

## WOW - Discovering Genesis Together

### Session 3 - What is Man?

#### Key Points

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Thomas Huxley and Charles Darwin suggested that mankind evolved from primates.
- Darwin and Huxley believed similarities in human and ape anatomy meant that man evolved from apes.
- DNA is a macromolecule found in the nucleus of almost every cell of every living thing, and it determines your physical attributes and what kind of creature you are.
- It's common to hear that chimpanzee DNA is 98-99% similar to human DNA, but those percentages are not based on the whole genome. Overall, the chimpanzee genome is actually only 70% similar to the human genome.
- Major physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual differences set humans apart from animals.
- God made both animals and people, but humans are the only creatures created to have fellowship with God through Jesus Christ—this gives our lives meaning.

#### Think about it

1. What difference does it make that humans are different than animals? Explain.
2. If there really was a 'common ancestor', what is some evidence we should hope to find?
3. Discuss the characteristics that set humans apart from animals. Can you give examples from your own life?
4. What ultimately gives human lives meaning?
5. Read and reflect upon these Bible verses: Matt 6:26; Gen 1:27, 2:7; Ps 139:13-16; Job 10:8-12; Rom 5:8; Phil 2:13

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## Evolution vs Creation Perspectives

### 1. Three basic premises of evolution

#### *Evolution says*

- a. Evolution occurs over long spans of time.
- b. Differences in organisms result from natural selection, adaptations, and mutations.
- c. Similar design indicates a common ancestor.

#### *Creation says*

- a. None of the major steps of evolution have ever been demonstrated in the lab.
- b. Evolution happens too slowly to be observed—by the evolutionists' own admission—and therefore falls outside of science.
- c. Charles Darwin said “if it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications,” his “theory would absolutely break down” (Darwin, C. 1859. *On the Origin of Species*. London: John Murray, Chapter VI, 189).

### 2. Did humans evolve from chimpanzees?

#### *Evolution says*

- a. The chimpanzee genome is 98-99% similar to the human genome.
- b. Humans and chimpanzees are anatomically comparable.
- c. Humans are merely complex animals.

#### *Creation says*

- a. The chimpanzee is only 70% similar to the human genome with 900 million DNA letter differences in the genomes.
- b. There are several anatomical differences.
- c. Evidence indicates that only humans are made in the image of God and designed for fellowship with Him—and that gives us meaning.

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