

Identity Wars study 2 – The Fountain of Life

Have you ever almost died or known anyone who almost died, yet be miraculously saved/healed/recovered? Life can be more resilient than we realize (see premature babies)

Author's mom badly injured in car accident but not killed. Prayed – Jesus don't let her die. Doctor worked for 16 hours. Medical records showed the moment her vital signs rallied and she stabilised. Will not play piano again and may not walk again.. Today she walks well and plays piano. Praise Jesus for His wonderful mercy.

How precious is life? What does it mean to you?

What is the source of life? Two options 1. One big accident (Big Bang, goes against law of entropy) 2. A very well planned design. (full of laws and order)

Colossians 1:16, 17. For by Him were all things ...

Acts 17:24-28 He Himself gives life ...

God has an Intimate relationship with His children. 1. Nations 2. Not far from each us (waiting for our consent 3. In Him we live etc.

- John 15:5 apart from me, you can do nothing. Physically, mentally or spiritually ... totally dependant. Is it true?

Consider the heart? What does it do? How does it do it for so long? How does it work?

- Intrinsic regulating system. No direct stimulus from the nervous system. Not aided by anything outside of itself.
- "The conduction system is composed of specialised muscle tissue that generates and distributes the electrical impulses which stimulate the cardiac muscle fibres to contract."
- We can describe it, but where does this electrical charge come from? Where is it getting the energy?

Acts 17:28 in Him we live. But Satan wants us to believe we are simply a biological system of chance.

- Did God just wind us up like a doll and send us on our way?
- Or is He intimately involved with each one of us: actively, knowingly and lovingly, supplying us with life every moment of our lives?
- Huge thought to take in!

But this is just the physical side of life. What about the mental and spiritual aspects?

Colossians 2:2, 3 "wisdom and knowledge."

Exodus 31:1-5 God filled the craftsman with skills

Consider a concert pianist. Where does the praise belong?

- Do we thank God every day for our abilities?
- Or do we take the credit for ourselves?

Then what about our failures? Do we get depressed when we don't perform to others' expectations?

The curse of the Duracell battery

- (having power in ourselves, rather than getting it continuously from God). Success can be addictive and exhilarating, like the motorised paraglider. But lack of oxygen when too high can cause failure...
- The desire to glory in ourselves is irresistible, but the end is inevitable (failure or emptiness)

Success is great but there will always come the day when failure comes? How do we handle failure?

Depression. Fear of failure. Don't try. Give in way too early. Why do we fear failure? Value! We think that we aren't worth anything if we fail. Compare ourselves to others isn't wise (2 Cor 10:12), but isn't it impossible not to compare?

The answer to the fear of failure and competition and pride is:

1John 4:8 God is love; Rom 15:13 God of hope

Gal 5:22, 23 fruit of the Spirit. --- So, where does our love, joy, peace etc. come from?

- Mother in the park with child – love...does it originate in the mom, or in God?
- Can we promise someone else that we will love them forever? Are Love songs' feelings permanent? Why do so many fall out of love?
- The guilt from breaking our promises and the temptation to seek love elsewhere further damages the love. Feelings, nothing more than feelings! The Duracell battery has run dry; we rely on ourselves and find ourselves unreliable.

Without God love is fleeting. How can we endure when love has faded?

- John 14:13, 14. Promise:

"You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"