



Science and Christian Faith: Are they Mutually Exclusive or Contradictory?

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The Biblical idea of human origin by God's creation is totally excluded today from the scientific curriculum in public schools across America on the ground of separation of science and religion. Science and religion are considered to be two different areas of human endeavor without overlap. Religion is supposed to be undertaken by faith, whereas science pursued by careful observation and reasoning. Such a clear-cut division between science and religion is, however, artificial and not appropriate, at least for Christianity. Here, and in some later articles, I'll try to explain why science and the Bible-based Christianity are not mutually exclusive, nor contradictory, and why the possibility of creation should be permitted in an objective study of human origin, along with the theory of evolution.

1. Science and Bible-based Christian faith are not mutually exclusive

Although the main message of the Bible is God's salvation of mankind from sin and death, its content touches all aspects of life, including things related to science. Many parts of the Scriptures that overlap with science are written in sufficient detail and can be rationally examined.

It is true that the Bible also contains cases of super-natural phenomena, or miracles, which seem to defy scientific explanation. Such difficulty, however, dissolves if one accepts the basic presumptions of the Bible, namely, the existence of a supernatural God who not only created the universe but also ordained various laws to govern the natural processes. He himself, however, remains above the laws and can occasionally intervene with "miracles". The Biblical account of creation, unlike many ancient legends stated elsewhere, is self-consistent and reasonable, and is detailed enough to be examined rationally. Unfortunately

many critics have not bothered to study carefully what the Bible has to say.

Not only the Bible has certain "self-evident" presumptions, such as God's existence, so does science. Two fundamental presumptions of science are atheism and materialism. While God's existence is not proven scientifically, so is His non-existence. Many things exist but cannot be proven due to limitation of human capability. Electromagnetic waves, for example, had existed in the sky long before they were detected by mankind when radio receivers were invented. Our scientific knowledge has advanced greatly since then, but is still limited. Thus atheism is a dogma, or a religious belief, and is taken by faith also.

Materialism, which assumes the universe to consist of only materials (and energy), is not scientifically proven either. Based on the presumptions of atheism and materialism, the evolution theory has ignored the unique spiritual dimension of human beings that set them apart from the animals, and derived the conclusion of human's evolution from lower animal species. This situation of examining partial evidences is somewhat like considering only the hardware of computers, not their software, and then inferring that the newer Apple computer evolved from an older IBM computer, rather than their being made independently.

2. Common ingredients: truth and facts

The purpose of science is to search for truths on the basis of observed facts. Truths and facts are also the basic concern of the Bible. For example, Apostle John declared, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the word of life (Jesus)..." (First John 1:1-2). So did Luke at the begin-

ning of his gospel, “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye witnesses and servants of the word. Therefore since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed also good to me to write an orderly account for you,... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:1-4) Jesus declared, “I am the way and the truth and the life...”, and “Your (God’s) word is truth....” (John 14:6; 17:17)

3. Difference in presumptions, scope, and approaches

While having the same concern about truths and facts, the Bible is different from science in its approaches to truths, in addition to the above-mentioned difference in presumptions and scopes (the inclusion of spiritual dimension in the Bible).

Scientific theories are derived by human observation and reasoning. Scientific knowledge is limited and is continually evolving, because of limitation of human capabilities in observation and reasoning. Thus scientific theories are always tentative, subject to modification and refinement. For example, the previously accepted law of Conservation of Mass and the law Conservation of Energy (or First law of thermodynamics) were later found to be not exact, and were superseded by Einstein’s Special-Relativity theory (of convertibility between mass and energy).

The Biblical approach is, on the other hand, by inspiration of God. Since God was the creator of everything and is still sustaining the universe (Hebrews 1:2-3), he knows everything and makes no mistakes in what he has inspired, the Bible. This is why the Bible remains intact in the midst of numerous critical attacks over the past thousands of years, while scientific text books have to be periodically revised.

This difference in approaches may be illustrated by considering the case of learning to use some modern electronic equipment, such as a computer. We may either learn to use it by experience or by studying the manual provided by the manufacturer (or both). The knowledge obtained by experience (equivalent to scientific approach) is rather limited and will eventually agree with what is written in the manual.

Historically there have been cases in which the scriptures seemed to be contradictory to scientific conclusions. These apparent contradictions have later been found to be either due to misinterpretation of the scriptures (e.g., pope’s insistence on geo-central universe at the time of Galileo) or due to lag of scientific discover-

ies (e.g., cause of earthquakes, as will be discussed in a later article), sometimes by thousands of years.

As a Christian and scientist, both for more than 40 years, I have found no problem in reconciling my research with the Christian faith that recognizes the power of the almighty God. My comparative study between science and the Bible has shown no real contradiction, and I have been repeatedly amazed by the correctness and far-sightedness of the Bible.

4. Conclusions

There is no real contradiction between science and science-related matters described in the Bible. If the evolution theory, which is based on the scientifically unproven presumptions of atheism and materialism, is studied in science classes at schools, why not the possibility of creation allowed, or even to be mentioned? Is this practice not contrary to the spirit of unbiased, open minded, free inquiry that characterizes scientific studies? Worthwhile ideas should not be excluded from scientific pursuit of truths, regardless of their origin.

(The author is a long-time Christian and scientist.)

