

# **The Bible and Science - How They go Together**

**By**

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At a major scientific research center<sup>1</sup> all the employees are engaged in one way or another in the development of electronics for the world-wide communications industry. The employees of the great paint manufacturers of the country are engaged in the development and manufacture of paints. There is therefore a chasm, so to speak, between the two industries. The business of one industry is electronics; the business of the other is paint. It is only a matter of God-given common sense that American industry has organized itself on the practical basis of the separation of electronics and paint.

Now of course it is true that the scientific research center has a paint department, and that the paint manufacturers of America have special electronics departments. But these are sub departments working toward a goal that is beyond themselves, subservient to the over-all goal of the respective industries which they serve.

If the paint department at the research center, for example, should suddenly begin an unnatural tumorous-like growth so that it began to take over the center, threatening to convert the research center into a paint industry, its growth would have to be curtailed by management. Similarly, if the electronics department of a paint industry began turning itself into a [scientific research facility], its inordinate growth would have to be stopped.

Separation of electronics and paint? Yes, we all believe in it both as a right doctrine, one in accord with our God-given reason, and as a practical necessity as well. But just as we can and must have separation and yet at the same time a proper orderly interrelationship, we must not carry the separation itself to an unnatural, un-Biblical distorting extreme. Think for example of what electronics would be like without any paint! Take every square inch of paint off the electronics industry today and it would be rusted to the ground tomorrow! On the other hand think of what the paint industry would be like if all its lines of communication were cut off by a sudden failure of all the electronic devices in the country. Its wheels of industry would quickly grind to a sickening halt!

Why then is the situation so different between the Bible and the textbooks of science?

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The name of this institution has been deleted from the paper

Certainly there is, and should be, a separation between the Bible and science, but is a “divorce” in the unnatural, rapturous sense we have just been talking about either right, necessary, or possible?

During the middle ages the Bible was hidden from human hearts partly because of the crudeness of the science of making books, but crude as it was, there would have been no Bible at all apart from it. With the invention of the printing press, science made the Bible easily available for all men.

On the other hand, millions of human beings of our generation were sent to their deaths in concentration camps because the Bible was separated from science. Those responsible for the twentieth century genocides, scientific geniuses though they were, had not taken the Christ of the Bible into their hearts. Hence we see that a violent, inordinate separation of the Bible and science would destroy both the Bible and science.

The Bible and science, then, like electronics and paint were intended by God to be separate, but not divorced.

Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2, of the Bible, therefore, must not be construed by Christians as being anything but what it is: the God-given religious department of our lives.

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”**

**“And God said: ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night . . . and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth: and it was so” (Genesis 1:4 & 15).**

This is a religious statement. It is true. As such there is a separation between this statement and the more detailed statements of science that the earth revolves around the sun and that the sun is one of many stars of a particular galaxy which in turn is one galaxy of many galaxies.

The Christian on the one hand, therefore, should not try to convert non-Christians to Christianity by claiming that Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2, is basically a scientifically oriented document and that its scientific accuracy is the main reason why the non-Christian should believe the Bible. If he does try he should realize that he is mistakenly enlarging God’s religious department to inordinate proportions. Rather, the Christian should present whatever of Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, is scientific as a component, or an aspect – a true component, a good component, a necessary component – of the Bible’s religious power and purpose. For the Christian to do otherwise would be like trying to persuade a prospective employee of the [research center] that [it] was a good place to work

by pointing out how well the buildings were painted, forgetting to mention that the [center's] place of leadership in the communications industry.

No, the religious power of the Bible as it is applied to human hearts by the Holy Spirit is no more to be ashamed of than the place of leadership the [research center] occupies in the communications world. Both speak for themselves. Both stand on their own two feet.

On the other hand if the scientist tries to tell the world solely on the basis of the laws of physics, or of mathematics or of economics, or of history, or of law, or of psychology, or of what have you; that science has disproved the Bible and, possibly, along with it the existence of the God of the Bible; the scientist too is now trying mistakenly to do in reverse what we have just said the student of the Bible should not try to do in the other direction. The scientist would now be doing what a paint manufacturer would be doing, so to speak, if he were trying to sell his paint to the public by pointing out the excellence of the electronics systems in his plant without talking about the virtues of his paint and letting his paint stand on its own two feet.

