

# Understanding Intelligent Design

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## 1. Why Intelligent Design Matters:

- a. Darwinism has become an \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Daniel Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*: Darwinism is like a " \_\_\_\_\_ " that eats anything in its path.
- c. **The Central question:** Are we \_\_\_\_\_ by-products of blind forces in nature? Or are we the pinnacle of creation intended by a personal and loving God?

## 2. Worldviews:

- a. Every worldview has three components:
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Darwinism
  - o Origin: \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Predicament: \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. The Case for Intelligent Design

- a. **Physics:**
  - i. Freeman Dyson: "As we look out into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have *known* that we were coming."
  - ii. The conditions of the universe are set precisely for the emergence and sustenance of human life.
    1. Example: \_\_\_\_\_
    2. There are over \_\_\_\_\_ such required parameters
    3. Gravity and the cosmological constant ( $1 \times 10^{53}$ ) = one part in a hundred million \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**b. Biochemistry**

- i. Darwin: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications my theory would absolutely break down."
- ii. A "*black box*" is a term scientists use when describing a system or machine that they find interesting, but they don't know how it works.
- iii. "*Irreducible* \_\_\_\_\_": An irreducibly complex system is one that requires several closely matched parts in order to function and where removal of one of the components effectively causes the system to cease functioning.
  1. Example: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Biological Example: \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Biology:**

- i. In a widely cited speech Nobel Laureate David Baltimore remarked, "Modern biology is a science of \_\_\_\_\_."
- ii. Each cell has the equivalent of:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ letters
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ million words
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ books.
- iii. Bill Gates, "DNA is like a computer program, but far, far more advanced than any software we've ever created."
- iv. Former atheist Antony Flew, "What I think the DNA material has done is show that *intelligence* must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements together...The enormous complexity by which the results were achieved looks to me like the work of *intelligence*."

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**Recommended Reading:** *Understanding Intelligent Design*, by William Dembski and Sean McDowell (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008).