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America, Return To God!

This 128-page book was published at the end of April, as scheduled. It includes 25 articles by renowned evangelicals, such as James Dobson, James Kennedy, Tim LaHaye, Vernon McLellan, Gary DeMar, David Barton, and Thomas Wang (the editor). 450,000 copies were sent free to influential leaders in all professions, such as politics, business, education, humanity, science, media and entertainment. 50,000 copies were kept in reserve to be sent out upon request. As of July 5, about 45,000 copies have been requested and about \$75,000 contribution received.

The distribution of this book has aroused numerous emotionally-charged and polarized responses. As shown by excerpts of selected examples given at the end of this report, God has used this book to stir up many people, positively or negatively. Your continued prayers and supports are greatly appreciated.

A series of "America, Return to God" Prayer Rallies is being organized. The dates for different cities are on the opposite page.

Interestingly, the 2006 National Day of Prayer held on May 4 had a similar theme, "America, Honor God". As explained by its honorary chairman Henry Blackaby, "We are facing real threats to our national security and the moral fiber of America. Spiritual decay is causing a great social unrest, including the breakdown of the family. In short, we are facing a national crisis that has the potential to bring about some very dire consequences."

Examples of positive responses to ARTG:

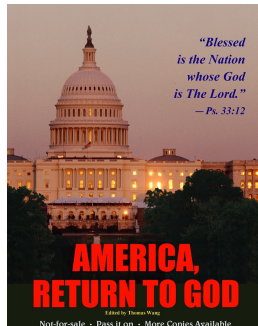
"There is no doubt your efforts will impact a vast number of people. You can be sure that your friends at Focus on Family are joining you in praying that the Lord will bring widespread repentance and revival to our nation,"

"Every time I pick up the booklet, it literally brings me to tears (of sadness for our country, and of joy for your trying to bring God back to this country). You can count on my continuing prayer and financial support."

"Your analogy about the drowning man on the lake made an impact on us. We are going to distribute your magazine and book to our pastors, talk to others, get

involved in defending righteousness."

"I can't help but believe God had a hold on you, for you to go to such expense to try and save this country. It isn't lost on me. I hope I can generate enough interest to reimburse you for some of the expense. My class has been small so far, but it has energized those who have attended."



"What a tremendous publication you have created! You have done a remarkable job bringing all this information together into a beautiful and challenging book. I pray that government, social and religious leaders across the country will be proudly impacted by this great publication."

"I am sorry you are receiving negative letters. I think in a reverse way it is a testimony to the importance of what you are doing. The Enemy only reacts when he is threatened."

Examples of negative responses to ARTG:

"You should be ashamed of yourselves for perverting the word of God and trying to destroy our governmental principles of separation of Church and State. Religion should be a private affair and not be sticking its ugly nose into politics and other people's business. If you had your way, America would be a "religion state" run just like Iran. You guys have really lost your way and the evil part is that your trying to push your lies off on everybody else. God does not like liars and hypocrites, and if there is a hell.... that is surely where you'll be going."

"I find the publication mean-spirited, ego-centric, ethnocentric, homophobic, xenophobic, judgmental and decidedly un-Christian. I also believe it to be a thinly veiled attempt to use a religious platform to promote a very conservative, judgmental societal and political agenda."

"I was appalled at the medieval mind set represented in the articles. It seemed to me that you are to Christianity what the Taliban and Wahaabism are to Islam: arrogant, simple-minded, and ignorant. It is people like you who are running this country into the ground with your anti-modern and anti-scientific approach to life. I am sure that, if this were the 16th century, you would be prosecuting Galileo for having the audacity to proclaim that the sun, and not the earth,



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was the center of the solar system. I am also quite certain, that left to your own devices, evolution and biology will disappear from America's classroom in favor of absurd Biblical stories."

"I'm including it in my file of laughably terrible reasoning for use in my Critical Thinking class. I'm sure you'll be pleased to know that generations of undergraduates will be trained in critical thinking skill by pointing out the fallacies your publication peddles as truth."

"I found your publication to promote extreme ignorant and bigoted propaganda that has become the hallmark of so many right-wing "Christian" organizations. I'm constantly amazed at how promoting ignorance, hatred, and discrimination against any group of human beings is in any way, shape or form considered to be acting according to the teachings of Jesus Christ."

"America is not anti-Christian – Americans simply do not wish to live in a Christian theocracy similar to the Talibans – only a different religion. You guys only think you are oppressed because you cannot have everything you want. Grow up and quit bitching."

"This nation would be a better place without bible thumpers making ridiculous claims like "time is not on our side.... Repent now." I have nothing to repent for and know very few who do. Your religion denigrates the dignity of man and what we have evolved from since we climbed out of the slime. Stay away!"

"You people are a bunch of loonies for publishing the book. As a true Christian, I am deeply offended by the lies and hypocracies reflected in this piece of trash, which is where my copy now sits. Anyone who does not believe in separation of church and state or the clear legitimacy of the ACLU need not call himself an American, because they are not."

"As a life-long Christian who has spent a good many years in serious study of scripture and religious history, I must vehemently oppose the kind of careless, fear-mongering and distorted ideas presented in this publication. This kind of nonsense does nothing to advance Christianity and is doing a profound disservice to the body politic."