

The Skepticism of Science

Transcript:

Hello, this is Pastor Don Willeman of Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to the Kingdom Perspective.

Science is God's gift to humanity. It is a particular form of knowledge that is intuitive to us as those made in the image of God. That's why, historically, modern science blossomed in a context suffused with a Christian imagination—a context where it was acknowledged that we live in an orderly universe created by an orderly God, that empowered rational creatures, human beings, to explore and care for that world.

This is why the true scientist is always curious. Science is always a learner. The Bible commands us to ponder and be curious about God and all that He has made.

Science is never content with the facts at hand. It wants to know more. Moreover, it doesn't accept facts as conclusions. Rather, it wants to see all the data, all the angles. It asks questions of any conclusion, trying to see if there's another way to see it.

Thus, the history of science is one of revolution—the overturning of former conclusions in the face of newer conclusions that take into account a bigger picture, more data points. And so, for example, we speak of the Copernican Revolution, overturning the longstanding Ancient Greco-Roman understanding of the solar system (the Ptolemaic model).

Thus, a posture of science that is too dogmatic, too entrenched in the given assumptions of the “scientific establishment”, is not the posture of true science. It ceases to be a learner; it ceases to be curious.

And so, science is skeptical not only of the skepticism of the “science deniers”, but also it is reasonably skeptical of the received scientific wisdom itself.

Something to think about from The Kingdom Perspective.

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Dress for action like a man;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.
“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,
when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

~ Job 38:1-7 (ESV)