and biological evolution made

the existence of God less likely for two-thirds of atheists and more than 40% of agnostics.

### SCIENCE-RELATED IDEAS WITH THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT ON BELIEF IN GOD

Although some science-related ideas make the existence of God "less likely" for significant percentages of people, other science-related ideas have positively influenced belief in God's existence. The two science-related ideas that make the existence of God "more likely" for the largest number of people are complex design in nature and the fine-tuning of the laws of physics for the existence of life:

- 58% of theists and 22% of agnostics say that for them personally, the idea that "nature is filled with many things that are exquisitely designed and highly complex" has made the existence of God "more likely."
- 45% of theists and 19% of agnostics say that for them personally, the idea that "the laws of physics are fine-tuned to allow life to

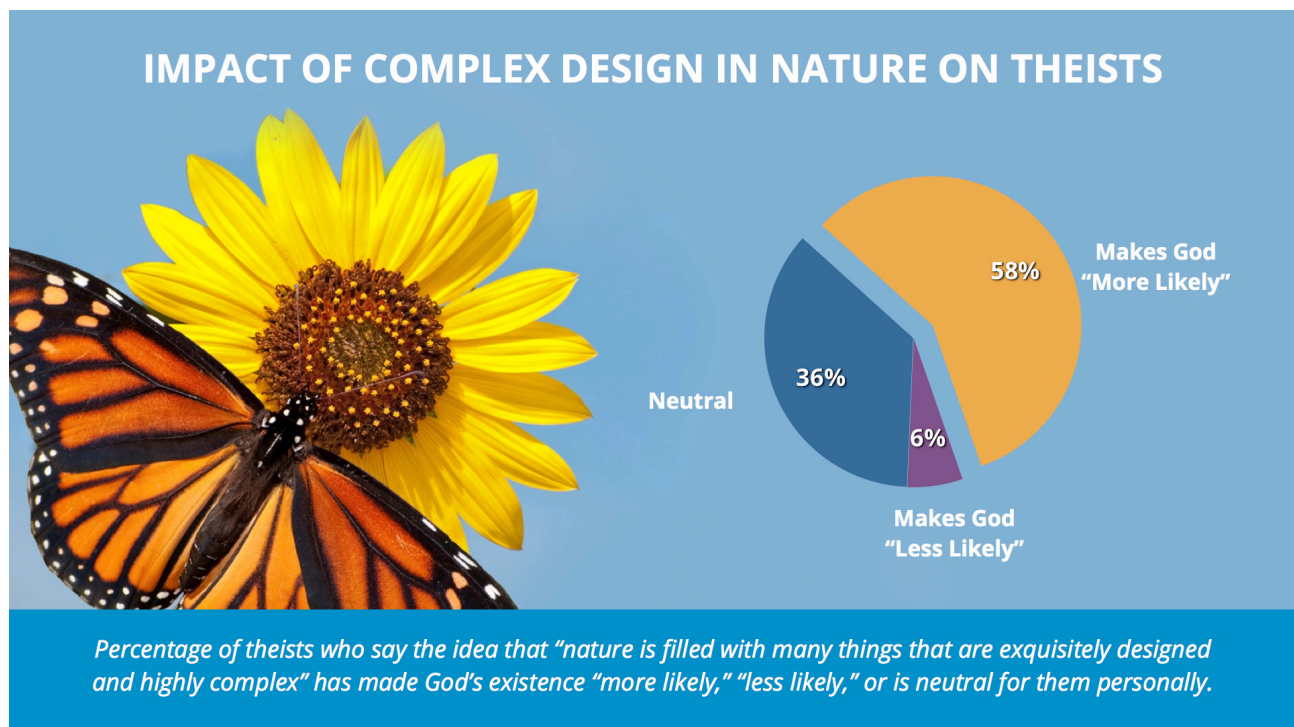


develop in the universe. If they were the slightest bit different, life could not exist” has made the existence of God “more likely.”

