

Three Reasons People Don't Believe

The Illusion of Scientism (John 20:24-29)

1. Distinction between science and scientism
 - a. Definition of science- The systematic study and theoretical explanation of the material world through established procedures for the purpose of understanding, application, and control.
 - b. Definition of scientism- The philosophical belief that the hard sciences—like chemistry, biology, physics, and astronomy— provide the only genuine knowledge of reality.
2. The promises of scientism
 - a. Meaning without God: You can find your own purpose for existence. You can create your own identity, truth, and reason for living.
 - b. Immortality without heaven: technology is trying to overcome philosophy, which is contemplation about life in the face of death.
 - c. Progress without limit: This is an evolutionary view of the world that says things can only get better, and science is the way that happens.
3. The failure of scientism
 - a. The limits of science
 - i. Science can only address the material world.
 - ii. All scientific data must be interpreted.
 - iii. Science must regularly revise and rescind its pronouncements.
 - iv. Science is not a neutral endeavor, but always done by finite, flawed, and biased people.
 - v. Science must be funded and so is influenced by money.
 - vi. Scientists disagree all the time about all kinds of things
 - vii. The catastrophic failure of engineered products previously approved by scientists
 - b. The failed promises of progress: 100 million dead in “the modern century,” all in the name of progress by the most advanced nations

The Indulgence of Sex (2 Peter 2:17-22)

1. Rebellion against God's limits
 - a. The heart of the moral revolution in the 1960's and today is a refusal to let God limit sexual expression.

- b. Sometimes the person raising intellectual objections to Christianity is really just covering for his objection to God's limits of sex.
- 2. Rejection of God's image as male and female
 - a. Denial of a fixed human nature.
 - b. Denial of difference between the sexes
 - c. Sexual orientation is identity. Biology no longer matters.
 - d. Any limits on sexual expression is oppression designed to render the individual inauthentic.
- 3. Abolition of the family
 - a. The sexual revolution ultimately has one great goal: the abolition of the family.
 - b. The means by which this demolition can happen is technology.
 - c. The separation of sex from procreation was followed by the separation of procreation from the family, and now concluded with the separation of reproduction from sex.

The Idolatry of the Self (Jer. 6:16-19)

- 1. The intolerance of authority and accountability: In the postmodern world, all authorities have been deconstructed and shown to be flawed. Therefore, everyone must be an authority unto themselves.
- 2. The interiority of experience.
- 3. The acceptance of anything but God (Matt. 27:15-23)

The Solution of the Gospel

- 1. Access to ultimate truth that scientism seeks.
- 2. Freedom from the tyranny of desire that sexual immorality brings.
- 3. Escape from the enslavement to self that individualism produces.

Next Steps:

- 1) Meet someone new and get to know their name and ask about their story (low pressure goal)
- 2) Talk to someone and ask what they believe about God and why they believe it (medium pressure goal)