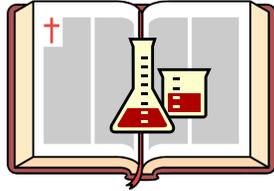


Science and Christianity

What does the Bible say about science?



Thomas Jefferson

“Priests dread the advance of science as witches do the approach of daylight.”

Albert Einstein

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

Pope John Paul II

“Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes.”

Overview - How are we to understand science from a Biblical perspective?

1.
1 Corinthians 2:14
Science and Spirituality address different questions.
2.
John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1-3
Science and Christianity's worlds overlap.
3.
Romans 1:20
Science can identify the hand of God in nature.
4.
Ecclesiastes 3:11
Science is limited in what it can understand.
5.
Acts 17:23-25
Science can be enlightened by Christianity's insights.

My own biases

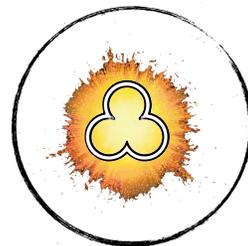
1. I start with a **Christian (Biblical) worldview** as opposed to a strictly materialistic worldview.
2. I take a rather non technical, **rational, common-sense, approach** to nature (its origins, processes, and significance).
3. I am sensitive and **respectful of the scientific perspective** including its unique limitations.
4. I realize that some of what I say will be **controversial** and open to differing interpretations.
5. I am a **student with more questions than answers**. My ego stands in service to the truth not visa versa.

1.
1 Corinthians 2:14-15

Science and Spirituality address different questions.

“¹⁴ But **a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised**, ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.”

The material world and the spiritual world are different spheres of reality.



“The Bible shows the way to go to heaven, not the way the heavens go.”

Galileo Galilei

Science and Scripture address different kinds of issues.

How?

Why?

Science has to do with how the physical world normally works.

Scripture has to do with the meaning and purpose of life and events.

Science



Scripture

A basic rule of MODERN science -
 "Thou shalt not commingle the material and the spiritual."

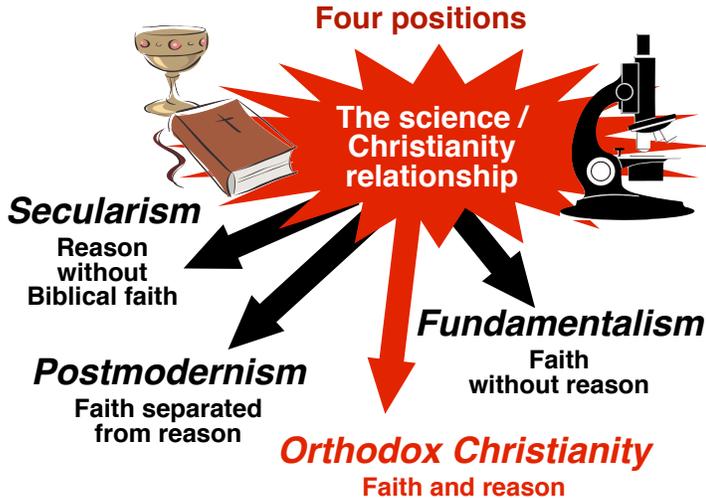
Science

Impersonal,
 public, material,
 natural



Christianity

Personal, private,
 spiritual,
 supernatural



The "faith" world
 of subjective
 values and religion



When Christianity retreats
 from empirical reason,
 it gives up too much.

The "factual" world
 of objective,
 science, and reason



2.
 John 1:1, 14

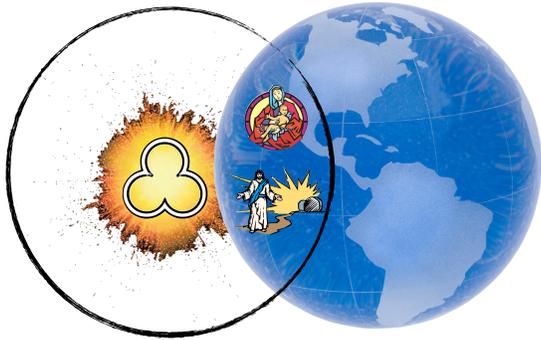
Science and Christianity's
 worlds overlap.