To repeat, the Bible scholar should not try to replace the textbook of some other science with the Bible; nor should the scientist in that other field try to replace the Bible with the textbook of his field – and this last especially in view of the fact that the Bible is inspired by God and was infallible and letter perfect in its original manuscripts and contains information that only God can give man.

Notwithstanding the truth of this right and proper separation of Genesis 1 and 2 and science, there should not be and there can not be a rapturous divorce. Though there is indeed a separation between the two fields there is nevertheless a vital, necessary, inextricable relationship between them, just as a human head though distinct and separate from its body is nevertheless vitally joined to it.

Now as we move on with this theme let us take along with us the consideration that what we have just said about a theologian who is a “scientist” of the Bible and a scientist of some other field is also true concerning scientists of any two fields. If a professor in the law school of a great university, for instance, should insist that a text he wrote on law, just because it was famous and superb, should replace a text on obstetrics in the medical school, only folly and the rapid decline of the great university would follow if his wish were granted. This does not mean that certain legally-oriented medical facts in the great professor's book would not be true, but it does mean that because the medical matters in his book were highly selective and chosen not because of their importance in the field of medicine but because of their importance in the field of law, his book on law would not be adequate as a medical text.

The textbooks of all the other fields are like this too. A textbook of one particular science contains certain true facts from all of the other sciences, but

these facts are always oriented in the particular manner that is proper for its particular field. There is no such thing as a “pure” field which does not have these “certain true facts” from all the other fields interlaced with it either directly or indirectly. If they are not strands woven into the very tapestry of the field itself then they are supporting cords fastened externally holding it up. A textbook on mathematics, for instance, involves indirectly the laws of the science of mechanics. Mechanics in turn designed the printing press which printed the book. Then there was the mathematician who wrote the book. When he was writing, his body was functioning according to the laws of life for the human body, or he couldn't have been writing and thinking. His thinking followed the laws of logic or his book wouldn't have been logical and hence of no use as a book on mathematics. And so on, and so on we could go till we had discovered that the ingredients of the science of mathematics were none other than all the other sciences themselves organized together according to a certain recipe established by God. Just as a nation is made up of cities and towns, and cities and towns are made up of houses and stores and offices and hotels and the like, and these in turn made up of rooms, and rooms of furniture and appointments and so on, so the various aspects in God's one creation go together.

Now all this patterned, ordered harmony is what we read in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2;

**“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth . . . And god said, [to the man] ‘Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of the tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life. I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.” (Gen. 1:14, 15, 29 & 30)**

In these words God has told us that it was He who by design and creation set all the various parts of this magnificent creation in a marvelous interdepending, interlaced order. The heavenly bodies were for the earth, the animals were for man, the herbs were for both man and the animals, the dry land was created with the power of nourishing the herbs, and so on and so on in its breath-taking majesty and purpose – the purpose of reflecting His own glorious Trinitarian Being.

In sum, God has told us that all the sciences go together just as the different members of a family or of a human physical body go together

supplementing and complimenting each other making possible mutually the growth and development of the whole family or body.

According to the Bible there is an interrelationship among the family of the sciences and there is no possibility that any one field or science thereof can rise up and say to any one of the others: "you can be replaced and I am going to do it!" (Imagine calling for one's lawyer when one becomes sick instead of his doctor!)

For this reason no field or science thereof or combination of fields or sciences thereof can rise up against the field or science thereof of religion and say: "I am going to replace you!"

To be sure, the question as to whether or not the religion of the Bible, the Christian faith, is the true religion must come up, but the very fact that only the Bible underwrites this very pattern of the fields and the sciences thereof of which we have been speaking which created pattern is based on the uncreated pattern of God's Being, the blessed Trinity, where no one of the Persons of the One God can rise up and say to either of the Others: "I have no need of you. You can be replaced and I am going to do it!" . . . this . . . is sufficient proof in itself that only the religion of the Bible is the true faith or religion!

We therefore conclude that both the Bible is true and science is true. The Bible and science are separate, but though separate are not divorced. Both need each other and neither can replace the other, but each must keep to its proper sphere. The relationships between the two spheres do not destroy the individuality or significance of the two spheres, but it is precisely that which is necessary to establish and guarantee both. Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, tell us that

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**

It is this same heavens and earth with which science must deal – God's heavens and God's earth. There are no other heavens and earth. Science dare not and can not, by any means or wisdom, ever controvert this.