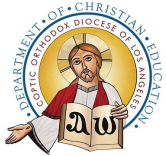


# Introduction to Apologetics

Department of Christian Education



# Introduction

- **What is the study of apologetics?**  
**How is it defined?**
- What was the original purpose of apologetics?
  - To defend the faith...increasing knowledge of faith with the mind
  - History of the councils in the early Church
- What is the point for us today?
  - To defend and understand/grow in our own faith
- What is the main barrier to understanding faith for us today?
  - Some may claim science
  - Ego/pride-reliance on our own knowledge instead of our faith in God
- How do we understand how faith and science complement each other?

# Science and Faith

Are they mutually exclusive? (I)

**NO. They are not mutually exclusive**

- **Where does faith come from?**
  - Belief based on eye witnesses
    - Resurrection
    - Miracles of Moses, Christ
    - Preached to others
- **Where does science come from?**
  - Empirical data
    - Studies that generate theories
    - Theories generate experiments
    - Experiments generate conclusions

# Science and Faith

## Are they mutually exclusive? (II)

***NO. They are not mutually exclusive***

**Do they intersect? YES! How?**

- When science makes a metaphysical conclusion, it crosses its boundaries, entering into the boundary of Philosophy - a faith arena.
- Then Faith has to answer, philosophically or scientifically.
  - A Philosophical answer may suit those who are in the faith already.
  - A Scientific Answer is needed for those in the empirical community

# Science and Faith

## Is there Reason in Faith?

- Genesis (firmament)
- God gave us reason and a rational mind to give context many things we believe.
- The source of the mind is that God has a mind Himself and imparts that on us because we are the only creation in His likeness and image.

# Science and Faith

## Is there Reason in Science? (I)

- Faith reacts when science makes a metaphysical claim and that claim is the absence of God.
- Hence, we are mandated to give an answer to that claim.
- We give an answer from within science itself (in a scientific approach).

# Science and Faith

## Is there Reason in Science? (II)

- **Scientific Method**
  - 1-Observation
  - 2-Hypothesis
  - 3-Experimentation
  - 4-Conclusion
  
- **The Challenge has to be specific**
  - By offering other plausible data
  - By offering equally plausible conclusions from the data (and/or)
  - By showing that the conclusions are at a large gap from the data
  - All three together

# Taking a Scientific Approach

Claimed today in scientific circles: God does not exist

- Evolution Theory: claims explaining THE ORIGIN OF LIFE
- Cosmology: claims the Big Bang is the Beginning of the Universe (by itself)

Based on these theories there is NO INTELLIGENT CREATOR. So we ask...

## **How did life and the universe start?**

- Evolution cannot prove the origin of life
- Cosmology cannot prove the universe started by itself because...

## **What observations/experiments could possibly have been done to reach the conclusions of the big bang and evolution?**

Because neither study can give us the origins of the universe and life there leaves room for another answer...

**AN INTELLIGENT CREATOR: GOD**



# Application and Conclusion

Science itself has limitations:

- It is coordinated/organized by human minds, which are limited.
- Thorough research has a limitations section
  - Often longer than the conclusions themselves.

**God came before science - science is merely catching up to God.**

**God also allowed the art of science and the scientific mind to help us reach Him.**

- The more we understand the human body the more we're fascinated by His creation.
- Good science leads to more questions than answers.
  - Those better questions can only be answered by faith.
    - Thus, this leads us to discovering God's wonders.