

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Most Americans Are Pro-Academic Freedom



And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. – Acts 22:28

According to a nationwide survey conducted in 2016 by the Discovery Institute, most American adults agree that "teachers and students should have the academic freedom to objectively discuss both the scientific strengths and weaknesses of the theory of evolution." In fact, 88% agree that "scientists who raise scientific criticisms of evolution should have the freedom to make their arguments without being subjected to censorship or discrimination."

Though most evolutionists in the public eye strongly oppose such academic freedom, Americans overwhelmingly agree that dissenting views in science are healthy. Just listen to these figures: 84% believe that "attempts to censor or punish scientists for holding dissenting views on issues such as evolution or climate change are not appropriate in a free society." 94% believe "it is important for policymakers and the public to hear from scientists with differing views." And 86% think that "disagreeing with the current majority view in science can be an important step in the development of new insights and discoveries in science."

According to molecular biologist Douglas Axe, "Freedom of inquiry is a cornerstone of the scientific enterprise, but it's under increasing attack by some who claim to speak for science. So it's very good news that a large majority of Americans still believe in open and free discussion."

Unfortunately, prominent evolutionists do not agree. This makes them not only anti-academic freedom, it makes them anti-science as well.

Ref: "Poll: Americans Overwhelmingly Support the Right of Students, Teachers, and Scientists to Discuss Dissenting Scientific Views on Evolution," Discovery Institute, 7/1/16. Photo: Hungarian scientist Polányi Mihály argued that a structure of liberty is essential for the advancement of science.

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