"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. . . . 14 And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,**"

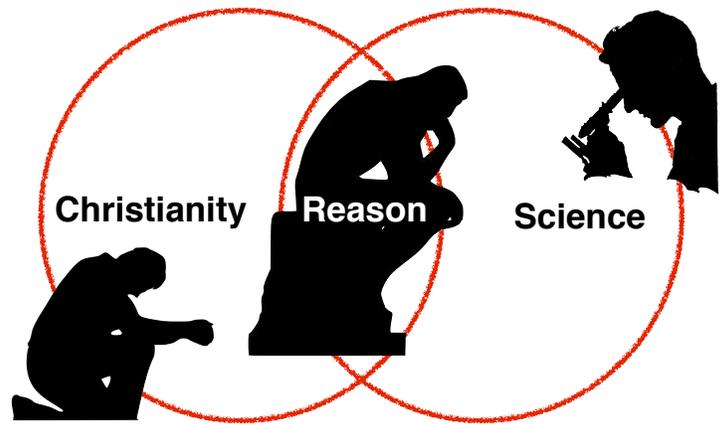
1 John 1

"1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have **seen with our eyes**, what we **beheld** and **our hands handled**, concerning the Word of Life - 2 and the life **was manifested**, and we have **seen** and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us - 3 what we have **seen and heard** we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

The material world and the spiritual world overlap in the Biblical story.



Empirical reason is where Christianity and science meet.



Gunter Wächtershäuser

(German chemist - pioneer of iron - sulphur theory of the origin of life)

“The life sciences and their study of the origin of life are where mechanistic and teleological theories touch each other.”

William of Occam

“The best explanation is the one that is most straightforward and simple, requiring the fewest assumptions.”

John C. Lennox

(Philosophy of Science professor)

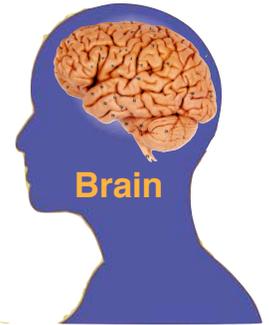
“Either human intelligence ultimately owes its origin to mindless matter; or there is a Creator. It is strange that some people claim that it is their intelligence that leads them to prefer the first to the second.”

What represents the core of science?

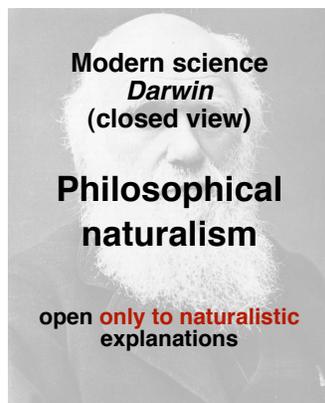
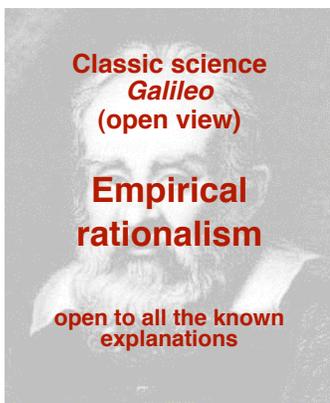
Open
Empirical Reason



Closed
Philosophical Naturalism



Historically science has not always limited itself to naturalistic answers.



Three pioneers of naturalism

Freud
(psychology)

Marx
(politics)

Darwin
(biology)

The “Big Four” voices for science as atheistic naturalism

Richard Dawkins

Daniel Dennett

Christopher Hitchens

Sam Harris

3.
Rom. 1:20

Science (empirical reason) can identify the hand of God in nature.

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen, being understood through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse.”

God reveals Himself in two books.

