

Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 6-6: Christianity (基督教) verses Science (科学)

From the Christian monotheistic (独一神的) heritage (传统), God is seen as the **law giver**. His creation should then be amenable (顺从) using rational (理智) inquiry (探索) to study cause (原因) and effect (结果) relationships (关系). The **personal God** (有位格的神) of Christianity makes **laws for nature** (自然律) reasonable. The Genesis (创世纪) account of creation shows God creating a **world that is good**, thus it is worthy of man's study. Its goal was to give glory to God. The Royal Society in England was largely begun by Puritans (清教徒).

We find that the Christian picture of God set an excellent framework in which to study nature and form the foundation for the present scientific method.

In addition, the church of the middle Ages was the patron of education, since literacy was needed for Bible reading and logic was needed to defend the Christian faith. Most of the founding fathers of science in Europe were devout Christians: **Sir Isaac Newton** (1642-1727) is a fascinating example of a preeminent (优越的) scientist who was also a devout believer. He developed theories of light and of universal gravitation and shares the honor of inventing the calculus with Leibniz. He once said: "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and finding a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me". Newton's science was closely related to his theology. He believed that the universe was another example of the effect of Christianity on science.

M. Faraday (1791-1867) An English chemist and physicist, discovered electromagnetism.

N. Copernicus (1473-1543) was an astronomer and clergyman in Poland. His research he regarded as "a loving duty to seek the truth in all things, insofar as God has granted".

J. Kepler (1571-1630) A most important scientist in the field of astronomy.

Blasé Pascal (1623-1662) A brilliant mathematician, became a devout Christian.

Robert Boyle (1627-1691) is called the father of modern chemistry. He had a deep theological commitment and was well known for his piety.

Nicolas Steno (1638-1686) was a professor of anatomy and later developed principles for describing sedimentary rocks that are still in use today. In his later life he turned from science to theology and was ordained a Catholic priest.

Lord Kelvin (1824-1907) Discovered the second law of thermodynamics, that the dissipation of energy is a universal feature, was directly related to his theology.

James Clerk Maxwell's (1831-1879) abstract equations of the electro-magnetic field made a deep seated and permanent faith commitment at age 22.

Gregory Mendel (1822-1884), an Austrian monk, did experiments on garden peas to study patterns of inheritance.

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) believed that Scientists had used religious ideas in developing their scientific models.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) may have arrived at his concept of the conservation of matter, from his belief in the conservation of souls. He believed that souls are immortal and cannot be destroyed; only transformed.

CONCLUSIONS:

The relation between science and religion were important for the early scientists. There are many present day scientists who are also believers The Christian faith has often been referred to as the soul of science and a fertile ground for scientific research. Although there has been tensions between Christianity and science, but it is often over exaggerated. Christianity had an important part in the development of science in Western Europe. They saw God's finger in Nature and used theological arguments with their science. Today, even in our secular world, we continue to find affirmations of faith among the scientific community.

2. Discussion:

1. Did you know that Sir I Newton was a devout Christian? He wrote more papers in Christianity than in science.
2. Did you know that Evolution is a theory which has not been proven scientifically?
3. Therefore there should be an alternative theory than evolution for people to choose from?