

Knowing the Truth

Understanding Skepticism

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Review video clip on Science

1964 talk by Richard Feynman at Cornell U.

- Put on your listening ears and pick out the principles he is explaining about science.



Key principles about science

Richard Feynman's view

- Process—Make guess defining model, Compute predictions, Compare to experiment (experience)—->refine model and repeat
- If predictions don't match experiment (nature) then model wrong.
- We can't prove a model right, only prove that it is wrong. Conclude that compatible experiments show a probability that guess is true.
- Model cannot be vague or else it is non-scientific (vague model is one where any experimental result is acceptable, i.e., can be explained within model).
- Process is on-going, never complete but exciting exploration.
- Think about problems in new ways, new viewpoints, seeking simplicity in discovered complexity.

Laws of Logic

Illustrated by God's attributes—Is 1:18

- 3 absolute laws of logic that reflect God's attributes
 - Universal—God is sovereign creator of all (Gen 1:1, Is 43:13, Ps 115:3)
 - Invariant—upheld by God (Heb 1:3)
 - Conceptual—non-material that reflect God's thinking (Jn 4:24)
- Law of non-contradiction—that A and not-A not true simultaneously (Col 2:3, Jn 14:6, 2 Tim 2:13)
- Law of excluded middle—A combined with not-A is everything (Gen 2:16-17, Ex 16:4, Mt 7:13-14, 1 Tim 2:5)
- Law of identity—A proposition is true to itself (Ex 3:14, Deut 6:4)

Preconditions of Intelligibility

Required to do science and live life

- Absolute morality—truthful reports and respect of others
 - Uniformity of natural law
 - Invariability of logic
 - Reliability of senses
 - Compatible operation of our minds
 - Reliability of memory
 - Personal dignity and responsible choices
 - Usefulness of language and mathematics
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- **Biblical truth is the only rational basis for PCI, or as our resident philosopher-mechanic Carl says, “Read the Manual!”**

Outline going forward

What does God's Word (the Bible) say?

- Skeptics, old and new, are acting irrationally
 - Examine interaction of Pilate & Jesus
- Rationality is embedded in God and man that He made in His image
 - God's qualities as seen in Genesis 1-2
- Christian faith is reasonable
 - Biblical faith is not blind faith
- Worldly faith is foolishness

- Skeptics, old and new, are acting irrationally
- **New skeptic—Richard Feynman**
- Supports evolutionary materialism but implicitly uses PCI even though they are not supported by his faith in materialism
- **Old skeptic—Pilate**
- Jn 18:33 P: “Are you the King of the Jews?”
- Jn 18:35 P: “What have you done?”
- Jn 18:36 J: “My kingdom is not of this world...[else] my servants would be fighting...”
- Jn 18:37 P: “So you are a king?”
- Jn 18:37 J: “You say correctly that I am a king...for this reason I have come into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.”
- Jn 18:38 P: “What is truth?”

Rationality is embedded in God

Flows over into man made in His image—Gen 1-3

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created...(Heb 11:3)
 - Time, space and matter came into existence in the beginning, not being made from anything that existed before
- Gen 1:1-2:3 God then creates things in orderly, rational sequence by his divine power
 - God imposed natural law on creation in gradual sequence, creating uniform universe by day 6, setting aside day 7 to commemorate this completion. Day 4 is explicit in this transfer of function to natural objects. (see also Gen 9:12-13)
 - Word “day” used in various ways in this passage, but the numbered days are clearly 24 hour days.
- Gen 2:4-25 God adds information relative to nature of the pre-curse world and to the creation of man and woman in this world.

Christian Faith is Reasonable

Christian faith is not blind

- Biblical faith is rational confidence in something not observed by senses, but is consistent with it. (Heb 11:1)
- Biblical faith is logical, based on the revealed attributes of God
 - God is not a man and never lies (Num 23:19, Titus 1:2)
 - God knows everything (Jn 16:30, Col 2:3, Is 46:9-10)
 - Reflects how God thinks and how he made us to think. (Gen 1:27)
- Biblical faith requires humility not blind acceptance. (Mt 18:3-4)
- Biblical faith doesn't depend on our subjective emotions
 - God does require love with heart, soul and strength (Deut 6:5)
- Biblical faith exults in the wisdom of God relative to worldly wisdom. (1 Cor 1:20-29, Prov 2:6, Ps 14:1)

Worldly Faith is Foolishness to God

All are accountable to God for Biblical faith

- Worldly faith is inconsistent and arbitrary, and therefore irrational and anti-science. (1 Cor 1:20-29)
- Evolution in particular is secular myth to justify hatred of Biblical God (Mt 6:24)
 - God has implanted knowledge of his divine power in every man and woman, and reinforces that knowledge by the experience of living in His created world. (Rom 1:18-20)
 - Man does not seek God, does not give thanks to God, but our foolish hearts are darkened to believe a lie. (Rom 1:21)
 - Man does not want to submit to the reign of Christ (Ps 2, Phil 2:10)
- Only Biblical faith provides a reasonable basis for the preconditions of intelligibility required for life and science. (Jn 8:31-32, Rom 11:33-35)
- All who would be saved from the wrath to come must:
 - Recognize that one's attempts at righteous works are fruitless (Titus 3:5-6, Mt 7:26-27)
 - Call out to God in repentance and beg for mercy based on Christ's work on our behalf (Luke 18:10)

References

Important supporting documents

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- Phillip W. Dennis, *Consistent Your Earth Relativistic Cosmology*, The Proceedings of the International Conference on Creationism, Vol8, 2018, pp14-35.
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- James Nickel, Why does Mathematics 'Work'?, EN Tech J., vol4, 1990, pp147-157
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