

God and Science

Myths and Facts, #2

MYTH: "Scientists don't believe in God."

FACT: Many of them do.

"About 2/3 of scientists believe in God, according to a new survey...The study, along with another one released in June, would appear to debunk the notion that science is incompatible with religion." (LiveScience, August 2005)

MYTH: "Science disproves Christianity and religion. They are against each other."

FACTS: Christianity is what gave birth to modern science. They have worked together and complemented each other for centuries!

"Modern science did not emerge 400 years ago to challenge religion. Generations of thinkers and experimenters and observers –often themselves churchmen– wanted to explain how God worked his wonders. Modern physics began with a desire to explain the clockwork of God's creation...Modern biology owes much to the urge to marvel at the intricacy of Divine providence."

(The UK Guardian "Why Do So Many Scientists Believe in God?" 2003)

MYTH: "But scientists are still more likely to be atheists than non-scientists. It must be because they are better educated."

FACTS: Education is not a factor in scientists' lack of belief in God, according to research:
"Instead [of educational factors],

Understanding Christianity



particular demographic factors, such as age, marital status, and presence of children in the household, seem to explain some of the religious differences among academic scientists." (Religion Among Academic Scientists, Journals of the University of California Press, 2007)

MYTH: "Faith just means taking a guess and hoping it's true."

FACTS: The Bible word *faith* comes from the Greek *pistos*, which means simply 'trust' or 'confidence'. It does not mean a 'guess' or a 'blind leap.' In Christianity, something is worthy of faith *because* it has been proven trustworthy through personal experience or evidence.

MYTH: "Faith is the opposite of reason."

FACTS: *"Faith is not the opposite of reason. Faith rests squarely upon reason, with the added component of revelation."*

(Francis Collins, evangelical Christian and director of the Human Genome Project and the National Institutes of Health)

Paul preached to others about Jesus by "reasoning with them" (Acts 17:2). Jesus established that he was the Messiah by "many convincing proofs" (Acts 1:3).

The Christian message was spread by Jesus' apostles through teaching and the use of logic. Although being a Christian *does* require faith (trust in unseen things, Heb. 11:1), this is not a blind faith. It is trust based on the sound logic that God knows and understands things that we do not.

MYTH: "Christianity prevents scientific progress."

FACTS: History tells us exactly the opposite. The following quotes are from devout Christian scientists whose faith influenced their life and work:

"Let my name perish if only the name of God the Father is thereby elevated."

-Johannes Kepler, astronomer and key figure in the development of modern science

"From a knowledge of His work, we shall know Him."

-Robert Boyle, missionary leader and regarded as the first modern chemist

"There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history." **-Isaac Newton**

"The Bible is true and science is true, and therefore each, if truly read, proves the truth of the other."

-Matthew Maury, considered the 'father of oceanography'

"The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator." **-Louis Pasteur**, founder of microbiology

"Overwhelmingly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie around us...the atheistic idea is so non-sensical that I cannot put it into words." **-Lord Kelvin**

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

-George Washington Carver

"In the beginning there were but two: Adam and Eve." **-Norman Borlaug**,

devout Christian and plant scientist whose work prevented a global food crisis and may have saved 1 billion lives.

"To know the mighty works of God, to comprehend His wisdom and majesty and power; to appreciate, in degree, the wonderful workings of His laws, surely all this must be a pleasing and acceptable mode of worship to the Most High." **-Copernicus**

Gregor Mendel (father of genetics), **Francis Bacon** (who developed the scientific method), and **Charles Babbage** (inventor of the computer), are just a few more of the many devout Christians who pioneered some of science's most important advances.

MYTH: Galileo's conflict with the Catholic Church is an example of Christianity being against science.

FACTS: Galileo was a Bible-believing Christian himself, who considered his scientific discoveries about a moving earth to be in line with scripture.

The belief that the sun moved around the earth did not come from the Bible, but from the best observations of science at the time, which the Church accepted. For disagreeing with their official stance and being persecuted for it, Galileo is considered to be one of the heroes of the Christian faith, and his story is told in the 16th chapter of Foxe's famous book of Christian martyrs.

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