

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/So what about...
- B. We all believe something
 - 1. Which means we all doubt other things = skepticism
 - 2. Healthy/Good/search for truth not just feelings
- C. Asking questions is the key to growth**
- D. Why we are doing this series... there are questions that need to be asked and explored if we are ever going to grow in our knowledge and as people.
- E. Based on "Problem of God" by Mark Clark
- F. Maybe not how you grew up or what you got from church... we are trying to change that.
- G. Ground rule
 - 1. **Follow where the evidence leads not where we hope it leads.**
 - 2. Also, be respectful.
- H. Last week talked about evidence for the existence of God.
 - 1. Asked what evidence supports your belief.
 - 2. But there was an elephant in the room (other than the cosmetologist typo)...
 - 3. Something that might have made people uncomfortable when I was using scientific data to talk about the existence of God.

II. WE

- A. There is a WAR!
 - 1. Science and Faith are at war and always have been.
 - 2. One side has people like...
 - a. **Richard Dawkins- "Faith is like a mental illness"**
 - b. **Sam Harris- We have names for people who have many beliefs for which there is no rational justification. When their beliefs are extremely common, we call them religious. Otherwise they are likely to be called mad, delusional, or psychotic."**
 - c. Aunt Athiest who says we have reached a point in our evolution where we have outgrown God like a child outgrows a toy.
 - 3. Other side has people like...
 - a. Uncle Christian who says if you don't believe the earth is 6000 yrs old you're going to hell.
 - b. If you do yoga you're going to hell
 - c. And if you voted for Bernie Sanders you're going to hell
 - 4. It's one side or the other... you better choose b/c science and faith cannot co-exist.
- B. Before we go any further, there's something you should know: **The war between science and faith is a cultural myth**
 - 1. It makes for easy and stirring sound bites
 - 2. Makes it easy for those who don't want to investigate for themselves.
 - 3. But it's not real.
 - 4. Truth is rarely found in the extreme fringes of either/or
 - 5. What if science and faith were actually not just able to co-exist but build on one another in a beautiful and logical symmetry?
 - 6. I believe they can
 - 7. But first we have to debunk this myth.
- C. Where did this mythical war come from?
 - 1. Why is it so ingrained in our culture?
 - 2. 3 very common misconceptions.
 - a. Christianity is anti-science
 - b. You can't believe in both science and faith

- c. Science disproves God.
3. Talk about them one at a time.

III. GOD

A. **Misconception #1- Christianity is anti-science.**

1. **The story-** From the beginning, the Church persecuted and tried to silence scientists like Copernicus, Galileo, and Bruno even burning some scientists at the stake.
 - a. B/c they were saying the earth was round and not flat and that the sun didn't not go around the earth that the earth wasn't the center of the universe... therefore challenging the churches beliefs about God.
2. Medieval Scientific historian **David Lindberg**- "**There was no warfare between science and the church.**"
3. Historians agree that the science v. religion story is a 19th century fabrication.
4. **Giordano Bruno was** executed by the Catholic church but not b/c of his scientific views but b/c he was found guilty of theological heresies about the Trinity/Hell/Divinity of Jesus... horrible but not based on a conflict of science and religion.
5. **Galileo** was a friend of the church most of his life... even meeting with the pope many times.
 - a. He did become more critical of the church and was persecuted for a time and forced to recant some of his heliocentric views... but was never put in a dungeon or tortured and in fact later in life continued his work and even published it before his death of natural causes.
6. Another part of this myth is that the church believed the Bible taught that the earth was flat and then attacked anyone who said otherwise.
 - a. Simply not true.
 - b. Form the time of the ancient Greeks everyone knew the earth was round... sails on a ship at the horizon.

c. **Oxford Professor Alister McGrath-** "**The idea that science and religion are in perpetual conflict is no longer taken seriously by any major historian of science.**"

7. Pop Quiz: Which historical worldview/culture gave birth to modern science? China? Mesopotamia? Central America? Greece? **Truth- Christian theology gave birth to modern science**
 - a. Christian theology was the only worldview, philosophy, or religion of the ancient world that presented the world as having distinct form, complexity, and design.
 - b. If there is a creator God who created the universe with order and laws... than an experiment done correctly today will have the same results as an experiment done correctly 100 years ago... it's the basis of the **Scientific Method**.
8. All others either said nature itself was divine and therefore cannot be subject to objective analysis,
 - a. Or the universe is just an illusion and therefore studying it is pointless
 - b. Or that all natural events are simply actions of the gods... what is lightning? Zeus or Thor are angry.
9. Yes some great civilizations (Mesopotamia, India, China, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Central America) made some significant advances...
 - a. But none of them had the proper philosophical framework necessary to bring about the experimental framework for Modern Science.
10. Xianity challenges us to experiment b/c it believes there is order and uniformity to the universe and a Creator who gave us rational minds in order to investigate and discover truth and in that truth the Creator Himself.

