The Harvest is Plentiful – Can Science and Christianity co-exist?

We live in such a divided world! All you need is an election to reveal that! Countless hours & dollars spent on what separates us rather than on what could bring us together! Why does everything have to be a fight?

I'm not going to talk politics today, but maybe what I will address today could be applied in the political arena as well!

Many see the divide between science & Christianity as just as great as the divide between democrats & republicans… If the starting point is *"How can one disprove the other"* then yes, the chance of seeing beyond their differences is slim…

But… If our starting point was *"How can one compliment & balance out the other"* I wonder what the outcome could be? So let me ask a few questions:

- Can science and Christianity co-exist? What is our answer?
- Can science and Christianity actually complement each other?
- Can science and Christianity both be a pursuit of "truth"?

If a scientist starts with the presupposition that *"God does not exist",* and if the theologian starts with *"science is man's attempt to disprove God",* then yes, progress will be as likely as it is in a meeting of congress between Dem/Rep.

But Christianity doesn't require people to reject science, and science doesn't require people to reject Christianity. They can work together in helping us understand both the world in which we live, and the God who created it!

Those who have big faith questions about science and Christianity, and their compatibility, don't have to choose one or the other… they can choose both!

God has intentionally given us both "general revelation" (the study of God's creation) and "special revelation"(the study of the Bible & the life of Jesus)…

- He has given us His creation to discover more about our Creator!
- He has given us His Word to clarify the purpose of His creation!

Pursuing truth involves the pursuit of both! And the discovery of "truth" in one should never threaten the truth discovered in the other!

Where the conflict exists, is in our understanding of, or in the conclusions we draw, from either creation or the Scriptures or both…

Truth discovered in God's creation will never ultimately contradict truth revealed in God's Word. And the truth revealed in God's Word will never contradict the true discoveries of science!

Remember that science investigates the natural world through observation, experimentation, and measurable evidence. It can investigate the physical evidence, but it cannot answer every question about reality.

Problems arise when we seek answers from the Bible that God does not intend the Bible to provide… Or when we seek answers from science that science alone is not able to give… but the Bible can and does!

Science can help us understand the incredible complexity of what God has made! Such as…

But it takes the revelation of God in the Bible to understand who made it, why He made it, and what He intends for us within it!

Science is an incredible tool, but it has limitations. It cannot independently answer such questions as: *Does God exist? Are miracles possible? Do human beings have an eternal soul? Did Jesus rise from the dead? Is there ultimate meaning and purpose in life?* We need the Bible for that!

But science can help us better understand the God who does exist… That miracles do happen because what happened defies the laws of nature… And that when science is applied to the truths of Scripture we can gain a better & wholistic picture of the world we live in, & the God who created it!

A few takeaways:

1) Science explores HOW creation works; Christianity explains WHO created it and WHY! **Genesis 1:1**
2) Science discovers the order and design that Christianity attributes to God! **Psalm 19:1**
3) Christianity provides the philosophical foundation for scientific exploration! **Romans 1:20**
4) Science and Christianity address different kinds of questions!
5) Scripture actually encourages us to investigate creation! **Psalm 111:2, Proverbs 25:2, Job 12:7-10**

A few church sign possibilities…

A few cautions:

1) Recognize the difference between God's Word & our interpretation of it!
2) Don't assume that science has the final word!
3) Don't force the Bible to say something it doesn't say!
4) Be willing to live with unanswered questions!
5) Don't abandon Biblical authority to accommodate scientific theories!

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