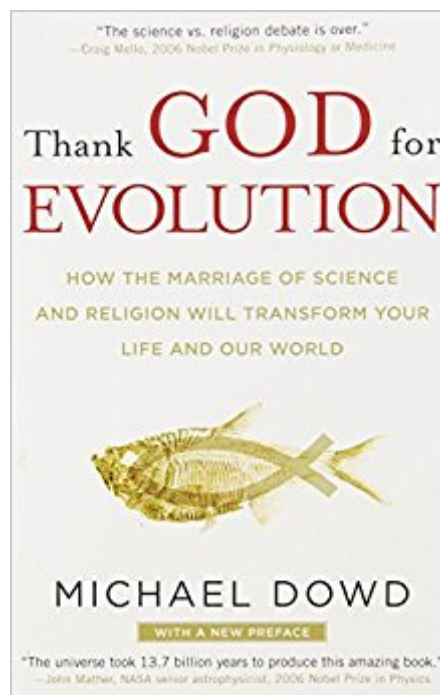




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# Thank God For Evolution: How The Marriage Of Science And Religion Will Transform Your Life And Our World



## Synopsis

Few issues have revealed deeper divisions in our society than the debate between creationism and evolution, between religion and science. Yet from the fray, Reverend Michael Dowd has emerged as a reconciler, finding faith strengthened by the power of reason. With evidence from contemporary astrophysics, geology, biology, anthropology, and evolutionary psychology, *Thank God for Evolution* lays out a compelling argument for how religion and science can be mutually enriching forces in our lives. Praised by Nobel laureates in the scientific community and religious leaders alike, *Thank God for Evolution* will expand the horizon of what is possible for self, for relationships, and for our world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since 2002, ordained United Church of Christ minister Dowd and his wife, science writer Connie Barlow, have traveled the country celebrating evolution as a grand epic story with a host of psychological and moral implications for shaping contemporary life. As narrator, Dowd projects an earnest next-door neighbor teaching style that earns a measure of patience and forgiveness when he undertakes divergent metaphors and analogies that may leave listeners scratching their heads at times. Dowd's talking points offer a potpourri of scientific and theological insights that remain generally engaging, though not necessarily stirring. He reaches the peak of his effectiveness when he provides specific calls to actions for his audience to meld flat-Earth Christianity and evolutionary Christianity in both their personal problem-solving and in larger global challenges. These nuggets make the lengthy journey worthwhile, at least for those in the fields of science and religion wanting to foster new areas for dialogue beyond the current culture wars. A Viking hardcover. (Sept.)

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"Dowd presents evolution as a sacred epic of emerging complexity." -The New York Times "Dowd masterfully unites rationality and spirituality in a world view that celebrates the mysteries of existence... A powerful book!" -Craig Mello, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine

This book definitely allows you to have a different perspective on life. Loved reading this book!

The most thought-provoking book I have read in decades. A good discussion to reconcile religion and science.

My friend's father, a retired United Methodist minister, saw Michael Dowd speak at the Foundation for Contemporary Theology here in Houston last month. My friend started describing the talk and the book based on the conversation with his father - I told him that anyone that is "debating" the idea of evolution is stupid so I'm not interested in reading any apologetics (I have a Master of Arts in Religion with a Concentration in Christian Spirituality from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa). A week or so later we made a road trip and he had the book in the truck and I flipped through it. This wasn't a book about science or religion or evolution versus creationism, it's a book about SPIRITUALITY. I was completely intrigued and ordered a copy for my Kindle when we got back to Houston. The following week we attended South Central [Quaker] Yearly Meeting together and I spent all of my free time ENGROSSED in the book. It's the type of stuff, if you have a mystical bent, that gives you chills. Brian Swimme is credited and quoted in the book (the first time I saw his *Canticle to the Cosmos* while spending a month with the Trappists at New Melleray Abbey I was hooked). He also references Teilhard's *The Phenomenon of Man* which told me he has some depth in seeing (feeling, rather) the relation of the cosmos to spirituality. My friend told me the other night at dinner that he had completed a third of the book and could see why I had been so taken by it. What many may not understand is a "nontheistic" view of God. Dowd actually quotes Gene Marshall in the book who is my friend's mentor: When the Bible or classical theology referred to 'God' as an individual person, this was a pictorial way of talking about 'reality in all its fullness'. God is not the greatest or largest of beings. God is the ground of all being. God is that awesome and mysterious Reality in which all things live and move and have their being, and out of which all things emerge and into which all things return. --GENE MARSHALL Dowd,