In many public discussions of faith and science, more intellectuals are willing to endorse the fine-tuning of the laws of physics as a science-related idea that supports belief in God than the existence of design in biology. In fact, many theists who embrace Darwinian theory and who reject evidence of design in biology nevertheless embrace evidence of fine-tuning in physics. But according to respondents, the idea that there are exquisitely designed and highly complex things in nature has influenced significantly more Americans than the idea of fine-tuning. Whereas 45% of Americans report that design in nature made the existence of God more likely for them personally, only 35%

report the same thing when it comes to fine-tuning. The gap in influence is even wider among those who believe in God. Whereas 58% of theists say that design in nature made the existence of God more likely for them personally, only 45% say the same thing about fine-tuning. The influence gap even holds among agnostics: 22% of agnostics say that design in nature made the existence of God more likely for them personally, but only 19% say the same thing about fine-tuning.

Overall, this survey provides evidence that unguided chemical evolution and the Darwinian mutation/selection mechanism are the most significant drivers of science-related erosion in faith in God, whereas complex design in nature is the most significant driver of science-related support for God’s existence.

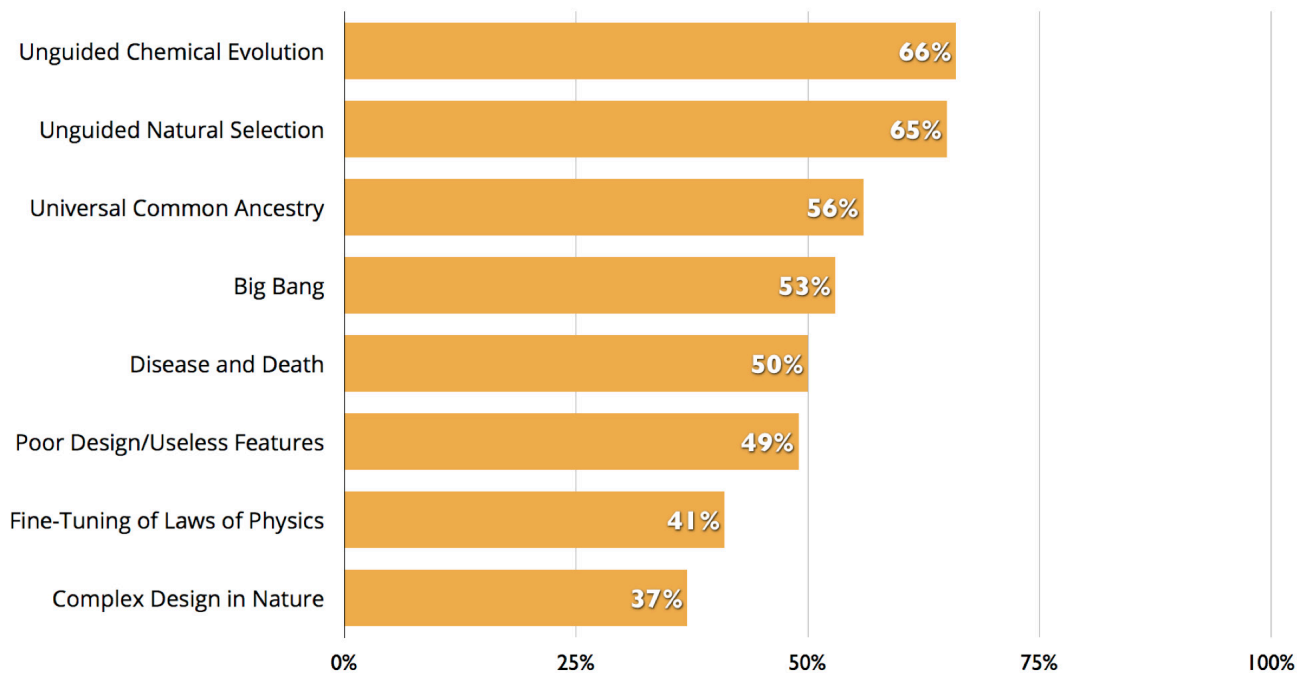




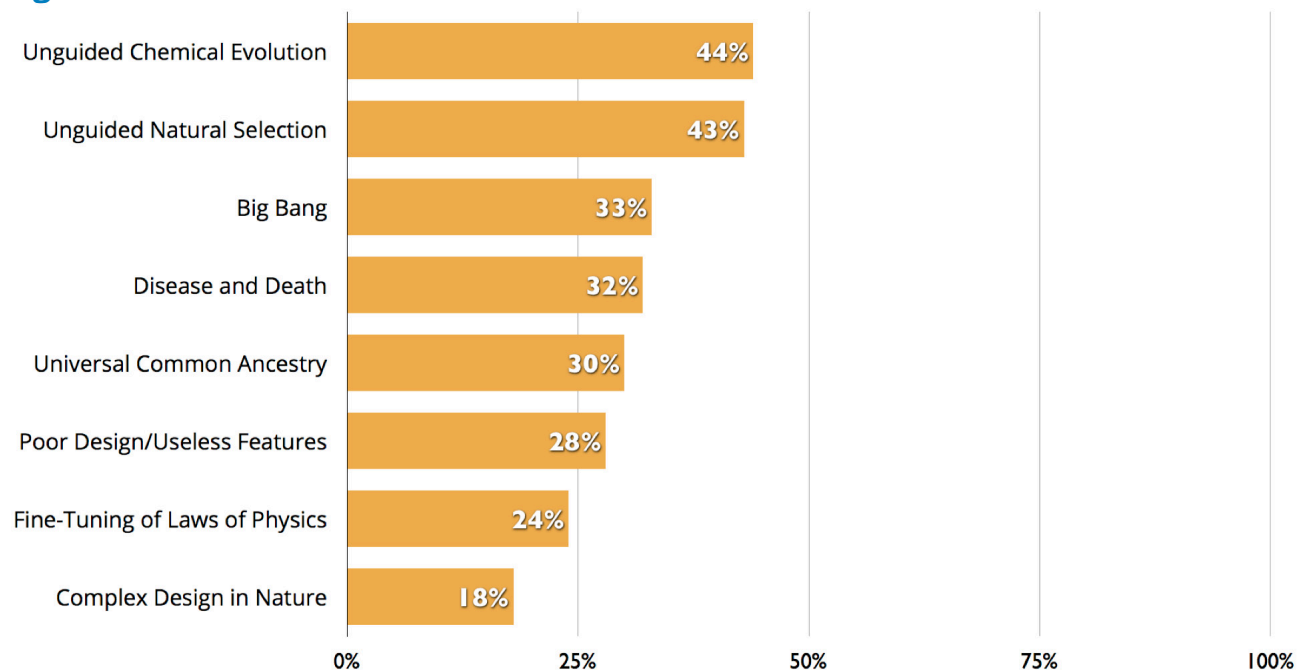
**Table 1**  
**SCIENCE-RELATED IDEAS THAT HAVE MADE THE  
 EXISTENCE OF GOD *LESS* LIKELY FOR ATHEISTS/AGNOSTICS**

*For you personally, which of the following ideas have made the existence of God less likely?*

