

The Bible and Science

By Mike Keas

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read Romans 1:18-32 and the comments related to **Myth 1** in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What excellent reasons does God have to be angry with humans, as found in Romans 1:18-23? Are there any good excuses for humans not to know that God created the world and our moral conscience? Why do humans attempt to replace God with theories (such as unguided evolution) that view the material world as if it were God (vv.21-23)?

Assignment Two

Read Romans 1:18-32 and the comments related to **Myth 2** in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What kind of messed-up sexuality does Paul use to illustrate how much humans have rebelled against God (vv.24-27)?

Assignment Three

Read Genesis 2:7 and the comments related to **Myth 3** in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: How does Genesis 2:7 tell us that humans are more than just material parts, more than "dust from the ground"?

Scripture to Memorize

"Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature." Genesis 2:7

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit - by the end of this session, disciples will understand the intense spiritual warfare that lurks behind three popular myths about science and the Bible and learn how to defeat those myths.

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It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

Imagine you watched a movie with friends in which Christians looked like anti-science haters of homosexuals. The hero of the movie was a homosexual scientist who created a conscious computer that began to solve the world's problems. Today's lesson will help you discuss and respond to such a movie.

Myth 1: Christianity Is Anti-science

A powerful myth leads many to believe that Christianity is anti-science. This error is often used to pressure Christians into accepting Darwin's theory of evolution, despite its scientific weaknesses. But to be truly science friendly, we should weigh the evidence for and against any scientific theory rather than accept a theory just because it is popular.

Why is Christianity not anti-science? Most of the founders of modern science were Christians – and for good reason. Belief in the biblical God supports the idea that the universe is predictable and knowable, which is foundational to science.

Christianity also encourages the balance of humility and confidence in knowledge that is characteristic of successful scientists such as astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). We can do science confidently because God made nature to be understandable to those created in His image. Humility is also appropriate because of the fall of humans into sin, which has partially distorted our minds. Kepler discovered three laws of planetary motion – still in textbooks today – with the help of the Christian worldview described above. Because Christianity helped give birth to modern science, it is not anti-science.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share answers to three questions related to Romans 1:18-32 and the section **Myth 1**.

Discussion Question

Why is it popular to make Christianity look anti-science, even though it is actually science friendly?

Myth 2: God Created Some People to Be Homosexual

Are some people born gay so that they should have sex with others of their own gender? No, but this is a popular myth. Scientific arguments for gay genes are weak. Some people feel they are gay, but this is never because of God's creation plan. Genesis teaches that God made only two human sexes, and that one man should have sex with only one woman in marriage.

In rare cases, babies are born who are not completely either male or female. This is a biological error often caused by chemical exposure. Such a baby should have surgery to help it be more clearly male or female. In other rare birth defects (DNA mutations), a baby looks male or female on the outside but is sterile (unable to have children). Being born sterile is not a good variation like brown or blue eyes; it is a defect. Such sexual defects, like mental retardation, were not part of God's creation plan but came after humans sinned. These birth defects are not due to any particular person's current sin (unless harmful chemical or radiation exposure is deliberate), but God's judgment for human sin since Adam.

Homosexuality is not about rare birth defects. Due mainly to sinful environments, some people may feel attracted to the same sex. This is not God's plan, and their genes did not force them to feel gay. Romans 1:26-27 warns us about sinful environments that can lead to being deceived and trading "natural functions" for "unnatural" sexual acts.

People ought to resist same-sex attraction because it opposes God's plan and it leads to unhealthy and ungodly sexual actions. The distortion of God's plan through sexual sin often has immediate, earthly consequences. Women who have sex with other women tend to acquire certain diseases at a significantly higher rate than a woman married to one man. This is also true of homosexual men who participate in anal intercourse. The anus is the opening through which solid waste is sent out of the body. God designed it for this natural purpose; to use it as a place for sexual intercourse is unnatural (against God's creation plan) and unhealthy. In addition to the acquisition of a myriad of diseases, many homosexual men damage their anal muscles so badly through anal intercourse that they lose the ability to control their bowel movements.

Assignment Two Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share an answer to this question: In Romans 1:24-27, what kind of messed-up sexuality does Paul use to illustrate how much humans have rebelled against God?

Discussion Questions

How do scientific discoveries and the Bible fit together to persuade us to avoid homosexuality and other sex outside of a "one man - one woman" marriage? How could you use today's lesson to share God's love and God's plan with homosexuals?

Myth 3: The Internet Will Become a Conscious Person Much Smarter Than Humans

Many scientists believe that certain Internet-connected computers will soon become superhuman, much smarter than humans. This conclusion is usually based on the belief that humans are just a complicated arrangement of parts that evolved without any God-created soul. When computers reach a high level of function, they reason, then (similar to alleged human evolution), machine persons will arise. For many atheists, this philosophy gives hope that supercomputer intelligence could "save" humanity.

This atheistic hope is false. Only God can create creatures in His image who are intelligent and conscious persons responsible for their own choices. Machines can be programmed to imitate functions of human intelligence (and even beat humans at chess), but these computers will always remain capable of only "artificial intelligence" rather than personal, conscious intelligence. While computers can only do what they are programmed to do (even faster than humans), as humans we can imagine and create totally new things.

We do not know if Satan or even people can create the illusion of conscious supercomputers, but if this deceptive appearance were to be generated it would mislead many people. Although the book of Revelation might describe a worldwide deception similar to this, only God knows the future exactly and He alone can save believers from deception.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now share an answer to the question: How does Genesis 2:7 tell us that humans are more than just material parts, more than "dust from the ground"?

Discussion Questions

How is belief in conscious, smarter-than-human computers based on unreasonable atheistic faith?

On Your Own

Recall a time someone you know made a statement that used science to criticize the Christian faith. In the space below, write that criticism and some of the thoughts you now can use to refute that criticism.

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below, and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Prayer

7 minutes

At Home: Nail It Down

Are you prepared to answer three popular myths about science and Christianity when you hear them? Here is a quick review of some important ideas:

- **Myth 1: Christianity is anti-science.**

Christianity is not anti-science. Most of the founders of modern science were Christians and for good reason. Belief in the biblical God supports the idea that the universe is predictable and knowable, which is foundational to science. Because Christianity helped give birth to modern science, it is not anti-science.

- **Myth 2: God created some people to be homosexual.**

Scientific arguments for gay genes are weak. Some people feel they are gay, but this is never because of God's creation plan. Genesis teaches that God made only two human sexes, so one man should have sex with only one woman in marriage. People ought to resist same-sex attraction because it opposes God's plan and it leads to unhealthy and ungodly sexual actions. The distortion of God's plan through sexual sin often has immediate, earthly consequences.

- **Myth 3: The Internet will become a conscious person much smarter than humans.**

Only God can create creatures in His image who are intelligent and conscious persons responsible for their own choices. Machines can be programmed to imitate functions of human intelligence, but these computers will always remain capable of only "artificial intelligence" rather than personal, conscious intelligence. While computers can only do what they are programmed to do, we can imagine and create totally new things. Only people are God's image bearers.

Follow-up Question

What are some thoughts you plan to share with friends in answer to some of the most common myths related to science and the Bible?

(For additional insights, read my published essay "In the Beginning: Episodes in the Origin and Development of Science," which is available through a web link in my author profile. Or Google that exact title within quotation marks. Also try some of the other web links there.)