

PHILOSOPHIA CHRISTI

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Editor's Introduction

On behalf of the entire editorial team, amid a global pandemic brought on by COVID-19, I am pleased to present the 2020 summer issue of *Philosophia Christi*. As always, I'd like to express my thanks to the editorial team (Betty Talbert, Joe Gorra, Gary Hartenburg) and our fine book review editors (Michael Austin, W. Paul Franks, and Brandon Rickabaugh) for a job well done.

The 2020 summer issue centers on an important discussion regarding the theological and empirical adequacy of a Christian theistic appropriation of contemporary evolutionary biology. The exchange (adapted from an EPS panel discussion at the 2019 annual EPS meeting) is illuminating precisely because it aims to explore fresh, novel questions concerning a theistic philosophy of science, in particular, the well-worn question of the relationship between theology and the empirical sciences. More broadly, the exchange serves as a helpful exercise in how to think about the interrelationship between metaphysics, theology, and the empirical sciences in general.

In the lead review essay, Michael Murray and John Churchill defend what they call "mere theistic evolution" in response to claims made in the massive 2017 volume *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique* published by Crossway. According to Murray and Churchill, mere theistic evolution appropriates the modern evolutionary synthesis without requiring a commitment to either metaphysical or methodological naturalism. Moreover, mere theistic evolution is, by their lights, entirely consistent with traditional, Christian doctrinal commitments (for example, general providence, special divine action, that is, miracles, nonphysical souls, and an original, historic human pair from which all other human beings descend).

In response to the lead essay, Thomas McCall, William Lane Craig, and Stephen Meyer offer helpful constructive and critical comments on the theological and empirical viability of mere theistic evolution. The exchange concludes with a brief reply from Murray and Churchill to each of the respondents. The reader will note that the lead essay by Murray and Churchill far exceeds the standard article length normally published in the journal. The unique exception to include such a lengthy article in the journal reflects our estimation that the article facilitates an important, heretofore neglected discussion in the science-theology dialogue for those with traditional, Christian doctrinal commitments.

Let me reiterate here the editorial scope and overarching vision of *Philosophia Christi*. As a professional academic journal, *Philosophia Christi* aims to be a vehicle for exemplary academic scholarship in the core areas of philosophy. As such, we welcome academic articles, notes, and book reviews across the philosophical spectrum, including ethics (metaethics, normative, applied), political philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of sci-

ence, philosophy of religion, philosophical theology, and so forth. We hope that you will consider submitting content to *Philosophia Christi* on topics related to your expertise. We are keen to receive submissions that break new ground, and broaden the topical repertoire of the journal's already significant base of philosophical literature.

Moreover, as the journal of the Evangelical Philosophical Society in particular, *Philosophia Christi* has been and continues to be broadly evangelical in its confessional orientation. While we enthusiastically publish submissions from scholars across the ideological spectrum, whether Christian or non-Christian, evangelical or nonevangelical, the EPS executive committee and the journal's editorial board ultimately situate the fruits and labors of the intellectual life within the wider context of Christian discipleship, formation, and mission. In the end, our overarching vision as a society and journal is to bring glory and honor to Christ by modeling intellectual excellence, charity, humility, and civility in our scholarly pursuits. I invite you to make this vision your own and consider joining us by becoming a member of the Evangelical Philosophical Society and/or submitting fresh, novel contributions to *Philosophia Christi*. We look forward to connecting with you!

Ross D. Inman
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary