

Worldview Conflict 13

Science Is Not The Enemy

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Text: 1Ch 12:32 says, "And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment."

Sub text: 1Th. 5:21, Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

The Fallacy Of Science Being Truth

The blending of politics and science these past several years with the COVID pandemic has confused and deceived many in the United States. Separating science and politics is not easy in an atmosphere of strife and ignorance. And in all the commotion, a weak spot has appeared that needs to be addressed to help us in the war between worldviews.

Blending science and politics is not new in the U.S. It is not new in the world. For example, communism has used science so-called to guide its policies since the Bolshevik revolution. Science is more than technology and research of rocks and cells. There is political science, economic science, and many more sciences.

The justification for using science in government policies is that truth is discovered by science. To be guided by truth, **it is** necessary to be guided by science. Thus, scientists are the reigning priests of truth in the world today. Science has become the guiding light for humanity at-large.

The problem with this thinking is immediately recognized by astute Christians. Science without God is vulnerable to the vain imaginations of men. Science by definition is a quest for knowledge. But increasing understanding about our world does not mean truth is being discovered. It simply means we know more today than yesterday. Science is a means of learning. Theoretically, more knowledge means we should come to a better understanding of what is true. But knowing more does not mean we are wiser.

The fallacy of relying on science as the ultimate source of truth is revealed by the imperfections of humanity. Human observation is difficult to be separated from bias. Interpretation of human observations depends on inductive and deductive skills of reasoning. Experimentation depends on the tools developed by humans and their ingenuity to design experiments to ensure their conclusions are correct.

The Benefits Of Using Science

It cannot be denied that the invention of the scientific method has dispelled a lot of superstitious nonsense. The scientific method has led us to amazing discoveries about our world. But amazing accomplishments only show knowledge can be gained with the scientific method, it does not guarantee that conclusions will be flawlessly derived.

Sir Francis Bacon is credited with having formulated the scientific method around AD 1600. Sir Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, Isaac Newton and other fathers of scientific discoveries used the scientific method to gain understanding of our world. This period of time was preceded by the translation of the KJV in 1611. Old ways of thought espoused by Aristotle, other Greek philosophers, and many others were debunked by the use of the scientific method.

The scientific method helped to lead us out of the dark ages of superstition, mysticism, and whimsical explanations about our world. It helped scientists who believed in God discover amazing insights about our world. Sir Isaac Newton said it was his belief in God that compelled him to describe the world mathematically.

The Scientific Method Is A Tool

The scientific method does not possess moral value. It is a tool. It is a method to discover truth. It is like math. Two plus two equals four. There is no moral value to the method of adding. It is like a hammer. It can be used to build or tear things down. It depends on who is using the tool.

Those who have made science their career and who have developed expertise in applying the scientific method are called scientists. But as with any career, where there are humans, there is human fallacy, frailty, and humanistic bias.

Science in the hands of godless, dishonest scientists is a weapon that destroys. On the one hand, the tool is being used to gain knowledge of our world, and on the other hand it is a weapon being used to mislead. In the hands of manipulators, science is a means of persuading people to follow and obey. Fortunately, the scientific process has a built-in safeguard against fraud in science of repeatability and community verification, but it is not fail-safe. Human fears and bias have been shown to be forces that can hijack science.

In the hands of media and politicians, a classic fallacy is often used. That is the fallacy truth by authority. By "saying science says such and such," an assumption is made that a statement is supported by science and scientists. I had an atheist philosophy professor try this on me when debating the origin of the universe. He said scientists have shown the universe came into existence by natural means. He was hoping to legitimize his argument with that fallacy. His proof of truth was his statement. I pointed out saying it is so does not make it so. I also pointed out as a philosophy professor he knows better than to cite the authority of science in name only to justify his position. So, I asked for the **evidence** scientists were using to come to their conclusion. He repeated that they knew the evidence. I said that so far all I was being told was scientists had evidence, but I was not being shown evidence. Further, I gave him evidence to show his conclusion was wrong regardless of his appeal to authorities. Evidence trumps authority.

The reverse of truth by authority is also a fallacy. If science says such and such, it cannot be trusted. If a politician says something, I don't believe it. This is the same kind of fallacy in thought as truth by authority. We must determine truth by evidence, whether by faith or by scientific discovery, not by who says something. For this reason, during the pandemic, I said I don't care what the CDC or governors say. I do not accept or reject a conclusion based on what they say. I appeal to the evidence regardless of what they say. Sometimes I agreed with them, sometimes I did not.

Sometimes Satan says the right thing. I will not reject truth because Satan said it. This approach to determining truth is flawed and misleads people to think wrongly about things.

The media, politicians, and people appeal to authorities when they agree with them. This is especially true in the context of political ruckus. The practice is to quote authorities who agree with us because

they agree with us, not because of their evidence. Further, we deem them experts when they agree with us, not because of their stellar work in science, but because they agree with us.

