

Christianity and Science

Friends or Foes?

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States
Evangelism & Apologetics Conference

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INTRODUCTION

- We live in the most advanced technological age in history.
- Consequently, the tendency is now to think that man's knowledge and ability have no limits.



What is Science?

- “Science deals only with the natural, with things that can be apprehended by the sense organs. Science deals with those things that can be measured”
- Science in all of its operations, whether physics, chemistry, or biology, operates within a naturalistic framework.



Geneticist John Klotz, He received Ph.D. in genetics from the U. of Pittsburgh. He taught science courses in biology, zoology, biophysics, bioethics, and ecology. in his text *Genes, Genesis and Evolution* (1970, p. 11).

- “It is inherent in any acceptable definition of science that statements that cannot be checked by observations are not really about anything or at the very least they are not science” (1964, 143:769).



George Simpson, of Harvard.
Noted as the most influential
paleontologist of the twentieth
century, and a major participant in
the modern evolutionary synthesis

The Limits of Science

- "Science is ignorant of values.
There is nothing inherent in the
scientific method that provides for
the definition or study of morals."



Nobel Prize winner Jacques Monod.
Worked on genetic control of enzyme
and virus synthesis 1969, p. 21

- "The one question in need of an answer is the question of God. Science, with all its strident gains, must still remain contended to describe the what of human observations. Only God can answer the why"



Stephen Hawking

Theoretical physicist and cosmologist

In A brief History of Time

The Real Face of Atheism, Ravi Zacharias,

Page 21

- “Vanity of science. Knowledge of physical science will not console me for ignorance of morality in time of affliction, but knowledge of morality will always console me for ignorance of physical science”



Blaise Pascal
Mathematician, Physicist,
Inventor

The Real Purpose of Science

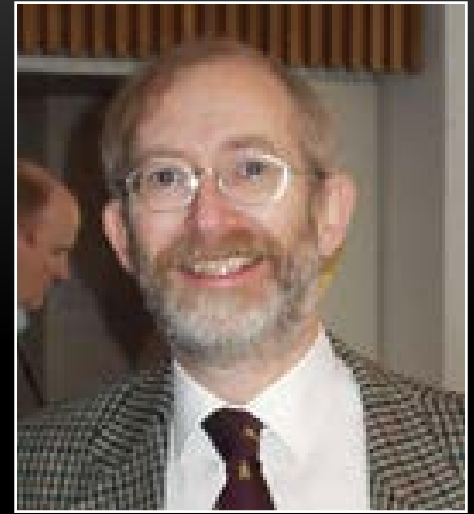
THE REAL PURPOSE OF SCIENCE

- It is a tool given to man by God.
A window into His creation.
- "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalm 19:1



What Scientists say about Science

"My interest in the relationship between science and faith has grown since I began responding to the questioning of others who seem to believe that there is a conflict between the two. I have never felt that, but rather I have always seen science as enhancing my appreciation of the glory of God as revealed in the created world which science seeks to understand."



Dr Rodney Holder.
He has a Ph.D. in
Astrophysics from
Cambridge and Oxford
Universities

"I became a Christian at the end of my second year as a physics undergraduate. I had to face the inevitable questions about how could I be both a Christian and a science student. 40 years later I remain convinced that science and Christian faith are not enemies but allies."

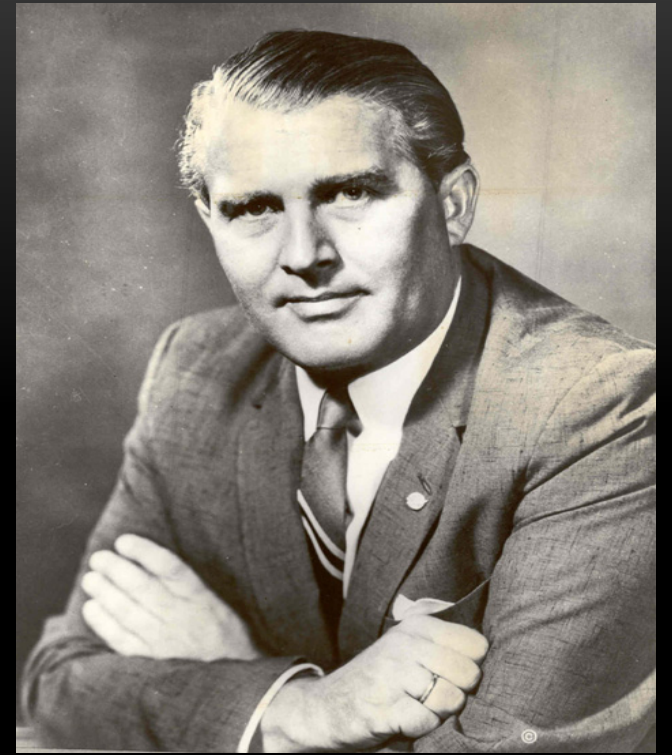


Dr Rodney Holder.