B. Misconception #2- You can't believe in both science and God

1. You've heard it...
 - a. Science is based on truth and evidence/Faith is based on hopeful thinking and legend
 - b. Science is a search for objective evidence that leads humanity forward/Faith looks back to ancient teachings, outmoded holy books, and irrational conclusions in the face of overwhelming evidence.
 - c. Nacho Libre: Esqueleto- "I believe in Science."
 - d. "Scientists don't believe in God"
2. **Truth- Many scientists believe faith and science are completely compatible.**
 - a. **Example: Francis Collins**- Led Human Genome Project- Identifying and mapping all of the genes of the human genome.
 - b. Wrote "The Language of God: A scientist presents evidence for belief... science led him toward belief in God
 - c. **2009 Poll by American Association for the Advancement of Science** found out...
 - d. **51% of scientists** (very broad definition) **believe in some form of deity or higher power**
 - 1) In hard sciences (astronomy, biology, chemistry) it's higher
 - 2) In softer sciences (psychology, sociology) it's lower
 - 3) So those looking at the universe and macro-biology, the rate is actually higher.
 - e. **31% believe in a personal God**

C. Misconception #3- Science disproves God

1. No need to believe in a creator b/c we know how everything works...
2. **Truth- If God exists, he is outside what science can evaluate.**
3. Science studies the physical natural world. Experimental science studies the world through the scientific method; repeatable, unbiased experimentation.
4. But the existence of God is a metaphysical question

a. Meta- outside.

5. **Stephen Jay Gould** (celebrated atheist/evolutionary biologist/paleontologist/and historian of science)-
 - a. "Nature just is... We cannot use nature for our moral instruction or for answering any question within the magisterium of religion... To say it for my colleagues for the umpteenth millionth time, science simply cannot, by its legitimate methods, adjudicate the issue of God's possible superintendence of nature. We neither affirm nor deny it. We simply cannot comment on it as scientists."
 6. You can't use physics to prove a metaphysical being doesn't exist.
 7. But as we saw last week... It could be helpful in giving us evidence/clues that he does exist.
- D. Exactly what Paul wrote 2000 yrs ago.
1. **Romans 1:20a** (...has been made)
 2. Science is not the enemy of faith.
 3. It is one of the means by which we can look at nature and learn about God.
- E. Carey- "Even if everything science says about evolution, the origin of the universe and biology is accurate... none of it fatally defeats the existence of God."

F. Objection...

1. Evolutionary theory- Religion is something we invented in order to survive
2. Truth takes a backseat to survival. It's not true its simply passed down b/c it was a coping mechanism for our ancestors.
3. **Flaw**- If we can't trust our rational minds to tell us about God then we can't trust them to tell us the truth of anything... including evolutionary theory.
 - a. It's a logical contradiction.

IV. YOU

- A. **Science answers the HOW not the WHO and WHY.**
- B. So for you... how do you answer the harder questions...
- C. **How do you answer WHO? and WHY?**

- D. WHO?
 1. The laws of nature are there.
 2. The universe has a beginning
 3. The universe is orderly and CAN be studied
 4. Who is behind it?

- E. WHY?
 1. Why is there something instead of nothing?
 2. Why do you watch the news and feel like this isn't how life is SUPPOSED to be?
 3. Why do you wish you could believe this is true?

- F. For now... our main point is...

V. WE

- A. **Fact based science is not at war with faith based religion.**

- B. Xianity is not anti-science but the garden out of which Modern Science bloomed.

- C. Science and Faith are not mutually exclusive but are beautifully complimentary.
 1. The deeper people dig into science and philosophy the more they find evidence that points them toward God, not away.

- D. Science answers the HOW

- E. As we continue I think you'll find...

- F. **Only Christianity rationally answers WHO and WHY.**

- G. Is that offensive? You're gonna love the next few weeks.