MISSING THE POINT

Posted on March 18, 2011 by Eddie

Category: Mission

Those who know me best, know that I can be very argumentative. There is part of me which isn't very nice which thrives on disagreeing, arguing and point scoring. I try not to allow that part of me to come to the surface too often and as I get older, I seem to indulge in less fatuous arguing for argument's sake. Perhaps this is a sign of maturity or perhaps it is just that being a generalist surrounded by specialists, I've discovered that I can't win many arguments anyway!

One thing that I have learned, is that most arguments don't actually lead anywhere; they don't cause people to change their minds and they don't generally lead to issues being clarified.

When I was younger, there were two questions which were guaranteed to generate some heat and virtually no light amongst my Christian contemporaries; creation/evolution and election/free-will.

As an evangelical Christian studying biology, I became something of a specialist in the creation/evolution debate. I could take either side in the argument, demonstrating why the other was untrue (I told you I liked arguing). However, it was rarely, if ever, that I actually sat down to meditate on what it meant for me that I was created by God. How should this impact my life? How should the fact that other people were God's creation impact the way in which I should interact with them? In my fascination with punctuated equilibria, six day creation and the fossil record, I'd lost sight entirely of the most important aspect of the issue.

The situation is similar with the whole election/free-will issue. People debate and disagree the whole issue without ever considering the central point of the Biblical teaching: why would God choose people in the first place? In an excellent post, Mark gets to grips with this issue:

> *Some of the most confusing and often controversial parts of the Bible are in the New Testament where Paul talks about Christians being chosen by God. Why does God apparently choose some and not others? Who exactly is chosen? Do we have any choice in the matter? What about those who arenâ€™t chosen? Is God fair?*

If you want to know his conclusions, you should read the whole blog post.