He has a Ph.D. in Astrophysics.
Post Doctoral fellow for 14 years in
Oxford. Research fellow at King's
College London.

Wrote over 25 publications on
Science and Religion

"Science and religion are not antagonists, but sisters. Both seek ultimate truth. Science helps to reveal more about the Creator through His creation. But it still bothers some people that we cannot prove scientifically that God exists. Must we light a candle to see the sun?"



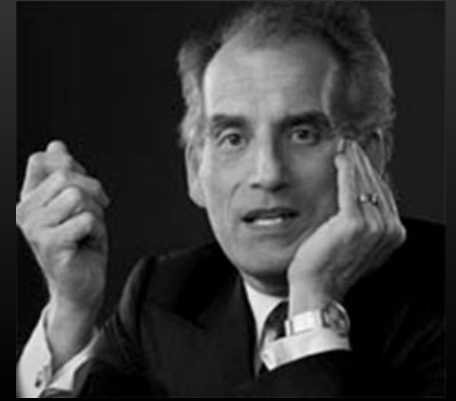
German rocket engineer and space architect. A leading figure in the development of rocket technology in Germany and the United States. Credited as being "Father of Rocket Science"(Warner, 1972, p. 314).

"I build molecules for a living, I can't begin to tell you how difficult that job is. I stand in awe of God because of what he has done through his creation. Only a rookie who knows nothing about science would say science takes away from faith. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God."



Dr. James Tour, A synthetic organic chemist, specializing in nanotechnology. Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, and Professor of Computer Science at Rice University. Tour was ranked one of the top 10 chemists in the world over the past decade by Thomson Reuters in 2009. That year, he was also made a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Science & Atheism



*Dr. David Berlinski
An American scientist,
philosopher, educator, and
author.*

*He is a senior fellow of the
Discovery Institute's Center
for Science and Culture.*

*He has written works on
systems analysis, the
history of differential
topology, analytic
philosophy, and the
philosophy of mathematics.*

"Has anyone provided a proof of God's inexistence? **Not even close.**

Has quantum cosmology explained the emergence of the universe or why it is here? **Not even close.**

Have the sciences explained why our universe seems to be fine-tuned to allow for the existence of life? **Not even close.**

Are physicists and biologists willing to believe in anything so long as it is not religious thought? **Close enough.**

Has rationalism in moral thought provided us with an understanding of what is good, what is right, and what is moral? **Not close enough.**

Has secularism in the terrible twentieth century been a force for good? **Not even close to being close.**

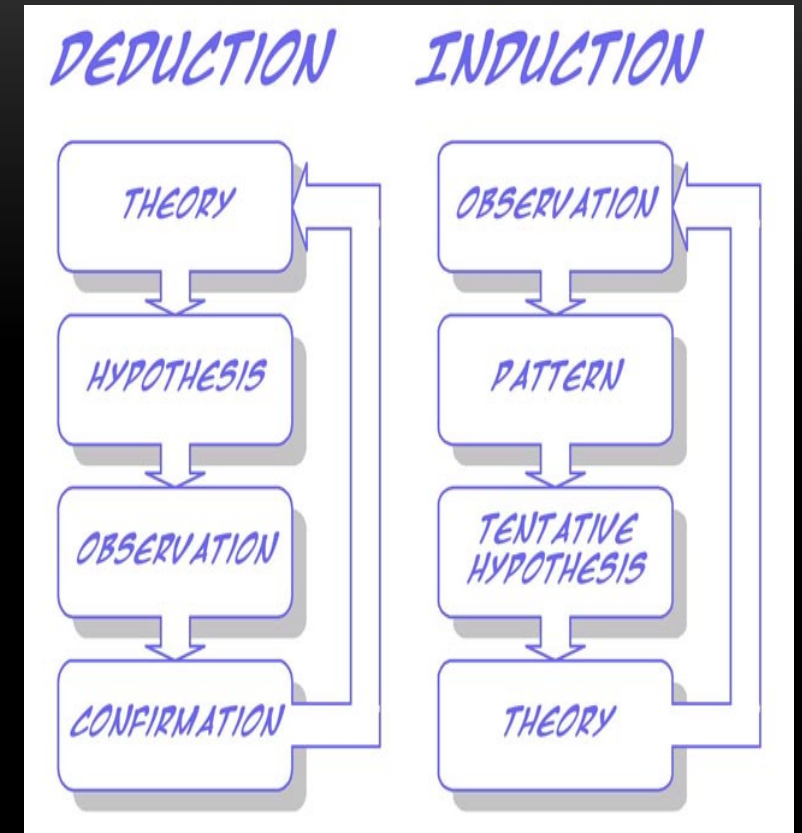
Is there a narrow and oppressive orthodoxy of thought and opinion within the sciences? **Close enough.**

