



Science

Science vs Religion. The battle has raged for centuries, if not longer. The Mind vs the Heart, but is it right to separate the mind and the heart? Can we not believe in God and science? This wasn't always the case. The fathers of modern science had no problem with believing in God and science, in fact they saw the fact that that the universe is so well ordered and comprehensible that it could only come from the mind of an intelligent Creator. People like:- Sir Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, Robert Boyle, George Washington Carver, Michael Faraday, James Joule, Johannes Kepler, Carolus Linnaeus, James Clerk Maxwell, Blaise Pascal, William Thompson, Francis Collins, John Polkinghorne and John Houghton to name but a few. Science itself is founded on the belief that there is order in the universe, without it, science cannot exist. You hear people claim that science will solve everything, science can explain everything and yet, science cannot explain itself, science cannot tell us whether science is true, we have to base this on faith, faith that our senses are not deceiving us. Science is by its very nature, abstract, since the more we study one aspect of science we must ignore the others. Science cannot tell us how to do science, for that we need ethics. Science has been a tremendous help to us in our daily lives, in understanding the world around us, as well as the world that we can not see with our naked eyes (the microscopic and the telescopic). Science has provided great leaps in medicine and improving our health and way of life. Science has provided great leaps in how we can travel around the world and how we communicate. So I'm not saying that all science is bad, but.... Science for some people has become a new religion, a god. Scientist's have become the new priests and prophets as they attempt to heal us of all of our sickness as well as being able to explain everything and predict the future as well as explain the past (based on the belief of uniformitarianism). Computer models are created that recreate how things are going to pan out. But they didn't take into account God. Today we are living in even more fear as our knowledge increases, we have become slaves to the very technology that was made to set us free. People think that faith has become an outmoded concept, certainty is the byword and yet we live in increasingly more uncertain and unsettling times. We spend billions on trying to find life elsewhere in the universe and yet ignore the very life on our very doorstep. We try frantically to find planets suitable for sustaining life elsewhere in the universe and yet we cannot look after this one.

Of course like I said not all science is bad and we certainly are not going to get rid of it anyway. But what about it's sister, "Scientism". The belief that everything can be reduced to its component parts and explained away. This is not science, it is a philosophy, also known as "reductionism" or as someone once remarked "nothing buttery" because in explaining everything they say that it is "nothing but". For example, the universe is "nothing but", atoms. It's like saying that a car is nothing but a collection of nuts and bolts. You don't explain a car just by looking at a nut. Just tell your wife or your husband that they are nothing but atoms or nothing but a bag of chemicals and see how far you get. Understanding the makeup of something is important but it doesn't explain the whole. Remember the saying "the whole is the sum of its parts" but that doesn't explain everything we need to know about the whole. For example, a car may be just nuts, bolts and sheets of metal, etc. But this tells us nothing about how and why it was put together or why it works and who put it together.

Why do I go on these long walks? People ask me this question, but if I am just a machine, an animal, a bag of chemicals or a collection of atoms in a meaningless universe then this question is itself meaningless.

Science is not all bad. Scientists have found that the earth is so precisely situated in our Solar system that makes life possible (and tolerable) on our planet. If the Earth was situated fractionally closer or further away from the Sun then life (apart from maybe microscopic life, but even this has limits) and especially us would not be able to live on this planet. Scientists have also found that even the arrangement of planets and moons have special significance for our survival (e.g. Jupiter and our own Moon). Scientists have also found that even the structure and development of the universe (incl. initial conditions) had to be so fine-tuned to allow the universe and life to develop. The slightest change in the initial conditions would not have led to a universe (e.g. expansion rate), especially a habitable one. This is important to consider if you believe that the universe evolved from a big bang.

Prayer:- Heavenly Father, you are the Creator. Help us to put our trust in you and not in science alone. Help us to use our hearts as well as our minds for your greater glory. In the blessed name of Jesus. Amen.

By Philip Catherall.