### Atheists



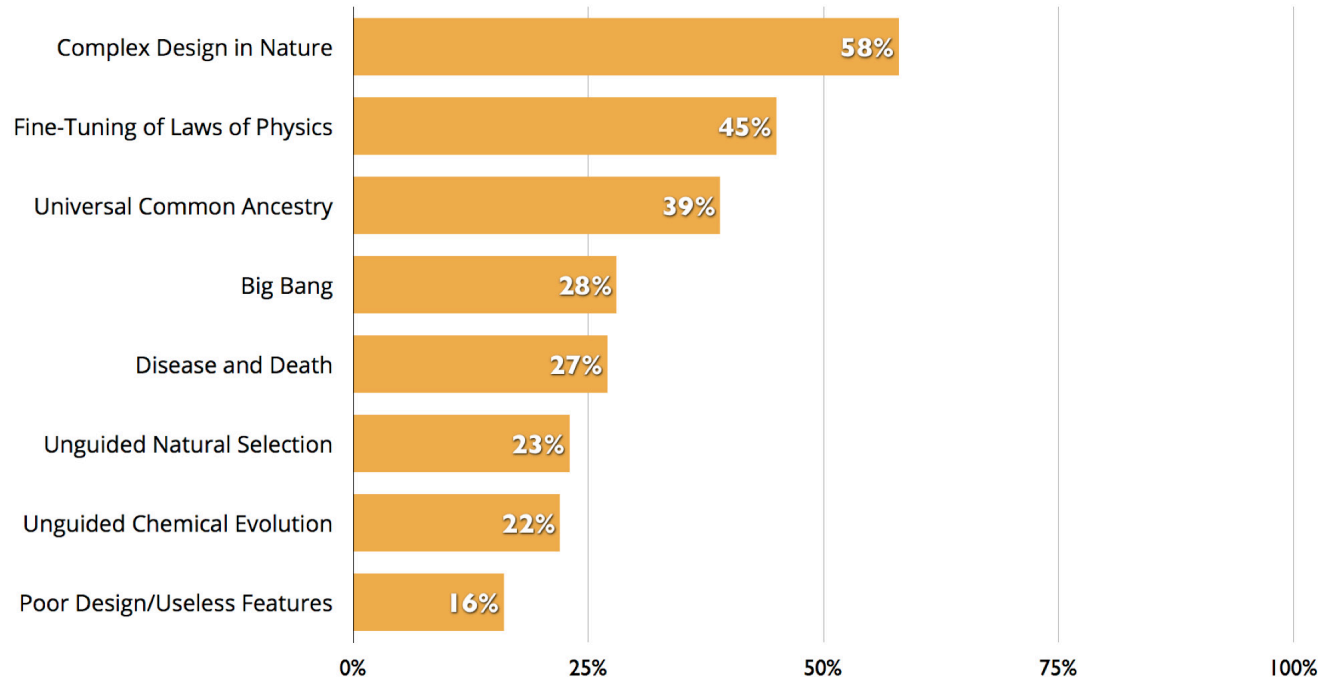
### Agnostics



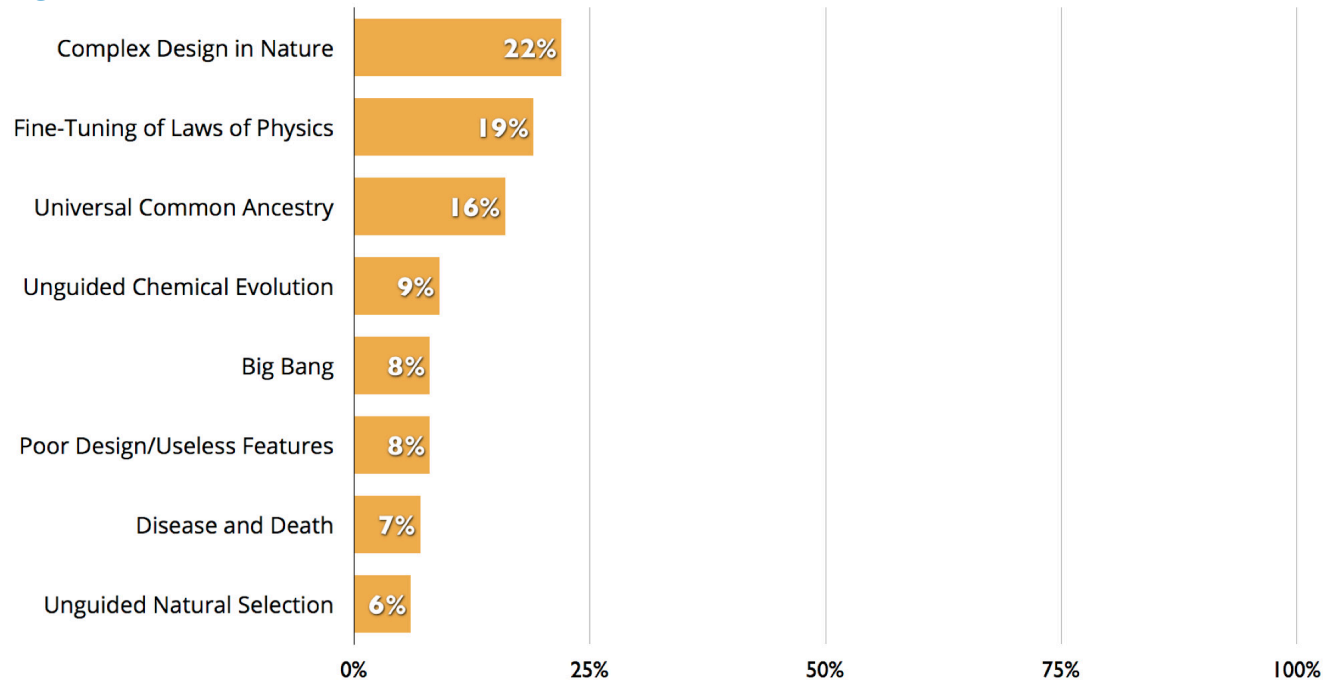
**Table 2**  
**SCIENCE-RELATED IDEAS THAT HAVE MADE THE  
 EXISTENCE OF GOD *MORE* LIKELY FOR THEISTS/AGNOSTICS**

*For you personally, which of the following ideas have made the existence of God more likely?*

### Theists



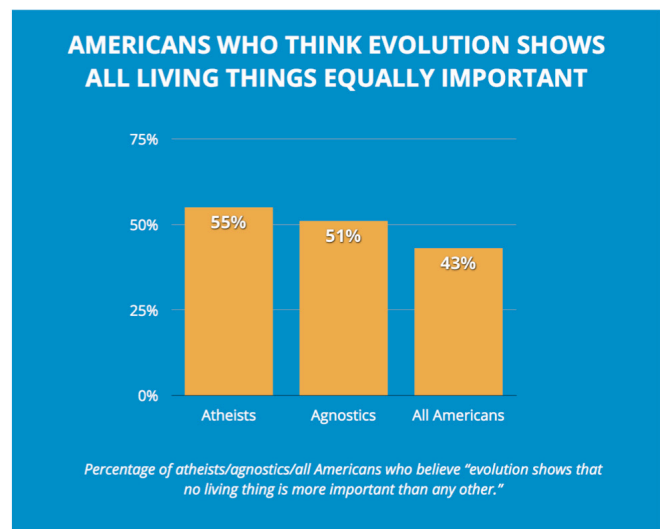
### Agnostics





## 2. THE IMPACT OF EVOLUTION ON BELIEFS ABOUT HUMAN UNIQUENESS AND ETHICS

Many scientists and other thinkers have invoked Darwinian theory to argue that human beings can no longer be viewed as unique among animals. This line of argument reaches back to Charles Darwin himself, who sought to prove in *The Descent of Man* that “there is no fundamental difference between man and the higher mammals in their mental faculties.”<sup>9</sup> Many of Darwin’s followers during the past century have made similar claims. The late Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould argued that Darwinian “biology took away our status as paragons created in the image of God.”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, in the Darwinian view human beings are but “a fortuitous cosmic afterthought.”<sup>11</sup> Princeton University bioethicist Peter Singer invokes evolutionary theory to argue that handicapped human newborns are less valuable than healthy pigs and dogs. Singer makes clear that Darwinism supplies the foundation for his view of human beings: “All we are doing is catching up with Darwin. He showed in the 19th century that we are simply animals. Humans had imagined we were a separate part of Creation, that there was some



magical line between Us and Them. Darwin’s theory undermined the foundations of that entire Western way of thinking about the place of our species in the universe.”<sup>12</sup> Darwinian theory is likewise cited by some environmentalists to justify that humans are not special among living things. In the words of former Earth First! activist Christopher Manes, “Darwin invited humanity to face the fact that the observation of nature has revealed not one scrap of evidence that humankind



is superior or special, or even particularly more interesting than, say, lichen.”<sup>13</sup>