Does anything in the sciences or in their philosophy justify the claim that religious belief is irrational? **Not even in the ballpark.**

Is scientific atheism a frivolous exercise in intellectual contempt? **Dead on."**

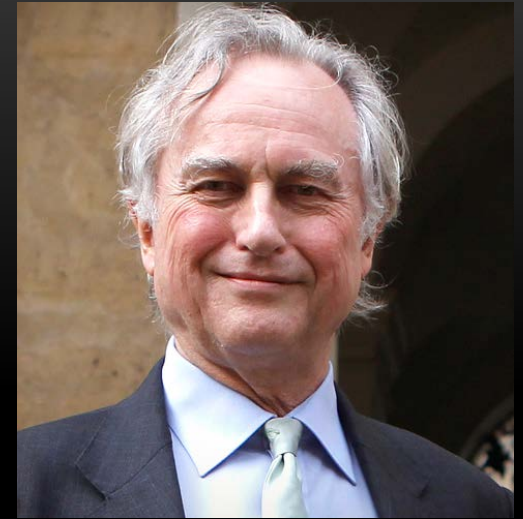
Has Science Disproved
The Existence of God?

- Science cannot prove the nonexistence of anything.
- Why? It requires omniscience.



- In January 2005, The Oxford atheist and Darwinian scientist, Richard Dawkins, was publicly asked what he believed to be true but could not prove. This was an interesting question because he is on record as saying that you should not believe anything without evidence. Now he concedes:

- *I believe, but I cannot prove, that all life, all intelligence, all creativity and all design anywhere in the universe is the direct or indirect product of Darwinian natural selection.*



Richard Dawkins
An English
ethologist,
evolutionary biologist

Christianity as a Foundation for Modern Science

"I seem to find this basic notion discovered 2000 or 3000 years ago, and enunciated first in the Western world by the ancient Hebrews: namely that the universe is governed by a single God. This monotheistic view seem to be the historical foundation for modern science."



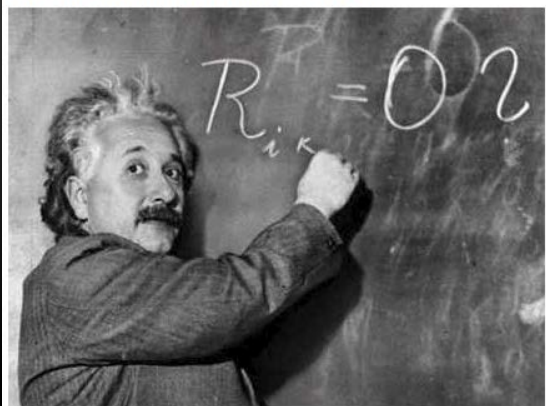
Melvin Calvin
Nobel Prize-winning biochemist
Awarded the National Medal of
Science (1989)

"A great deal of knowledge was gathered by observation and by trial and error in all ancient cultures, but this is not science. Aristotle, for example, observed widely and theorized extensively, but he did not test his theories against his observations so he was not a scientist. Alchemy and astrology were highly developed in China, Egypt, India and ancient Greece and Rome, but only in medieval Europe did these become the sciences of chemistry, physics and astronomy. 'It is the consensus among contemporary historians, philosophers and sociologists of science that real science arose only once: in Europe.' The leading scientific figures in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were overwhelmingly devout Christians who believed it their duty to comprehend God's handiwork" (For the Glory of God, pp. 123, 126–127).



