

APOLOGETICS



The
Mind's
Journey
to
Heaven



2 Questions today

1. Hasn't science proven Christianity false?
2. Can a rational person believe in Christianity?

THINGS BELIEVERS SHOULD REMEMBER

- Matthew 5:3 “blessed are the **poor in spirit** for they shall inherit the earth”
- Matthew 11:25 “At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have **hidden these things from the wise and intelligent** and have revealed them to infants.
- I Peter 5:5 “God **resists the proud**, But gives grace to the humble.”
- Shield in Armor of God is a shield of Faith and not reason.
- The Bible was written not as a science book to address all scientific questions but as a sufficient theology book enabling all People of all generations to know Him. We should treat it as such.

Where do you believe they are coming from?

- Naturalism
 - Atheism
 - Agnosticism
 - Existentialism
- Pantheism
 - Hinduism
 - Taoism
 - Buddhism
 - much New Age
 - Consciousness
- Theism
 - Christianity
 - Islam
 - Judaism
- Spiritism and Polytheism
 - Thousands of Religions
 - The Occults
- Postmodernism

- For better or worse, most people today will not really go to this question.
- If they do, they tend to be older ...from the naturalistic and positivist era.
- Most are going to go towards the experiential or relativistic questions.



Hasn't Science proven Christianity False?

Can a rational person believe in Christianity?

- Need to define what they mean by ...
 - Science
 - Proven
 - Rational
- Usually they mean one of two things...
 1. Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
 - Science assumes that miracles and supernatural don't exist.
 - Religion requires supernatural and miracles and thus are false.
 - Religion is tainted with small minded subjective thoughts rather than based on facts...hence not rational.
 2. Evolution has proven that we were not created.
 - God is not needed to understand all the complexities of creation
 - It makes the Bible incoherent in light of 7 day creation or Noah's flood...i.e. it is a fairy tale.
 - Christians are closed minded and won't look at scientific evidence...blindly have faith in a fairy tale or legend!

Things to consider before you deep dive!

- 90% of the people who raise these questions really haven't researched them...
 - nor do they likely understand science.
- Most have been willing to blindly trust scientist because of the culture around them...
 - or their limited understanding of false Christianity.
 - or they were hurt by the church.
 - or ???
- People will generally make deep decisions of belief from three areas of support.
 1. Rationality or reason...i.e. what seems reasonable or logical to them.
 2. Psychological influences...i.e. were they hurt by the church or how does it make them feel.
 3. Social culture...i.e. what does the culture believe.
 - Determining how these affect their beliefs and helping them change their world view is not trivial.
 - You cannot do this alone. Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's help.

CAUTION

**DO NOT DECEIVE OR GIVE SHALLOW ANSWERS
TO TOUGH QUESTIONS!**

If you don't know the answer, then say...

- "Good question. I have heard this question answered exceptionally well before, but I fear I may not be able to do it justice. Are you interested in the answer to this question enough, that we can seek the answers together?"

or

- "Knowing Jesus for me has been life changing, but it seems this question is really holding you back. I take your question serious enough that I worry I won't do it justice. Are you willing to read a book which engages this topic very thoroughly?"

Science – In General

Science Definition

Principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through **observation and experiment**, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses

- Note this requires **repeatable** experiments with all known influences in the testing being controlled and usually with sufficient peer reviewed results.
- Presuppositions and bias permeate all humans “observations” ...formulation of the experiments...the peer reviews...and conclusions.

Science – In General

- **Can Science...**

- prove gravity? YES ...sort of.
- prove where a bullet will land if shot in the air? YES ...provided laws of physics don't change
- prove what happened 1 year ago at your home on Christmas? NO ...not with scientific method.
- prove how the world began? NO...how can it repeat anything in history?
- prove what will happen at the Superbowl? NO ...it cannot predict the weather exactly let alone who will win the Superbowl?
- prove why the shooter killed all of those people at the concert in Vegas? NO ...it can't say anything about why questions.
- prove why anything in life is meaningful or why I "ought" to do anything? NO...it can't.
- prove that God doesn't exist? NO...it doesn't have the resources within itself to prove any metaphysical reality.

- **Is Science the opposite of Christianity?**

- Absolutely not. It is actually a great servant of Christianity in so many ways.
- Most of science discoveries were started by a Theistic world view culture. Many scientist today are Theistic in their beliefs.

- **Does Science contain faith or is it objective only?**

- Some areas are incredibly objective and others are full of claims requiring tremendous faith.



Can Science be trusted completely and without caution?

Fact = It is an ever changing system made and operated by humans.

- Classical elements – All matter was once thought composed of air, earth, fire, and water. ...then Periodic Table...now quarks and leptons ...what next?
- Dalton's Atomic Theory was rendered obsolete by discovery of isotopes, subatomic particles and nuclear reactions.
- Newton's Laws of Motion. Still highly respected and ubiquitously used ... were 'improved upon' by the Theory of Relativity by Albert Einstein 1940...now Quantum Mechanics...or not???
- "ether"... was was thought allowed light waves to get from place to place...now defunct.
- **A static universe, also called a "stationary" or "Einstein" universe, was a model proposed by Albert Einstein in 1917. Edwin Hubble's discovery of the relationship between red shift now causes us to believe the universe is constantly expanding...so we think today.**
- We used to think all bacteria was bad...now we know we need some of it for human existence.
- Blood letting, Trepanation (drilling holes in brain to cure diseases), Mercury as an ointment and elixir, etc...all were proven invalid.
- Alcohol kills all bacteria was a fact for many years...now we know some bacteria...the ones most deadly to us...eat alcohol for food!
- It was once believed we as humans were evolving...now DNA research is proving that we are devolving (i.e. losing information rapidly from day we are born and generation to generation).
- Speed of light is constant throughout history...well maybe not...now they believe it has varied through time...who knows for sure and how would we prove it?
- Nothing can move faster than the speed of light...well it appears this is not true...Quantum Entanglement appears to disprove this.

