

Apologetics

Science & Religion; Incompatible without Compromise

What is Science?

- The systematic study of the nature and behaviour of the material and physical universe, based on observation, experiment and measurement
- The knowledge so obtained or the practice of obtaining it
- Knowledge – older meaning

The World Today

- ‘Science is for the classroom and religion is for Sundays’
- ‘Christians and creationists can’t be scientists’; but they can because God is a scientist and gives us logic and reason
- Science is seen almost as the next step up from religion in our human development
- Direct opposition is popularised by fringe elements of both sides; though the science side is seen as ‘main stream’
- Survey conducted in 1997 showed 40% of scientists believed in a ‘personal God who might be expected to answer prayer’, 45% who did not and 15% who weren’t sure

A History of Cooperation

- Until very recently, in the last century or so, there was no known confrontation
- Many great scientists throughout history have been Bible believing, Genesis creation believing Christians; Sir Isaac Newton, Louis Pasteur, Carl Linnaeus, Francis Collins and many others
- Many Universities and schools started and run by Christians

What does the Bible say?

- Understanding the world helps in understanding and seeing more of God’s glory and majesty, and deeper, stronger personal faith
- God made logic and reason and gave them to us, to learn and understand
- Learning is not prohibited or forbidden, but encouraged (Proverbs 1:1-9)
- The Bible and God’s word remains ultimate authority, test scientific theories by the Word not the other way round (Mark 13:31)

How to apply it?

- The Bible and science can live and work together, and science can be used to help in our understanding of the Bible and God’s creation (Psalm 19:1-4)
- Same information, but different world-views, different starting points
- Christianity is not anti-science, God is a scientist (1 Samuel 2:2-3)
- The Bible and science aren’t incompatible, just the Bible’s authority and certain scientific theories; and theories come and go, the Bible doesn’t
- ‘Facts’ and truth are different; truth is always there no matter how the ‘facts’ are displayed, and the Bible is truth (1 Timothy 6:20-21)