

WEEK 6: “Hasn’t science disproven Christianity?”



[WARM-UP]

[EXPLORE]

Q1: Are science and faith incompatible? No.

Many of the history’s greatest scientists were also Christians or people of faith:

Roger Bacon & William of Ockham (Founders of scientific method); **Robert Boyle** (“Boyle’s Law” of gases); **Galileo Galilei** (Observational astronomy) **Isaac Newton** (“Newton’s Laws” of motion); **Michael Faraday** (“Faraday’s Law” of induction); **James Clerk Maxwell** (“Maxwell’s Equations” of electromagnetism); **Lord Kelvin** (Kelvin temperature scale); **Gregor Mendel** (Genetics)

Q2: How should we handle disagreements between our best current science and the Bible?

[READ]

Psalm 19 Romans 1:18-22

GENERAL REVELATION

SPECIAL REVELATION

“We know him [God] by two means:

“First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that **universe** is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: his eternal power and his divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict men and to leave them without excuse.

“Second, he makes himself known to us more openly by his holy and **divine Word**, as much as we need in this life, for his glory and for the salvation of his own.”

—*Belgic Confession (1561), Article 2*

Since both are revelations from God, they will never be in *actual* contradiction to each other.
(If science and the Bible *appear* to contradict, someone must be wrong!)

POTENTIAL ERRORS related to SCIENCE

- ✓ New discoveries
- ✓ Insufficient data
- ✓ Misinterpretation of data

POTENTIAL ERRORS related to the BIBLE

- ✗ Complete, with no newly added “revelations”
- ✓ (Bible doesn’t address everything in the universe)
- ✓ (Bible is never wrong, but may be misinterpreted)

[EXAMINE]

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Heliocentrism vs. Geocentrism | Joshua 10:6-15 (cf. Isa. 38:7-8; Psa. 104:5-6) |
| ➤ Adam and Eve as parents of all humans | Genesis 3:20 |

TAKEAWAYS:

- Science and the Bible are never in actual conflict; both are sources of God’s revelation to us.
- The Bible is never wrong, but it may be wrongly interpreted and there corrected by science.
- Our highest loyalty is to the Bible as ultimate truth, which can correct some scientific errors.

Next week: “Doesn’t Christianity denigrate women?” (Chapter 8)