FACT = Science requires the ability to improve upon knowledge as new information is discovered. Change is a fundamental aspect of science...and considered one of its strengths...we should expect it.

SO HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH TRUTHS OF TODAY ARE NOT REALLY TRUE AT ALL?

SCIENCE IS USEFUL AND A FRIEND OF CHRISTIANITY BUT MUST NOT BE ELEVATED TO GOD STATUS!

Is Science subject to bias and corruption?

- Fact = Science is subject to all the same bias and corruption which affects all humans in all disciplines of life.
 - Example = Big Bang Funding vs other theories.
 - Some 500 cosmology and astro physicist complained about blatant bias in the financial funding of research...bias towards big bang....see link below. <http://cosmology.info/open-letter/index.html>
 - Example = DNA research creates problems for evolution constantly. Yet the scientist and papers constantly add “sermons” against any conclusion which would support an intelligent designer...certainly against the narrative of the Bible.
 - Why are they so worried about the Bible that they would spend so much energy fighting it?

Example... paper on DNA research...

- ...More specifically, they found out that 9 out of 10 animal species on the planet came to being at the same time as humans did some 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. "This conclusion is very surprising," says Thaler, "and I fought against it as hard as I could." <https://www.techtimes.com/articles/228798/20180530/massive-genetic-study-reveals-90-percent-of-earth-s-animals-appeared-at-the-same-time.htm>
- Similar article from same authors in a different periodical were forced to add the following statements...
 - Since publication of this article we have been contacted by Drs. Stoeckle and Thaler who have made the following statement:
 - 'Our study is grounded in and strongly supports Darwinian evolution, including the understanding all life has evolved from a common biological origin **over several billion years.**
 - '**Our study follows mainstream views of human evolution. We do not propose there was a single 'Adam' or 'Eve'. We do not propose any catastrophic events.'**

More on bias in DNA research

- Quote from the same report...different periodical.
 - "It is more likely that – at all times in evolution – the animals alive at that point arose relatively recently."

<https://phys.org/news/2018-05-gene-survey-reveals-facets-evolution.html#jCp>
- A fundamental aspect of evolution is that it takes a very long time to happen...Billions of years...repeated in their arguments over and over...even by these authors...yet this report simultaneously says the opposite and then states they agree with evolution whole heartedly.
- Regardless of whether this report is true or even valid...the evidence of bias...contradictions...spinning...and fear it might somehow be used to falsify evolution can be clearly seenand it happens almost daily!

CAUTION:

- **Christian authors...scientist...etc are not immune to making errors either...nor to bias and corruption.**
- **We should encourage healthy analysis of truth before agreeing with “theories” or results from one report....or 100 if they have flawed presuppositions or are based on faulty experiments.**

A proposed way to engage the “trust science” for all truth perspective.

- Assuming science is the only means to find truth isn't helpful in any of the more meaningful areas of life...
 - Love, Beauty, Joy, Purpose, Justice, Altruism, Mercy, Generosity, Right and Wrong
 - Question of suffering, a funeral, who should I marry, why is it wrong to cheat on my taxes, etc...etc...etc.?
- Trying to prove anything in history...how the world began...or whether God exists...or what happens when we die...or even what we ate for dinner last thanksgiving...is outside of the scope of what science can do. They can only show what repeated experiments and observations show. How can anything in history truly be repeated? ...especially at the beginning of time?
- Drawing metaphysical or “factual” conclusions about areas outside the scope of science is flawed in many ways. When scientist do this they step outside of the bounds of their expertise and into the realm of philosophy and theology.
- Science and Christianity aren't opposites. Science supports Christianity. There are many scientists who are also Christians.
- Science is not immune to bias and the spinning we see in other areas of human existence. The same caution we apply to religion should be used when “trusting” what science “preaches”.
- Science without God has no moral compass. Science ignoring a moral compass is dangerous...atomic bombs, biological warfare, invasion of privacy, AI robots ruling the world...etc...etc.
- Miracles are just humans way of describing things God did which we don't yet understand. Beginning with the assumption that God doesn't exist and there aren't things which he can do which we don't yet understand presupposes too much!

Where are we going to go?

- Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians

- How do we know God exists?

- Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?

- Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.

- Evolution has proven that we were not created.

- Can you trust the Bible as accurate?

- How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?

- Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?

- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?

- Aren't all people basically good?

- Isn't Christianity just a "white man's" religion used to oppress women and people of color?

- Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?

- Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money? Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?

- Optional - Crowd generated questions...open Q&A

- Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith

- Islamic Arguments

- Roman Catholic Arguments

- Hinduism Arguments

- Mormonism Arguments

- Buddhism Arguments