

Florida Foundation for Future Scientists

— DR. ELIZABETH F. ABBOTT, Executive Secretary —

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The Florida Foundation for Future Scientists has been asked to state a position on evolutionary teaching as compared with creationism. While such statements are outside the charter of the FFFS, the following comments by the Executive Secretary outline much of today's thinking. Please note that these comments do not express an official position, but are the individual judgements of Dr. Abbott, speaking as a scientific professional.

The basic objective of both science and religion is to learn the fundamental truths about the planet Earth and the rest of the universe. The two fields (evolution and creation) differ widely in their approach: that of science is by observation of verifiable facts. From these observations, preferably reinforced by repeatable experiment, students of science have built up a body of interpretations and conclusions. Much of this work is incomplete because the facts are hard to get at, and interpretations must remain open to modification as new information is developed.

Scientists feel that a vast amount of ongoing human effort is needed if the objective of universal truth is to be reached. The revealed religions of the world instead offer their adherents complete universal truth, so that no further search is needed. Religion's truth, offered on a base of faith and compassion, appeals to the highest levels of the human spirit, and requires only acceptance. However, the pathway of arrival is not compatible with that of science, and it is wasteful of time and effort to get into conflict with the problems of science. A prime example of such a conflict is the Genesis account of creation which, if interpreted literally, is obviously at direct odds with evolution. The question is sensitive for some people. Because the two methods are so different and so specialized it seems best that science be taught in the public schools, and that creationism be referred to in religious settings and by religious specialists.



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