

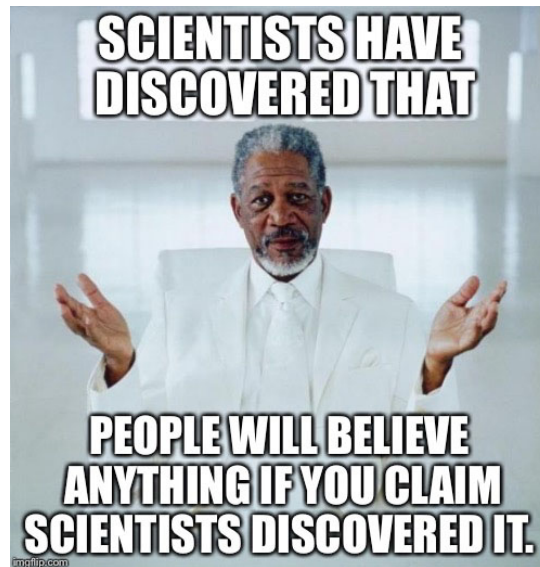


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Believe in the Science

- “If you believe in science, like I do, you believe that there are certain laws that are always obeyed. If you like, you can say the laws are the work of God, but that is more a definition of God than a proof of his existence.” - Stephen Hawking
- “I really believe in science. It is a faith. It is a reverence akin to religion. But as we always say, it's different from religion in that, as near as we can tell, it exists outside of us. It has an objective quality, the process of science.” –Bill Nye

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What is being “believed?”

- The Age of Reason - knowledge obtained by means of reason and the evidence of the senses.
- Logical Positivism - only statements verifiable through direct observation or logical proof are meaningful in terms of conveying truth value, information or factual content. Founded on the verification principle.
- Verifiability - only statements that are empirically verifiable (i.e. verifiable through the senses) are cognitively meaningful. Statements of theology are “meaningless” with respect to truth value (while providing influence on emotions and behavior)
- Philosophy of Science – The successor to Positivism. All scientific study inescapably builds on at least some essential assumptions about the character of the universe that are untested by scientific processes, rather than merely on empirical facts. These assumptions comprise a collection of beliefs, values and techniques that are held by a given scientific community, which legitimize their systems and set the limitations to their investigation.
 - Naturalism is the implicit philosophy for working scientists. Their paradigm is that nature is the only thing that is real. Their assumptions are part of the scientific method.

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What gave rise to this belief in our culture?

- **Progressivism (not party, but philosophy)** - the proposition that advancements in technology, science, and social organization have resulted, and by extension will continue to result, in an improved human condition.
 - Postmodernist challenges – both Utopia and Dystopia are impossible
 - Faith in the liberating power of knowledge is encrypted into modern life... The interaction of quickening scientific advance with unchanging human needs is a fate that we may perhaps temper, but cannot overcome... Those who hold to the possibility of progress need not fear. The illusion that through science humans can remake the world is an integral part of the modern condition. Renewing the eschatological hopes of the past, progress is an illusion with a future. – John Gray
- **New Atheists – The Four Horsemen/Evangelical Atheists**

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Why is this sensible, powerful, and profound?

- It draws upon our own senses, experiences, and observations
- We all have been impacted by science, often times positively
- It embraces both what we know and what we don't know and gives us a sense of value and even power. ("Knowledge is power")
- It allows everyone to participate.

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What can we learn? Any Common Ground?

- We all believe in something!
- We all wrestle with unknowns, meaning, purpose, and the like.
- The truth is important
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Where could these ideas lead?

Scientism

- the view that science is the best or only objective means by which society should determine normative values
- A religion of anti-religion
- Most often used negatively by both religious and irreligious
- philosophically inconsistent and even self-refuting, as the truth of the two statements "no statements are true unless they can be proven scientifically (or logically)" and "no statements are true unless they can be shown empirically to be true" cannot themselves be proven scientifically, logically, or empirically. (Keith Ward)
- Selective application stemming from starting with an outcome or position and redefining the observation

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What are the spiritual issues going on?

- The denial of the supernatural = a denial of God.
- Human reason, and hence, “science” can be wrong. (What is observed can have different interpretations, and not all interpretations are true.)
- Pride and self-idolatry
- Idolatry through all ages – worshiping the created vs. the creator
- What does it actually mean to have faith (to believe)?
- Master the science and we master the world!
- It’s not just faith, but the object of our faith.

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What do the Scriptures say?

- The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
- Hebrews 11:1
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 14-16
- Acts 17:16-21

- Collaboration of Scripture with Science and the role of faith - Do I believe in God because of the Word, or do I believe the Word because it comes from God?

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Questions

- Read Ephesians 5:21-27; for Paul, what is the mission of marriage?

We confess together in the apostle's creed, "I believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting."

How does this part of our confession offer hope with someone deeply struggling with who they are?

What are some of biggest challenges you feel talking to someone about sexual identity; or any identity issue at all?

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Recommended Resources

- Openness Unhindered by Rosaria Butterfield
- The Meaning of Marriage by Tim Keller
- Holy Sexuality by Christopher Yuan
- Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self by Carl Trueman

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