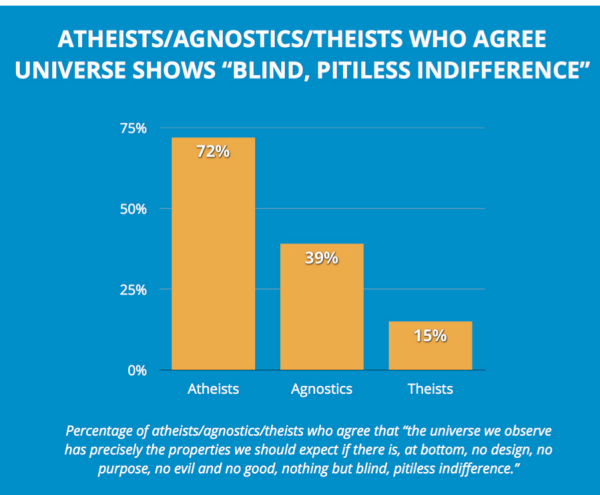
Although Darwinian natural selection has played a role in these arguments about human uniqueness and human exceptionalism, more central has been the evolutionary claim that humans, like all animals, ultimately descend from a single, simple pre-human organism. While evolutionary arguments against human uniqueness are well established among intellectuals in elite culture, how much influence has evolution had on the general population’s views of human uniqueness?

The answer appears to be “quite a lot.” According to this survey, 43% of Americans agree that “evolution shows that no living thing is more important than any other,” and 45% of Americans believe that “evolution shows that human beings are not fundamentally different from other animals.”

The highest levels of support for the idea that evolution shows that humans aren’t fundamentally different from other animals are found among self-identified atheists (69%), agnostics (60%), 18 to 29 year-olds (51%), and those who live in New England (51%) and the Pacific region (50%).

## EVOLUTION AND ETHICS

Evolutionary thinkers also have applied Darwinian theory to ethics, arguing that ethical precepts evolve based upon their survival value. Darwin himself offered this kind of analysis in *The Descent of Man*.<sup>14</sup>



A majority of Americans (55%) now believe that “evolution shows that moral beliefs evolve over time based on their survival value in various times and places.” About 7 in 10 (71%) of self-described atheists embrace this idea, as do 68% of self-described agnostics, 58% of 18-29 year-olds and those over 60, 58% of those who live in the Mid-Atlantic region, and 57% of those who live in the Pacific region.

At the same time, evolutionary thinkers such as Dennett and Dawkins have claimed that Darwin’s unguided version of evolution means that the universe itself provides no evidence of any permanent, transcendent standards of good and evil. How widespread is this view? Some 72% of atheists and 39% of agnostics say they agree with Richard Dawkins that “the universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.” By contrast, only 15% of theists adopt this view.

### 3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND NOTES

The data for this nationwide survey was collected during March 17-20, 2016 using SurveyMonkey Audience, a nationally representative panel of more than 6 million people recruited from the 30+ million people who take SurveyMonkey surveys each month. The SurveyMonkey platform has been utilized for public opinion surveys by NBC News, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other media organizations. Survey respondents were randomly sampled from members of SurveyMonkey Audience in the United States who are 18 years of age or older, and the survey included 3,664 respondents overall. Percentages reported for some questions may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

According to SurveyMonkey, “SurveyMonkey Audience respondents represent a diverse group of people and are reflective of the general population. However, as with most online sampling, respondents have Internet access and voluntarily joined a program to take surveys... We automatically balance results according to census data for age and gender, while location tends to balance out naturally.” SurveyMonkey conducts “regular benchmarking surveys to ensure our members are representative of the U.S. population.” More information on how respondents are recruited for SurveyMonkey Audience is available here: [www.surveymonkey.com/mp/audience](http://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/audience).

