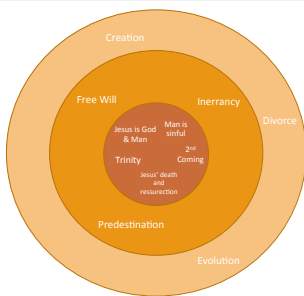


Topics

1. Science vs. Faith
2. Miracles and the Supernatural
3. Evolution / Creation Debate
4. Panel Q&A





- Central doctrines:
- Christians throughout history have held these things to be true
 - God's Word is clear
 - Examples:
 - Divinity of Jesus
 - Sinfulness of Man
 - The Gospel
 - Trinity
 - 2nd Coming of Christ
- Non-central doctrines:
- There are disagreements amongst earnest, Jesus-loving believers
 - God's Word may not be clear on these
 - Examples:
 - Predestination / Free-will
 - Divorce
 - Evolution / Creation

Are Science and Christianity Opposed?

science ('siəns) - noun
 "Knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation" -Merriam-Webster Dictionary

"I don't believe in God, I believe in science"

Science seeks to answer the questions: what and how?
 Faith seeks to answer the questions: who and why?

Christianity should spur scientific innovation and exploration
 • How does the universe God created work?



What about Miracles and the supernatural?



- Miracles are by nature not scientific and therefore cannot be explained by science
- Science measures Nature – what is *natural, repeatable, and observable*
 - The universe is one giant miracle – It's only happened once, it can't be repeated or observed
- 300 or so miracles in the Bible, spread out over thousands of years
 - Miracles are rare!
 - Those in the Bible who witnessed miracles reacted in shock, something extra-ordinary was happening
- Some miracles happen every day and can be observed by not explained (healing, etc.)

So, about Genesis 1 and 2 though?

- Young Earth Theory
 - Literal 6 days, God created the earth with apparent age, **position of Watermark.**
- Gap Theory
 - Gap between Gen 1.1 and 1.2. God creates in v. 1, catastrophe happens in v. 2, God rebuilds in vv. 3-31
- Intermittent Day Theory
 - Gaps in time between the 24 hour periods, most of God's working takes place in the gaps.
- Day-Age Theory
 - Days are not actually 24-hour period. **This view allows for theistic evolution.**
- Religion-Only Theory
 - Genesis 1 is religious teachings about God and therefore not even speaking to the question of science.

Okay, but what about Darwinian evolution? Doesn't everyone believe it's true in academia?

More than 30 years of experimentation on the origin of life in the fields of chemical and molecular evolution have led to a better perception of the immensity of the problem of the origin of life on earth rather than to its solution. At present all discussions on principal theories and experiments in the field either end in stalemate or in a confession of ignorance. [From *Interdisciplinary Science Review* 13(1988):348-56.]

Okay, but what about Darwinian evolution?
Doesn't everyone believe it's true in academia?

"What is so frustrating for our present purpose is that it seems almost impossible to give any numerical value to the probability of what seems a rather unlikely sequence of events... An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle... (Dr. Francis Crick, Nobel Prize-winner, codiscoverer of DNA)

"The fossil record with its abrupt transitions offers no support for gradual change..." (Dr. Stephen Jay Gould, famous Harvard Professor of Paleontology)

Okay, but what about Darwinian evolution?
Doesn't everyone believe it's true in academia?

"Evolution is a theory universally accepted, not because it can be proved to be true, but because the only alternative, 'special creation,' is clearly impossible." (D.M.S. Watson, Professor of Zoology, London University)

"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)." Richard Dawkins

Okay, but what about Darwinian evolution?
Doesn't everyone believe it's true in academia?

"Darwin's book, On the Origin of Species, was published in 1859. It is perhaps the most influential book that has ever been published, because it was read by scientist and non-scientist alike, and it aroused violent controversy. Religious people disliked it because it appeared to dispense with God; scientists liked it because it seemed to solve the most important problem in the universe—the existence of living matter. ***In fact, evolution became in a sense a scientific religion; almost all scientists have accepted it and many are prepared to 'bend' their observations to fit in with it.***"

Lipson, H.S. [Professor of Physics, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UK], "A physicist looks at evolution," Physics Bulletin, Vol. 31, No. 4, May 1980, p.138

So what?

Are Science and Christianity compatible?
Yes.

As long as Science studies the what and how and Christianity explores the who and why.

The diagram consists of three concentric circles. The innermost circle contains the text: 'Jesus is God & Man', 'Trinity', 'Man is sinful', and '2nd Coming'. The middle circle contains: 'Free Will', 'Innecancy', 'Predestination', and 'Evolution'. The outermost circle contains: 'Creation' and 'Diverce'.

Answering the Tough Ones Does science contradict the Bible?



Challenge

Is Scripture compatible with modern science?

Response

Three points to begin: 1) All truth is God's truth. 2) Science can only measure what is, Scripture tells us *why* and more importantly, *who*. 3) The scientific method is not the only, or even the most reliable way of knowing what is true.

1. Cause. The existence of the universe as well as the complexity and intelligence seen in its detail (DNA, cell structure, etc.) is evidence of the supernatural. We believe this intelligent designer is the God revealed in Scripture . . . the "Uncaused Cause."
2. Message. The primary goal of Scripture is not merely to describe the "natural" world, but to explain the supernatural world, including the nature of God, the nature of mankind, spiritual principles, and most importantly for us, how we can have a personal relationship with God. Because Scripture is inspired by God, when it does touch on the natural world, we can trust the information to be true within the normal meaning of the language used.
3. Motivation. If it is true that God is the Creator of the universe, then it would be obvious that the pursuit of the natural sciences would have its foundation on the natural laws he designed and implemented. Evidence of this is that many of the first individuals to engage in science were Christians, and saw this as a natural extension of their faith. Included in this number were Galileo, Copernicus, Bacon, Kepler, Pascal, Newton, Kelvin, Pasteur, and Carver just to name a few.
4. Miracles. If God is all-powerful and all knowing, then miracles are completely within the realm of His capabilities. There are 300 or so miracles described in the Bible (depending on someone's definition of miracle). Those 300 occur over the course of thousands of years, so even by the standard of the Bible they are exceedingly rare, always done for a purpose, and are considered by the observers of the miracles to be extremely unusual.
5. Creation.
 - Young Earth Theory: Literal six 24-hour days of creation and that God created the earth with the appearance of age.
 - Gap-Theory: Gap in time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Verse 1 describes the original creation by God. Verse 2 describes a subsequent catastrophe. Verses 3-31 describe a subsequent re-creation.
 - Intermittent-Day Theory: The days in Genesis 1 are 24 hours long, but there are gaps in time between the days. Much of the creative activity of God takes place within these gaps.
 - Day-Age Theory: The days of Genesis 1 are other than 24 hours long, and could be very long periods of time. This view allows for "theistic" evolution.
 - Religion-Only Theory: Genesis 1 has the purpose of only providing religious teachings about God and thus should not be looked to for a scientific description of the origins of life.

These different interpretations of Genesis all maintain the truth of inspired Scripture yet attempt to square with our current understanding of science. Clearly they cannot all be true, but these differences should not cause us to lose sight of the overall message of Scripture.

Those who attempt to elevate science at the expense of the Scriptures often attempt to imply that, by definition, faith and reason are opposites. "If you can prove something by reason, then it is not faith." Yet faith always has an object. In the case of Biblical faith, the object of our faith is God himself. Thus faith can be and is a "reasonable" faith.