

Confronting Christianity

Week Seven: Hasn't Science Disproved Christianity?

Pre-Group Reading Material: Chapter 7 (Pages 109-130)

Questions:

- Do you enjoy learning about science? What do you remember from the science related classes you took in school? Did you ever have to do a dissection? 😊
- Have you ever experienced a tension between your faith community and the findings of the scientific community? If so, how have you tried to deal with this tension?
- What examples can you think of in Scripture where people who loved the Lord were involved in scientific fields? Read together and reflect on Genesis 1:28, 2:20; 1 Kings 4:33-34; and Colossians 4:14) How might the work of these individuals did inspire us to engage in scientific fields?
- Today we often hear calls to “trust science” or “believe science”. What do you think people mean when they say this? Does any political or religious community always believe science?
- If, as McLaughlin suggests, Christians have historically been on the forefront of scientific study and discovery, how do you think the impression that Christians are anti-science developed in our culture? Is the Catholic church’s condemnation of Galileo in 1633 a good example of religious people suppressing science (112-113)?
- McLaughlin notes that a high percentage of scientists (64% in one survey) either do not believe that God exists or don’t know if God exists (117-118). Why do you think this is? Does intelligence tend to lead toward a belief in atheism? What other factors does she suggest might contribute to this reality?
- What information is science unable to provide us (119-124)? How has science and technology been used in destructive ways through our history? How has evolutionary science been used to dehumanize people?
- If scientific truth is viewed as the only truth that really matters, what reason do we have to “rebel against our genes” and subdue our evolutionarily advantageous impulses (124)?
- What scientific discoveries have made atheists uncomfortable over the years, and how have they sought to get around those challenges? (Think specifically about the origin of life, the fact that the universe seems to have had a beginning, and the astoundingly finely tuned nature of the universe) (126-127)
- Toward the end of her chapter, Rebecca quotes Nobel Prize winning physicist William Phillips who says that believing that God created the universe and believing in atheism are both “positions of faith” (129) Why would Phillips and McLaughlin suggest that a belief in atheism requires faith?