Although SurveyMonkey Audience is a representative panel, respondents to this particular survey were more secular than the general American adult population, with a significantly greater proportion of self-identified atheists and agnostics.<sup>15</sup> However, we chose not to do any post-survey weighting to correct the overrepresentation

of these groups, in part because a key goal of the survey was to ascertain the impact of various ideas on those who have lost their religious faith. Hence, the overrepresentation of these two groups was helpful in gaining a sufficient number of respondents from each group to provide better comparative data from self-identified atheists, agnostics, and theists.

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#### REFERENCE NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meaning of Life* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 63.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1996), 6.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, John G. West, *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science* (Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, revised paperback edition, 2015); Benjamin Wiker, *Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002); and Richard Weikart, *From Darwin to Hitler: Evolutionary Ethics, Eugenics, and Racism in Germany* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004).

<sup>4</sup> For examples of those making this argument, see Francis Collins, *The Language of God* (New York: Free Press, 2006) and Karl Giberson, *Saving Darwin: How to Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution* (New York: HarperOne, 2008).

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, “Evolution, Creationism, Intelligent Design,” 1982-2014, Gallup Polling, <http://tinyurl.com/gallup21814>; “Faith in Flux: Changes in Religious Affiliation in the U.S.,” Pew Forum on

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Religion and Public Life, April 2009, <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2009/04/fullreport.pdf>, 16; “Scientific Achievements Less Prominent Than a Decade Ago; Public Praises Science; Scientists Fault Public, Media,” July 9, 2009, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press survey in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, <http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/528.pdf>, 18; “A Survey of Clergy and Their Views on Origins,” BioLogos.org, May 8, 2013, <http://biologos.org/blog/a-survey-of-clergy-and-their-views-on-origins>; “Protestant Pastors’ Views on Creation: Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors,” LifeWay Research, Jan. 9, 2012, accessible under the “Related Content” column at <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Research-Poll-Pastors-oppose-evolution-split-on-earths-age>. For an overview of some of the relevant prior surveys, see John G. West, “Are Young People Losing Their Faith Because of Science?” (Seattle: Discovery Institute, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> Quoted in “More Young People Are Moving Away From Religion, But Why?” *NPR*, Jan. 15, 2013, <http://tinyurl.com/b75ztdw>.

<sup>7</sup> Michael Lipka, “Why America’s ‘nones’ left religion behind,” Pew Research Center, Aug. 24, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/24/why-americas-nones-left-religion-behind/>.

<sup>8</sup> In addition, 5% of theists say “the findings of science make the existence of God less probable.”

<sup>9</sup> Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, rev. ed. (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1896), I: 71.

<sup>10</sup> Stephen J. Gould, *Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1977), 147.

<sup>11</sup> Stephen J. Gould, *Dinosaur in a Haystack: Reflections in Natural History* (New York: Harmony Books, 1995), 327.

<sup>12</sup> Quoted in Johann Hari, “Peter Singer: Some people are more equal than others,” *The Independent*, July 1, 2004, <http://tinyurl.com/gteb894>.

<sup>13</sup> Christopher Manes, *Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1990), 142.

<sup>14</sup> See discussion in West, *Darwin Day in America*, 29-35.

<sup>15</sup> According to the Religious Landscape Study by the Pew Research Center, 7.1% of Americans identify themselves as atheists or agnostics. By contrast, 31% of respondents identified themselves as atheists or agnostics in our survey. For the Pew results, see “Religious Landscape Study,” Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>.