Michael (2008-06-19). Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World (p. 125). Plume. Kindle Edition. Gene Marshall's "The Road From Empire to Eco-Democracy" [...] is a "student" of Paul Tillich's "The Courage to Be," Kierkegaard's "Kierkegaard's Writings, VI: Fear and Trembling/Repetition: 006," and other existentialist theologians. I told my friend over the weekend that I still dislike "nontheist" as a terminology to describe "god" as the ground of being. What these guys are really saying is that they do not have an anthropomorphic view of "God." That is, God isn't some being outside of creation that acts in supernatural ways. What blew me away was Dowd's picture of evolution as in itself being supernatural. The cosmos is God trying to look at God's self. He quotes Richard Dawkins: It seems that life, at least as we know it on this planet, is almost indecently eager to evolve eyes. We can confidently predict that a statistical sample of reruns [of evolutionary life on Earth] would culminate in eyes. And not just eyes, but compound eyes like those of an insect, a prawn, or a trilobite, and camera eyes like ours or a squid's, with color vision and mechanisms for fine-tuning the focus and the aperture. Also very probably parabolic reflector eyes like those of a limpet, and pinhole eyes like those of Nautilus, the latter-day ammonite-like mollusk in its floating coiled shell. . . . And if there is life on other planets around the Universe, it is a good bet that there will also be eyes, based on the same range of optical principles as we know on this planet. There are only so many ways to make an eye, and life as we know it may well have found them all. . . . Like any zoologist, I can search my mental database of the animal kingdom and come up with an estimated answer to questions of the form: "How many times has X evolved independently?" It would make a good research project, to do the counts more systematically. Presumably some Xs will come up with a "many times" answer, as with eyes, or "several times," as with echolocation. Others "only once" or even "never," although I have to say it is surprisingly difficult to find examples of these. And the difference could be interesting. I suspect that we'd find certain potential evolutionary pathways which life is "eager" to go down. Other pathways have more "resistance." Dowd, Michael (2008-06-19). Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World (pp. 39-40). Plume. Kindle Edition. Finally, in Appendix A Dowd shares Richard Dawkins' letter to his (Dawkins') daughter titled "Good and Bad Reasons for Believing." Worth the price of the book alone as I had tears when I read it (reprinted with permission!). That says something. This book can expand your cosmology and consciousness: closer to science IS closer to god (BEING/REALITY)!!! As Dowd tells us throughout the book, 'You are made of stardust.' You're also related to broccoli . . .

This book is an eye opener. It will make you think and ask questions that you never thought about.

Michael Dowd has captured my belief system. Our church hosted an interfaith book study with 12 people. All seemed to appreciate the book.

I wanted to like this book, but it is just a chore to get through. Although the author has some intriguing ideas his rambling style of writing makes it almost impossible to stay interested. I often found myself skipping forward several pages just to see if the topic had moved forward; usually finding that it had not. I also think it's a stretch for Dowd to consider himself an evolutionary Christian (a term which he may have made up), when in fact his views are clearly Pantheism.

This book helped me to understand how evolution works thus relieving me of worrying what would happen when I die. I highly recommend this book.

This book offers a different approach to religion and evolution and I find this approach very interesting.

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Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World God Talks to Me about Thankfulness - Children's Book about Thank You - Thank You God - Catholic Children's Books - God's Word for Children, Happy ... Lord - Padded Hard Back (God Talks with Me) Sex and Marriage: More Sex, Passion and Desire for Married Couples: Discover the 10 Ways to Turn Your Sex Life From Routine to Lustful Desire (Sex Tips, ... Marriage, Marriage Advice, Marriage Help) Marriage: Save Your Marriage- The Secret to Intimacy and Communication Skills (marriage, relationships, save your marriage, divorce, love, communication, intimacy) Marriage: How To Save Your Marriage And Rebuild Connection, Intimacy and Trust By Understanding It Better (Marriage Help, Marriage Counseling, Intimacy Advice, Relationship Communication Book 1) Marriage: How To Save And Rebuild Your Connection, Trust, Communication And Intimacy (FREE Bonus Included) (Marriage Help, Save Your Marriage, Communication Skills, Marriage Advice) The Bride's Thank You Guide: Thank You Writing Made Easy Spartan Fit!: 30 Days. Transform Your Mind. Transform Your Body. Commit to Grit. God the What?: What Our Metaphors for God Reveal about Our Beliefs in God Ten Lessons to Transform Your Marriage: America's Love Lab Experts Share Their Strategies for Strengthening Your Relationship Sacred Marriage Participant's Guide: What If God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy

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