



## ***RCC Phoenix – 3.13.22 – God & Science***

There is perhaps no greater debate in the world of theology and academia than the origins of the world and everything in it. For centuries man has argued that the observable natural world is a product of chance, spontaneous alignment, and natural selection. We as believers have a strong belief that our world was designed by a loving father who very intentionally placed the world and everything in it to carry out his plan so why should we care about science? Because now more than ever it is important.

### **1. The Importance**

Why is it important to understand the roles both God and science play in your life?

*1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect*

- Our main goal as students of the word should always be to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to answer why we have hope in God.

This is important to establish the foundation of your belief rooting your faith like a tree that cannot be bent when the world throws its logic against your faith.

It's Important to:

- Establish \_\_\_\_\_
- Establish \_\_\_\_\_
- Establish \_\_\_\_\_
- To win \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Timothy 6:20 20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.*

*Ecc 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"*

In order to prepare our children and those looking to find life's answers, we must first understand what is the challenge and why it is a threat to our walk with God.

### **2. What is science?**

**Definition from the Oxford dictionary:** *the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.*

**Simplified version: 1:** *knowledge about the natural world that is based on facts learned through experiments and observation*

### **What is a scientist?**

*a person who is studying or has expert knowledge of one or more of the natural or physical sciences.*

- Nowhere in these definitions does it say that science or scientists are a \_\_\_\_\_, a proprietary tool of atheists or unbelievers, or expressly created to disprove God. However, over the centuries, science has been used against God and his followers to portray God as a fantasy, myth, or coping mechanism for the uneducated masses.
- However, science by its definition only concerns the physical and natural world so the \_\_\_\_\_ is not considered, just as believers in God and the spiritual world do not often refer to science to strengthen their faith.

### **3. The divide between science and God**

Since both Christians and atheistic scientists disagree with the origin of life, there are a few things to consider.

#### **Facts:**

1. Atheistic scientists have just as much \_\_\_\_\_ as Christians and are true believers in their science.
2. You cannot absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ God making it a challenge for both those who want to believe and those who do not.

**Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

#### **Fiction:**

All scientists are atheists:

Nearly 1 in 10 scientists in the US and UK believe in intelligent design while 1 out of 4 scientists in India believe in intelligent design, and two-thirds of scientists in Turkey believe in God. More than half the scientists in India, Turkey, Italy, and Taiwan label themselves as “slightly religious” (Eckland, Johnson & Schettle, 2016).

### **4. Science as an Ally to Christians**

Perhaps there is no greater argument in the science vs. God debate than that of evolution and the creation of the world. Spontaneous existence is an idea that has not only been challenged by believers but is also being rethought by many scientists.

### Some modern prevailing scientific theories are:

- life was created by an electric spark
- life came from trapped microbes spewed out through sea vents
- A popular new theory called panspermia suggests that microbes attached to Martian meteorites hit our earth combining with new microbes creating the foundation for life.

Charles Darwin who is well considered the father of evolution promoted a theory of natural selection that states that genetics allow some life to survive better than others resulting in the genes becoming more common in others resulting in changes over a period of time.

However, through science, Darwin's theory can be refuted. Christian doctor Stephen Meyer ( physics, genealogy, history, philosophy of science from Cambridge University) stated that biological systems are extremely complex systems containing biological circuits, sophisticated motors, and signal transduction and cannot be reduced or they will fail. Darwin's natural selection only preserves things that perform a function already so natural selection cannot build these systems they can only preserve them already created. The question then becomes, who created them and the answer is an intelligent designer, God.

### 5. God is not an enemy of science, Scientists have made God their enemy

The bible is not a scientific text, however, throughout the bible God allowed his inspired writers to include information that can be associated with modern scientific concepts. In other words, believers used science.

1. **Isaiah 20:4** And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying,**5** Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. Cont..**7.** And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs and make a poultice. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered. (Chemistry)
2. **Exodus 2:3** When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. (Science/Engineering)
3. **1 Timothy 5:23** Don't drink only water. You ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often.(medicine)
4. **Proverbs 6:6-8** "Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her provision in the harvest." (natural world observation).
5. **Colossians 4:14** Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. (Medical Practice)

These are just a few of a multitude of scientific concepts that are used throughout the bible. However, we must remember that both the natural and physical world are also creations of God and science is man's attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ the tools that God has already given us in an attempt to further ourselves as human beings.

This can be both a blessing and a curse. Understanding God on a deeper scientific level, for instance, how weather affects our existence, how our world changes, how the animal kingdom thrives, and how chemistry and biology coexist to help man thrive can help us see the amazing world our God has given us in specific detail. We must take caution though, presented in the wrong way this attempt to understand

our world can remove God altogether from the process of the natural world and create a new god simply referred to as “SCIENCE.”

There are steps we must take to ensure that this does not happen in our own lives and the lives of our family and friends.

**1. Plant your seed and water it \_\_\_\_\_**

**Colossians 2: 6-7** (NIV) says this: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness

**2. Educate your children on the word \_\_\_\_\_**

The scientific theory uses some facts, some hypotheses, and some laws to generate a theory but itself is not a fact. I.e. evolution is based on some facts, many assumptions, and several hypotheses but still remains a theory that is constantly changing.

**3. Learn like a \_\_\_\_\_**

- Become well-grounded in true science and develop defenses against various distortions in the area of scientific study.
- Acknowledges the limitations of science and rejects “scientism” or the worship of science as the instrument for accomplishing the humanist’s millennium.
- Rejects the belief that facts have no meaning until man gives them an interpretation. He acknowledges that God already knows every fact in the universe.
- While deeply concerned about the environment and man’s responsibility to it, opposes the pantheistic and materialistic overtones of environmentalism.

**Conclusion:** The idea of science vs. God has existed for centuries and will exist until the Lord returns. Science is extremely important to advance medicine, technology, life-saving devices, communication, and even the furthering of the gospel to those who need it. Without physics, we would never have had smartphones to read our bibles anywhere in the world, websites to promote the local church, and cameras to capture the work God’s people are doing in the communities. Without medicine, we would see a greater number of believers die of cancer, and other illnesses relinquishing years of life that could be used to spread God’s word. Without behavioral sciences, children with disabilities wouldn’t have a chance to live a high-quality life and find inspiration in helping others with like challenges. Science has never been an enemy of God, but the practitioners that use it to disprove an almighty Lord are the reason for driving a wedge between the two. We must always remember, science is man’s understanding of how God works within our world and despite man’s best efforts to explain what can only be seen and observed, everything points back to one intelligent creator, God.