

**“Our Brave New World”**  
**January 28, 2007 \* Psalm 8**

- b. Reflective
- c. Responsible
- d. Rational

I. *How is there tension today between faith and science?*

A. *People of faith who think science is the enemy:*

**The Amish, who avoid certain products of technology to avoid ‘contamination’ with the world. People who when sick won’t seek medical treatment because they want to “trust God” instead.**

B. *People of science who think faith is the enemy:*

**Militant atheists like Richard Dawkins who even openly speculates about removing the children of believers from their homes lest they be fed ‘manifold falsehoods’. And Sam Harris who argues that unless humanity shakes its fetish for God, religious violence will end civilization.**

**How should we as Christians think of science?**

II. *The Pursuit of Science Is Part Of God’s Call.*

A. *What is the “Creation Mandate”?*

**Genesis 1:28 – to “fill the earth and subdue it”, to ‘rule over’ creation.**

B. *What things were true about Adam and Eve when God first gave them life?*

**God did not put them in a house with running water and electricity. He gave them enough working knowledge so they could survive, but then left the rest up to them to search out and discover.**

C. *Why did God do it this way? Was he just being mean?*

**It’s an indication of how highly God thinks of us, proof that we are created in His image.**

1. *What does it mean to be created ‘in his image’?*

**It means we’re...**

- a. Relational

D. *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.” (Prov.25:2) Meaning what?*

**In a very real way, we are allowed to be co-creators with Him. God rested from all his creative labors, now he turns to us and says, “You take it from here. Be kings and queens over this creation. You’re that special in my eyes.”**

III. *True Science Is Not An Enemy To Faith But Its Ally.*

A. *When I am sick, if I turn to a doctor or to medicine, am I trusting God less?*

**Not at all. When I am hungry and turn to the refrigerator for food rather than asking God to fill my stomach, I’m not trusting Him any less. (I still thank Him for my food – even though it didn’t come from Him directly.)**

B. *What is James 5:14 teaching us to do when we’re ill?*

**Pray and anoint with oil. But oil in the New Testament was used as a medicine. So in all likelihood, James is saying, “Pray and take your medicines.”**

**Similarly, Paul instructed Timothy in regards to his frequent stomach aches to “take a little wine”, knowing of wine’s medicinal value (1 Tim.5:23.)**

C. *But doesn’t God get less glory this way?*

**Again, not at all. He made our bodies, he knows what breaks them down, and he knows what restores them. He placed in nature chemicals, plants, etc. whose properties would make us healthy. Science thus becomes a channel for God to bless our lives.**

D. *Why would belief in God inspire a person (like Galileo, Copernicus, Newton, etc.) to pursue science?*

**They knew that the God of the Bible created the universe with a design, and with structure, with order, and fixed laws. That being so, it motivated them to find what those fixed laws were, i.e. to pursue science. Belief in a ‘random’ universe ironically would discourage scientific pursuit because nothing would make sense in such a world.**

#### IV. *Why Does Faith Need Science?*

A. *Because science can be a **tool** in bringing God’s love to a hurting world.*

**A missionary who comes into a village with the resources to dig wells, provide medicine and bring Jesus gives astounding testimony to the love of God.**

B. *Science helps keep faith from slipping into **irrationalism**.*

a. *Does God ask us to unplug our brains to follow Him?*

**Never. We are to love Him with all our heart, soul, MIND, and strength. “Come let us reason together.” God asks us to think ‘scientifically’ about matters of faith. “Test everything” (1 Thess.5). The Bereans ‘examined the Scriptures’ to see if Paul’s message was true (Acts 17:11).**

#### V. *Why Does Science Need Faith?*

A. *Faith provides moral **boundaries** to govern the use and practice of science.*

**Science is simply the study of how things work in the physical world. It doesn’t concern matters of morality. So when Nazi scientists conducted brutal studies on Jewish prisoners, they were still doing “science”, even though it was immoral. The question of morality must be provided outside of science, from faith.**

B. *Because science alone can never **heal** all the hurts and **satisfy** all the longings of the human heart.*

1. *What are bad science and mad scientists trying to do to human nature today?*

**Science, especially bad science today, is always trying to diminish humanity, reduce us, strip us down to our barest, lowest animal-like nature, telling us we’re nothing more than nature. Bad science and mad scientists committed to naturalistic explanations of the world are doing their darndest to kill God off. Pull the rug out from under faith. But they can’t do it.**

2. *What must I do to truly be free?*

**You have to admit who you really are – that you’re more than an animal, or a random, accidental freak of nature – you’re a fallen king or queen, and your true destiny awaits, but you must first admit your rebellion, admit your foolishness, and lay your sword at the feet of Jesus Christ who died on a cross so that you can be forgiven and begin again. And if you do that, the spiritual side of you that has been so dark will be filled with light and love again. Science is your friend, but Jesus is your Lord. Fall down and worship Him who died to set you free.**