



Asking for a Friend

PART 2: HAS SCIENCE DISPROVED GOD?

Sermon Notes

Text: Romans 1:20-25; Psalm 19:1-2

Intro:

Many have predicted the end of religious belief as science continues to advance, but interest in Spirituality is higher than ever as science has floundered in its ability to provide solutions to life's biggest problems.

Romans 1:20 - creation invites us to study it

God authored two books: The Bible & Creation

Psalm 19:1-2

Science vs. faith is the false dilemma.

"The idea that science and religion are in perpetual conflict is no longer taken seriously by any major historian of science... One of the last remaining bastions of atheism which survives only at the popular level—namely, the myth that an atheistic, fact-based science is permanently at war with a faith-based religion."
~Alister McGrath

"To say it for my colleagues and for the umpteenth millionth time, science simply cannot, by its legitimate methods, adjudicate the issue of God's possible superintendence of nature. We neither affirm nor deny it. We simply cannot comment on it as scientists." ~Stephen Jay Gould

"[Many] hold that there is a conflict between science and religion...the truth of the matter, is that the conflict is between science and naturalism, not between science and belief in God." ~Alvin Plantinga

Naturalism: the philosophical position that only natural laws and forces operate in the world

Skeptics explain religious belief as something that survived the evolutionary process as an untrue belief that does not correlate with reality. If that's the case, what reason do we have to think any of our beliefs are true?

"Believing in unguided evolution comes built in with its very own reason not to believe it." ~Mitch Stokes

"It seems to me immensely unlikely that mind is a mere by-product of matter. For if my mental processes are determined wholly by the motions of atoms in my brain I have no reason to suppose that my beliefs are true. They may be sound chemically, but that does not make them sound logically. And hence I have no reason for supposing my brain to be composed of atoms." ~J.B.S. Haldane

"The horrid doubt arises whether the conviction of man's mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy." ~Charles Darwin

"...It's as likely, given unguided evolution, that we live in a sort of dream world as that we actually know something about ourselves and our world" ~Alvin Plantinga

The same problem persists in explaining the existence of love and beauty:

"You can't...be in love with a girl if you know (and keep remembering) that all the beauties of both of her person and of her character are a momentary and accidental pattern produced by the collision of atoms, and you're your own response to them is only a sort of psychic phosphorescence arising from the behavior of your genes. You can't go on getting very serious pleasure from music if you know and remember that its air of significance is a pure illusion, that you like it only because your nervous system is irrationally conditioned to like it"
~C.S. Lewis

"If we believe God exists, then our view of the universe gives us a basis for believing that cognitive faculties work, since God could make us able to form true beliefs and knowledge. If we believe in God, then the Big Bang is not mysterious, nor the fine tuning of the universe, nor the regularities of nature. All the things that we see make perfect sense." ~Tim Keller

Conclusion:

Isaiah 64:1

Mark 4:39-41

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Are you a sci-fi fan? Why are people so fascinated by advanced technology and speculation about the future?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's message? Did you learn anything new or helpful?

Study & Discussion:

1. Have you ever encountered the argument that science and faith are at war? Why do people think this way? What is the role of science in our faith? What could faith offer to the world of science?
2. Read Psalm 8:1-4; Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 148:1-6; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:15-17. These passages poetically declare that creation itself speaks about and worships God; meaning, we can grow in our understanding of God by studying his creation. When you observe and experience creation, what does it say to you about God?
3. As the quote from Alvin Plantinga states, there need not be any conflict between science and faith; the conflict is between science and naturalism (the philosophical position that only natural laws and forces operate in the world). What did he mean by that? Refer to the rest of the quotes in the notes if necessary.
4. Read Mark 4:35-41. Jesus came along a violated the laws of nature, showing his authority over them. What does this reveal about Jesus' identity? Why were the disciples so afraid? Why did Jesus rebuke them for a lack of faith?
 - Can you think of other examples of Jesus violating the laws of nature? What do these incidents reveal about him?

Application:

1. Go for a walk this week and contemplate God's creation. What is it saying to you?

Prayer:

- Pray for opportunities to answer questions people have about your faith.

Other Requests

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