Dr. Rodney Stark is an American sociologist of religion. He is Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University. Authored over 30 books on Science and Religion. An Atheist turned Christian

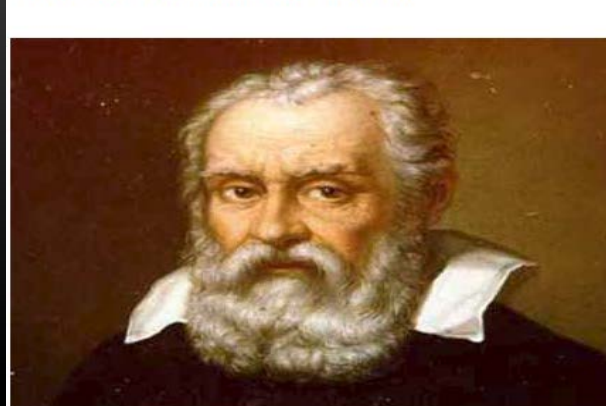
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)



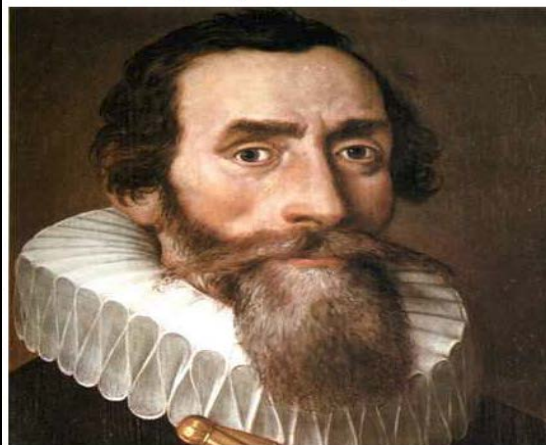
Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)



James Clerk Maxwell (1831 - 1879)



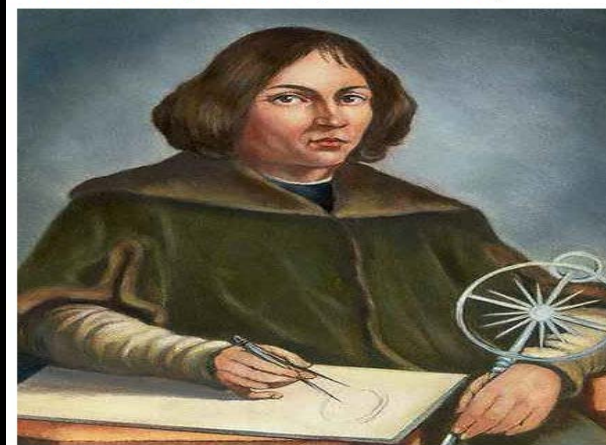
Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)



Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)



Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543)



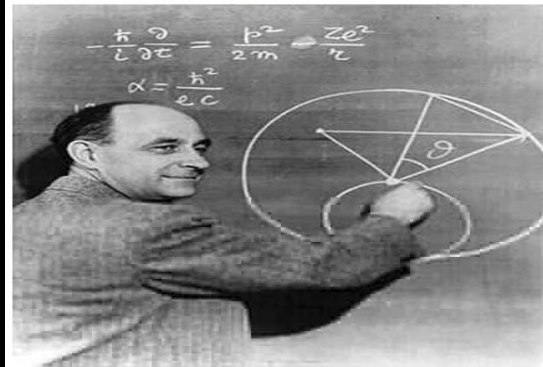
Rene Descartes (1596-1650)



Robert Boyle (1791-1867)



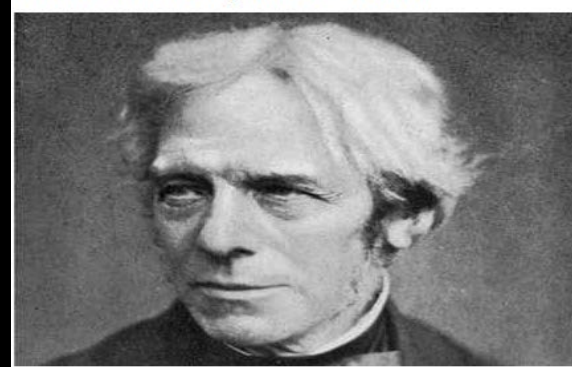
Arthur Compton (1892 - 1962)



Francis Bacon (1561-1627)

