

passion talks

Molecular Man: Biological Determinism and Identity

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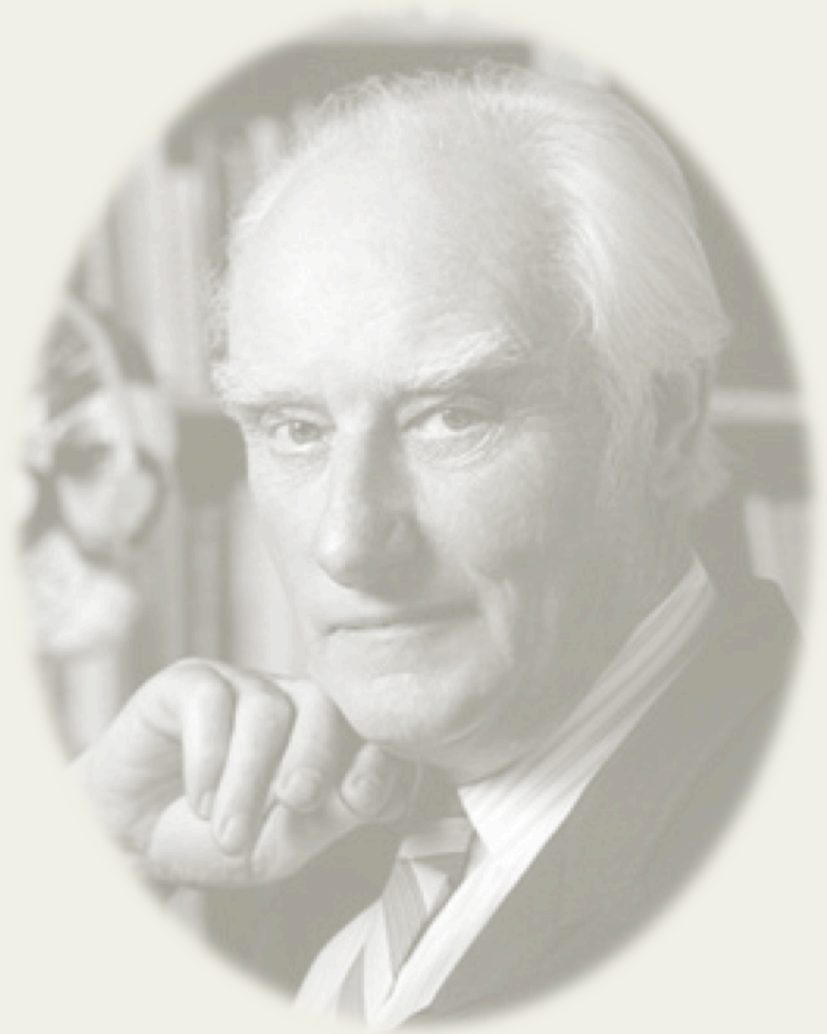
Introduction

- The reemergence of determinism
- Does my biology matter?
- Why does this matter today?

The reemergence of determinism

"The ultimate aim of the modern movement in biology is to explain **all biology** in terms of physics and chemistry."

-Francis Crick



*"For by Him all things were created... all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him **all things hold together.**"*

Colossians 1:16-17



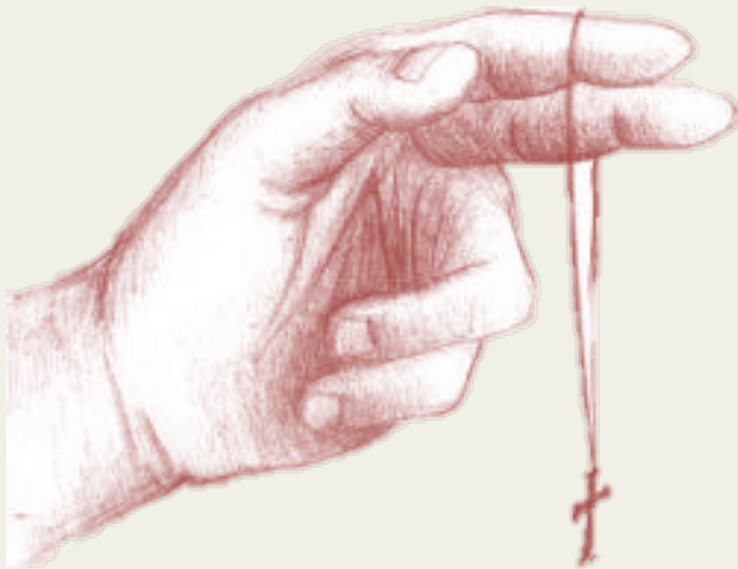
Does my biology matter?