God's Works	God's Words
General Revelation as seen in nature and history	Special Revelation as seen in the Bible and experience
Nature	Scripture
Science	Hermeneutics
Christian Theology	

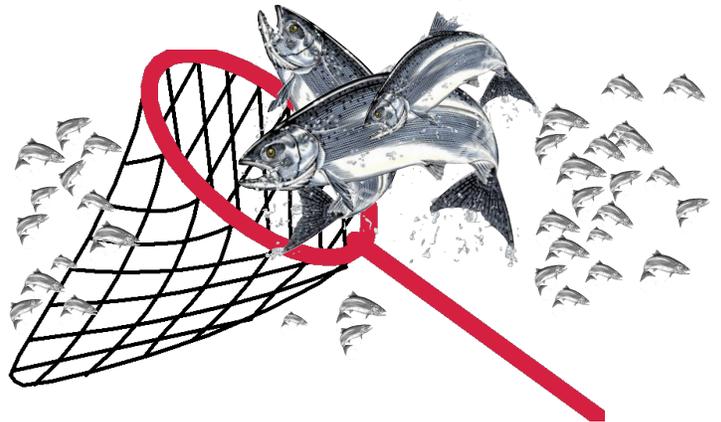


4.
Eccl. 3:11

Science is limited in what it can understand.

“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set the world in their heart, yet so that **man will not find out the work which God has done** from the beginning even to the end.”

Illustration: Science is like a net with a mesh that will catch some of the fish (truth) but is too big to catch all the fish (truth).



To understand cars you need to see more than the factory.

Concept and blueprints

User's manual and use



(the factory)

The factory offers a helpful but very **limited** perspective



The factory offers **hints** at possible origin and use

How to understand humans you need more than science.

(origin)

(purpose)

The concept, design

The meaning, use



(what science cannot see)

(what science can see)

Science tells us about the **natural processes** of the physical body.



Science offers **hints** at possible design and purpose.

5.
Acts 17:23-25

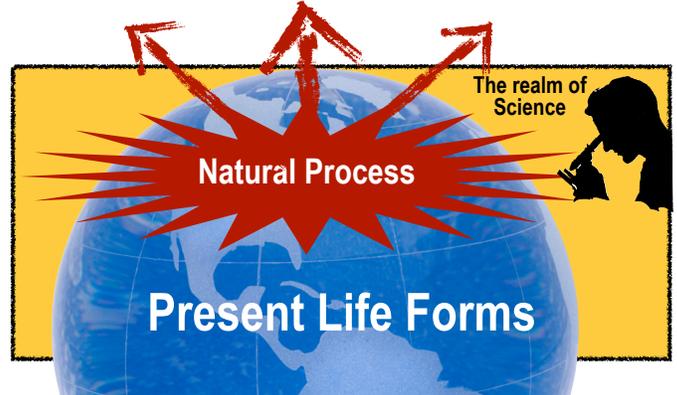
Science can be enlightened by Christianity's insights.

“23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' **What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.** 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, . . . 25 . . . He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things;”

Source of original creation and molecular information



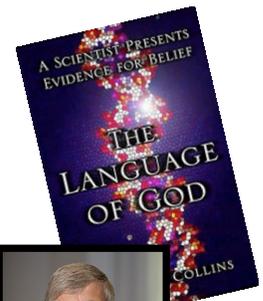
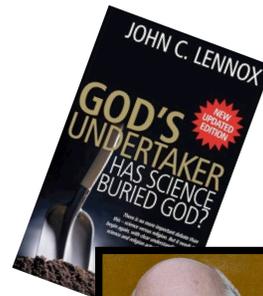
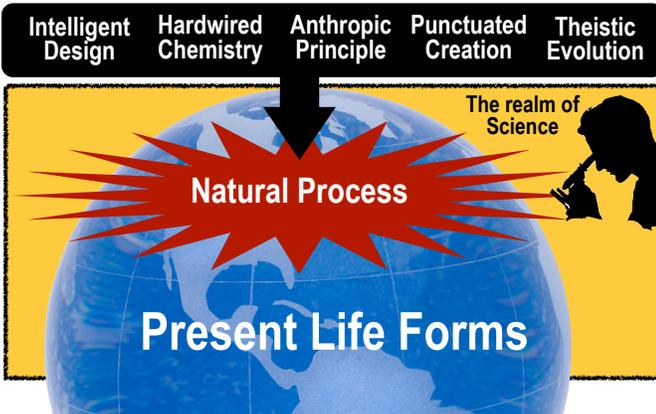
How do we account for the “apparent” design in the universe?



Source of original creation and molecular information



How do we account for the “apparent” design in the universe?



John C. Lennox



Francis Collins

The point:
Empirical reason
is where Christianity and science interact.