## COMPLETE SURVEY RESULTS

## Q1 How would you classify yourself?

Answered: 3,664 Skipped: 0

	a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	100% 2,518	0% 0	0% 0	69% 2,518
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	0% 0	100% 413	0% 0	11% 413
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	0% 0	0% 0	100% 733	20% 733
<b>Total Respondents</b>	2,518	413	733	3,664

## Q2 Which statement best describes your view:

Answered: 3,648 Skipped: 16

	The findings of science make the existence of God less probable.	The findings of science make the existence of God more probable.	The findings of science are neutral with regard to the existence of God.	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	5% 116	48% 1,194	48% 1,195	69% 2,505
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	67% 276	3% 13	30% 123	11% 412
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	35% 257	5% 33	60% 441	20% 731
<b>Total Respondents</b>	649	1,240	1,759	3,648

**Q3 For you personally, which of the following ideas have made the existence of God less likely, more likely, or have had no impact on your belief in the existence of God:**

Answered: 3,457 Skipped: 207

The universe began with the Big Bang nearly 14 billion years ago.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	8% 177	28% 661	64% 1,513	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	53% 214	4% 18	42% 169	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	33% 234	8% 53	59% 418	20% 705
Life began from non-life through an unguided process of chemical evolution.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	13% 313	22% 512	65% 1,526	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	66% 264	4% 16	30% 121	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	44% 309	9% 64	47% 332	20% 705
All life forms on Earth (including humans) are descended from a single common ancestor.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	8% 186	39% 907	54% 1,258	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	56% 223	4% 18	40% 160	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	30% 212	16% 111	54% 382	20% 705
All life forms on Earth (including humans) were produced by an unguided process of mutation and natural selection.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	14% 335	23% 537	63% 1,479	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	65% 262	4% 15	31% 124	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	43% 302	6% 45	51% 358	20% 705
Nature is filled with disease and death.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	7% 170	27% 631	66% 1,550	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	50% 199	4% 17	46% 185	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	32% 224	7% 49	61% 432	20% 705



Nature is filled with many things that are useless or poorly designed.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	10% 234	16% 371	74% 1,746	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	49% 196	4% 16	47% 189	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	28% 195	8% 53	65% 457	20% 705
The laws of physics are fine-tuned to allow life to develop in the universe. If they were the slightest bit different, life could not exist.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	7% 153	45% 1,049	49% 1,149	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	41% 165	7% 28	52% 208	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	24% 167	19% 137	57% 401	20% 705
Nature is filled with many things that are exquisitely designed and highly complex.				
	Makes God Less Likely	Makes God More Likely	No Impact on Belief in God	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	6% 141	58% 1,364	36% 846	68% 2,351
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	37% 147	8% 32	55% 222	12% 401
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	18% 128	22% 153	60% 424	20% 705

## Q4 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Answered: 3,427 Skipped: 237

Evolution shows that no living thing is more important than any other.				
	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	38% 894	38% 874	24% 558	68% 2,326
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	55% 221	26% 102	19% 77	12% 400
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	51% 356	31% 216	18% 129	20% 701
Evolution shows that human beings are not fundamentally different from other animals.				
	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	37% 859	46% 1,065	17% 402	68% 2,326
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	69% 277	24% 96	7% 27	12% 400
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	60% 421	27% 190	13% 90	20% 701
Evolution shows that moral beliefs evolve over time based on their survival value in various times and places.				
	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	48% 1,114	28% 644	24% 568	68% 2,326
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	71% 283	13% 52	16% 65	12% 400
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	68% 480	13% 91	19% 130	20% 701
"The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference." (Biologist Richard Dawkins)				
	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Total
Q1: a theist (I believe that God or a higher power exists)	15% 341	51% 1,178	35% 807	68% 2,326
Q1: an atheist (I do not believe that God or a higher power exists)	72% 289	6% 25	22% 86	12% 400
Q1: an agnostic (I do not know whether God or a higher power exists)	39% 270	20% 143	41% 288	20% 701