"Either God is in the whole of Nature, with no gaps, or He's not there at all."

-Charles Alfred Coulson



*"...we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who **will transform our lowly body** to be like his glorious body "*



Philippians 3:20-21

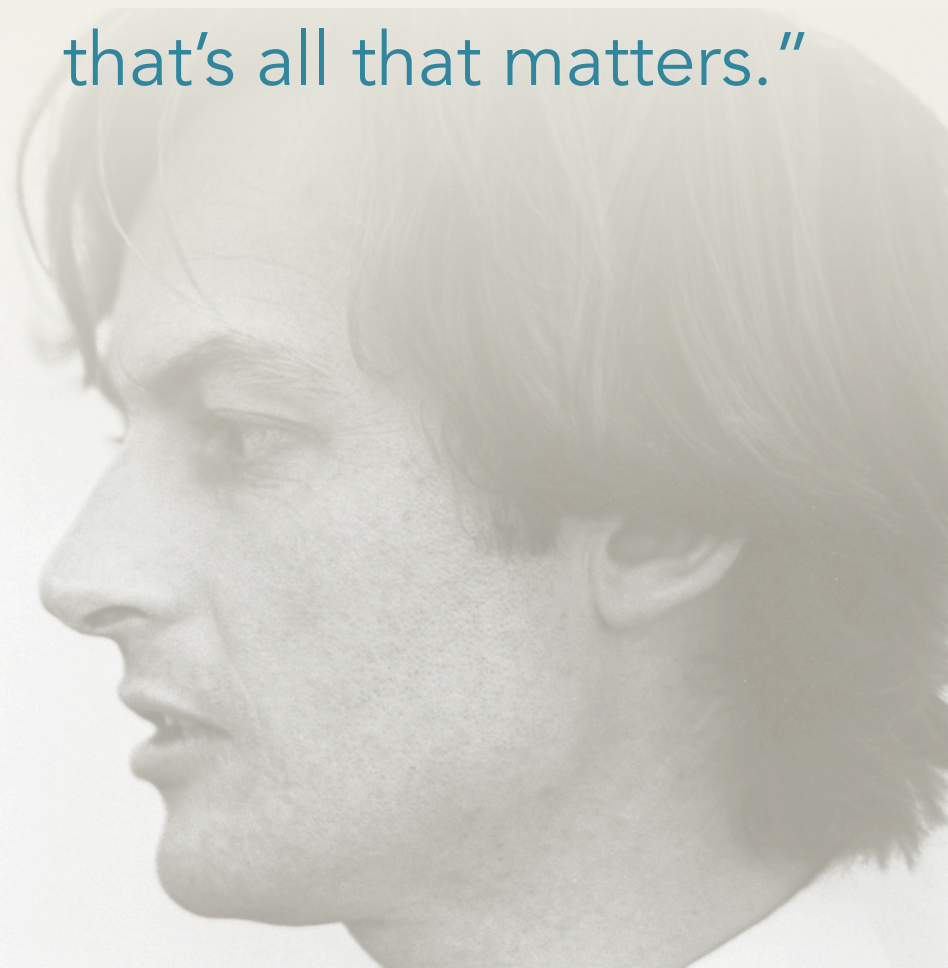
Why This Matters Today

- If my genes, which I did not choose, influence my actions, am I responsible for them? Is it fair to limit those actions?
- What is the relationship between one's anatomy, gender identity, and sexuality?
- If my biology affects what I do, am I “just” molecules bustling about? Is there room for me to be more than that?

"I am very comfortable with the idea that we can override our biology... Indeed, I encourage people all the time to do it..."

"We behave as if we're not deterministic and we feel as if we are not deterministic—and that's all that matters."

-Richard Dawkins



“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world...”

we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind... like the rest of mankind”

Ephesians 2:1-3

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come "*

2 Corinthians 5:17

"...the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption...

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together... as we eagerly await for... the redemption of our bodies.

For in this hope we were saved."

Romans 8:21-24



References and Helpful Resources

- BioLogos
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- "Is Anatomy Destiny?", Prof. Alice Dreger, TEDxNorthwesternU
- "From the Dust" documentary, Highway Media
- "The Language of God", Francis Collins
- "The Selfish Gene", Richard Dawkins