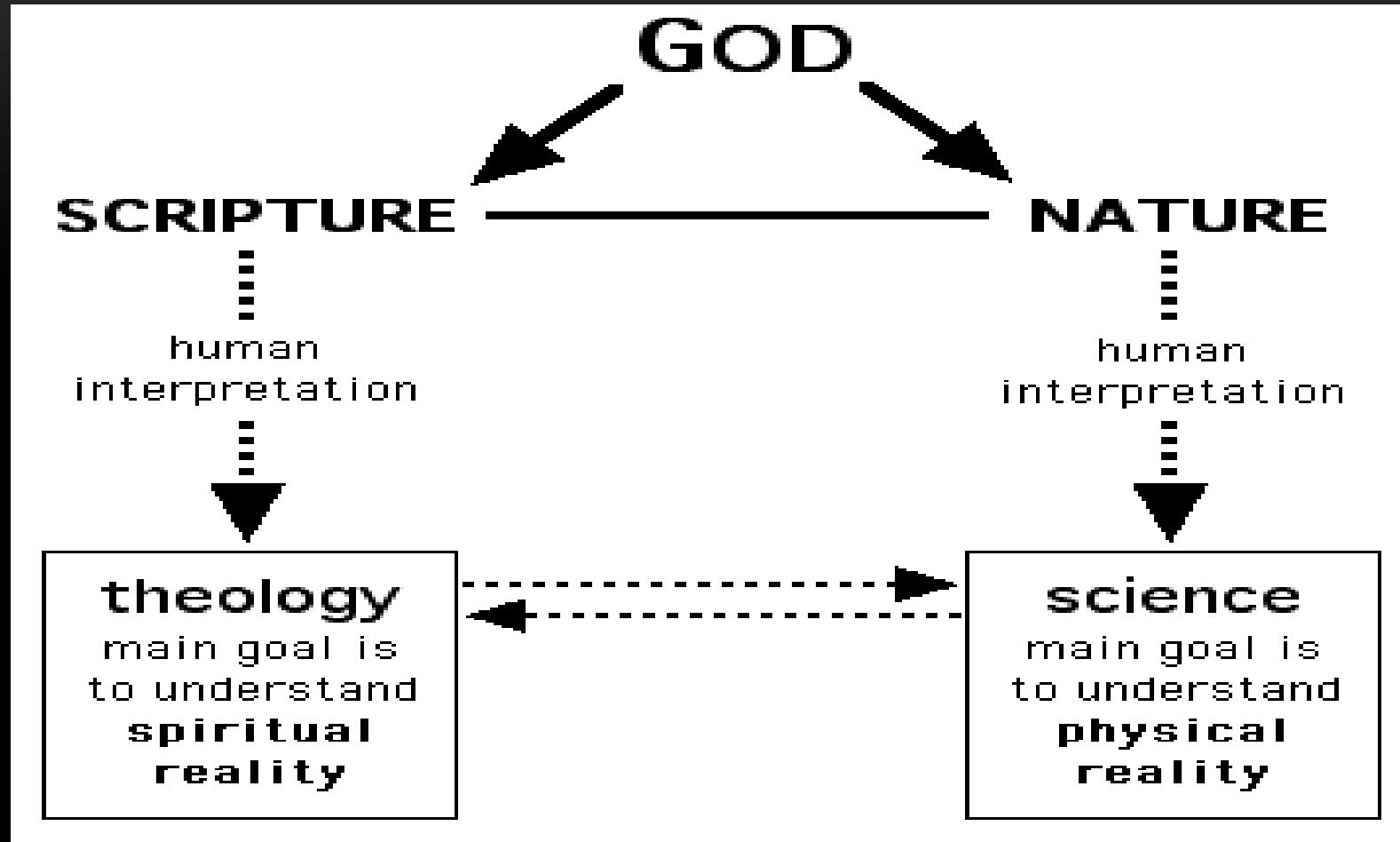


Michael Faraday (1791-1867)



The Verdict

There is no conflict between true Science and Christianity. The conflict arises when one does not recognize the inherent limitations of science.



- Rom 1:20 "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."



Faith and Evidence

- “God has given us evidence sufficiently clear to convince those with an open heart and mind. Yet evidence sufficiently vague so as not to compel those whose hearts and minds are closed.”



Blaise Pascal

- "A man seeks the truth by the effort of reason and is disappointed. It is offered him by faith, and he accepts, and, having accepted, he finds that it satisfies his reason."



Justin Martyr

SUGGESTED READINGS