Saying something is true because science says it is true **implies** carefully verified experimentation. But this is not always the case. This is true of Bible teachings. People can say thus saith the Lord, and then teach falsehoods. If we are not alert, we get deceived by the statement without checking the reference. I met a student who had attended the Governor's school who told me a teacher was laughing about how easy it is to make students believe whatever he said. His trick was to come into class and lay the Bible on the desk. That act made students feel safe about what the teacher had to say. They believed him because he appealed to the Bible visually. But he did not teach Biblical truths. **Claiming** something is scientific is not truer than **claiming** it is Biblical.

I think of the words of Paul in Galatians 1: 6-7, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ." It is possible to call something the Gospel truth when it is not. Likewise, it is possible claim something is scientific when in fact it is not

This word game is a way to appeal to the authority of science as a source of truth without resorting to showing evidence for the truth. Can this really be called science if it is not used correctly? Just as there is no other Gospel, there is no other science. There are only counterfeits.

Attack The Enemy Not The Tool

This statement that counterfeit science is not science contains profound importance and application. **If** we focus on **science** as the enemy, we focus on the wrong thing. To focus on science as the enemy is to focus on the tool. If our soldiers were trained to focus on the weapons of their enemies, rather than on the enemy soldiers using the weapons, we would lose battles. Weapons can be used **for** us or **against** us. It depends on who is using the weapons.

Humanists, and in particular, agnostic and atheistic scientists, dominate the scientific community. The problem in science is not the tools, the problem is the people using the tools. Our enemy is not science. Our enemy is the humanist. By enemy I mean those who reject Christ's truths. I am not talking about the use of lethal weapons and violence. They are worldview opponents.

Just as it would be wrong to say the AK-74 is our enemy, it is wrong to say science is our enemy. People not guns are the problem. The real enemy is the group of humanists in science using science to manipulate others to believe lies.

Thoughtfulness In Science Is A Skill

To think well, people must be taught to think. They must be taught to recognize fallacies. And like any skill, there are degrees of proficiency. Everyone thinks, but everyone does not think well. Some are more skilled than others in thinking.

Unlike most skills, the skill of good thinking is more difficult to recognize. This is because we all think every day of our lives. Most do not think about thinking. We are born thinking. And we all like to think that we think very well. After all, we think well enough to survive, have careers, and take on responsibilities. We think every-day, so we must be excellent at thinking. And yet, everyday people are duped and deceived. That is evidence that thinking we think well is not necessarily true.

Most of us recognize our limitations in knowledge and admit there are some things we cannot make decisions about because we are not knowledgeable enough.

We learn how to think by growing up. We argue, we debate, we discuss, we try to persuade. For the most part, we take thinking for granted.

Learning how to think well does not mean we are infallible. It means that we are trained to know more about what fallacy might lead to a wrong conclusion. Thinking well involves a process of elimination. Even if I think I know something, I will think of reasons why it is a wrong conclusion.

We do this with Bible study as well. Testing and comparing is essential to good study of the Bible. More insights are gained when we are trained to think of more possible explanations and then find reasons why they cannot be correct.

For example, First John 3:9. How is it that we cannot sin? Obviously, Christians sin. The passage forces us to consider how it could be true to say Christians do not sin. I searched for an answer and discovered Romans 7:15-21. The inward man does not sin. That is the part that is born again. For this reason, First John says God's seed remains in us. That is the born-again part of us. The outward man of flesh is not born again. Thus, whosoever is born of God does not sin. This is not referring to the outward body of Christians.

Revelation 4:11 is another example of being forced to think further about a statement. Revelation 4:11 says we are created for God's own good pleasure. That makes God sound selfish. But God is not selfish. I consider that God is love and developed one of my favorite studies. God created us to love us and bless us. He ended up giving up everything, including His own life. That is pure love, not selfishness.

Another example of thinking beyond what a Scripture reference may mean is James 2 religion. I had been taught that Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship. I looked for Scripture to back up that statement. But I discovered Christianity is a religion. It is then I realized the more accurate way to explain Christianity is that it is more than a religion, it is a relationship. It is both. To say Christianity is not a religion contradicts Scripture.

Targeting The Real Enemy

Science is not the enemy. Science is a tool that helps us discover truth.

Some might approve of thinking that Scripture is above science. But this is like saying Scripture is above a tape measure, or Scripture is above hammers and other tools.

To respond effectively to worldview opponents, it is essential that we understand our enemy and recognize who the enemy is. To do this, we need to think well. Our enemy attacks our minds. His goal is to darken hearts and minds so they will not understand the Gospel of salvation. Our enemy is a master deceiver, and we must be careful not to allow him to misdirect us.

The worldview enemies of Christ and of our faith are humanists. Our opponents are people, not their tools. We must respond to humanists who are scientists, not to scientists or science.

As I said before, I do not use the term *enemy* to suggest we take up arms against them. They are a threat to good thinking and the Gospel. But we do not attack with viciousness. We seek to reconcile our enemies with God. We do not seek to destroy them. We seek to win by persuading them to do the right thing, the best thing for themselves. We win by helping our enemies see the truth.

First Thessalonians 5:21 reminds us to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

We prove all things by applying God's three resources. The Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the church of God. These three sources come with promises that we will find truth in them.