

BIBLICAL INTEGRATION OF CURRICULUM

Interpreting the Biblical Perspectives of Science

Biblical Principles Related to Science

God is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Romans 1:20).

God preserves and controls His creation so that it continues to function as He planned (Genesis 1; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 9:5-7; Amos 4:6-10).

God uses the creation to reveal His existence and character (Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:3-4).

Because of the fall and human sin, the creation has been subjected to decay and frustration by God (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12; 8:20-22).

The purpose of the creation is to bring praise and glory to God (Psalm 103:20-22; 107:15, 21, 31; 111:2, 4; 150:6).

The natural world is in a constant state of change (Job 14:7-9, 19; Isaiah 24:4; 51:6; Matthew 6:19; Hebrews 1:10-12).

People have been charged by God to explore, develop, and subdue the earth for their provision and the development of culture and for God's glory (Genesis 1:28).

Human understanding of creation is limited, and this limited understanding is impaired by sin (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Job 5:7; Romans 1:18-32; 11:33, 34; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Peter 3:4-7).

True facts of science do not conflict with the Bible. God's written and natural revelation are parts of the unity of all truth in Him (Psalm 19; Job 12:7-10; Romans 1:19-20; Matthew 6:26-34; 1 Corinthians 14:33).

The creation is orderly, purposeful, and intelligible, thus promoting scientific inquiry and development (Psalm 119:90-91; 148:1-6; Ecclesiastes 1:4, 5-7; 3:11; Isaiah 45:18; Colossians 1:17).

The created order will one day be made new through the redemptive work of Christ (Romans 8:18-25; 2 Peter 3:10-13).

God is separate from or transcendent over His creation (2 Chronicles 6:18).

People must look beyond science (to God and His Word) in order to understand the real meaning of life (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

God has established laws beyond which nature may not pass, thus limiting the extent of scientific development (Genesis 1:21, 22, 24, 25; 8:22; Jeremiah 5:22).

Although the cosmos functions in predictable ways, God at times intervenes in an unpredictable fashion (Exodus 14:21, 22; Matthew 8:23-27).

The Bible is not a science textbook although it contains some scientific statements (Jeremiah 33:22; Ecclesiastes 1:6).

Reflections of God in Science

God's wisdom is displayed in the marvelously contrived design of the universe and its parts.

God's omnipotence is manifested in the sheer vastness of the cosmos.

As lawgiver, God demonstrates His sovereignty through His ordinances that govern the creation.

God's benevolence is attested to by His abundant provision for the needs of His creatures and in His constant sustaining of the cosmos.

Basic Values and Norms Related to Science

A Biblical perspective of the sciences focuses on the following values:

- Creativity
- Diligence
- Initiative
- Orderliness
- Punctuality
- Resourcefulness
- Responsibility
- Conservation
- Thoroughness
- Endurance
- Accuracy
- Gratitude
- Physical well-being
- Wonder and awe
- Humility

A Biblical perspective of science decries:

- Exploitation
- Wastefulness
- Pragmatism

Teaching Distinctives of a Christian Perspective of Science

The Christian teaching of science finds support for scientific endeavor in the cultural mandate (Genesis 1:28).

The Christian teaching of science emphasizes the role of presuppositions related to the use and interpretation of the scientific method; i.e., science is not a neutral activity.

The Christian teaching of science uses both biblical and scientific knowledge to evaluate the creationist and evolutionist perspectives of origins. Ultimately, Christian scientists interpret their framework for life's origin on faith.

The Christian teaching of science is careful to respect scientific laws, theories, and conclusions, but does not recognize them as absolute truth. They are viewed as compelling but incomplete explanations for the phenomena of life and the cosmos.

The Christian teaching of science, while acknowledging the role of the scientific method, affirms the use of mathematical analysis, deductive and inductive logical reasoning, creative hunches, intuition, and accidental discoveries as valid means for understanding the world about us.

The Christian teaching of science may incorporate topics from the history of science to dispel the mystique of the "scientific method" as the one and only process for knowing scientifically.

The Christian teaching of science strives to show the practical as well as the moral, environmental, and social impacts of scientific research.

The Christian teaching of science is committed to honesty in both the recording and the interpretation of data.

The Christian teaching of science acknowledges that the orderliness, purposefulness, and intelligibility of the cosmos promote and make possible the development of scientific inquiry.

The Christian teaching of science acknowledges that there are established laws that nature cannot violate and that limit the extent of scientific development.

The Christian teaching of science acknowledges that the cosmos, created by God, is an open system in which God is free to intervene in the "normal" course of events. The Creator is not bound by His creation, but is faithful to His promises concerning it.

The Christian teaching of science acknowledges that science is limited in its scope. It is unable to answer philosophical questions related to issues such as the origin, nature, purpose, and destiny of people and the cosmos, the problem of evil, and the existence of God.

Attitudes and Skills to Be Manifested in Students from a Study of Science

Through a study of science, students will identify and experience God's unique calling for people to develop science and technology as cultural activities that honor God and His creation.

Through a study of science, students will learn to practice the essential characteristics of scientific investigation including precision, meticulousness, persistence, etc., both in their scientific work and in their personal lives.

Through a study of science, students will grow in their understanding of Scripture.

Through a study of science, students will become well grounded in true science and develop their defenses against various distortions in the area of scientific study.

Through a study of science, students will enhance their opportunities for service and personal testimony in the community and demonstrate that Christian faith and scientific achievement are not mutually exclusive.

Through a study of science, students will reinforce their faith in the reality of an omnipotent Creator. They will learn to revere Him and strive to emulate His character through obedient service to others.

Points of Conflict with Secular Approaches to the Teaching of Science

The Christian teaching of science acknowledges the limitations of science and rejects "scientism" or the worship of science as the instrument for accomplishing the humanist's millennium.

The Christian teaching of science rejects the phenomena of blind chance as the ordering principle in nature.

The Christian teaching of science rejects the belief that facts have no meaning until people give them an interpretation. Christian scientists acknowledge that God already knows every fact in the universe.

The Christian teaching of science refutes the materialistic theories of evolutionism as their explanation for the origin of life.

The Christian teaching of science rejects the theory of uniformitarianism that explains the various earth and cosmos forms in terms of uniform processes that have always existed. While acknowledging a measure of truth in this theory, the Christian teaching of science upholds the fact of God's supernatural intervention in history (2 Peter 3:3-4).

The Christian teaching of science, while deeply concerned about the environment and people's responsibility to it, opposes the pantheistic and materialistic overtones of environmentalism.

Teaching Strategies That Can Help Communicate the Biblical Worldview in Science

Study the history of science in relation to the religious thought of the age.

Study the biographies of Christian scientists/explorers such as:

Roger Bacon

Copernicus

Columbus

Johannes Kepler

Galileo

Isaac Newton

Robert Boyle

William Carey

Discuss the limitations of science.

Discuss optional views related to the origin of life.

Discuss the orderliness of nature in contrast to the random theories of evolution.

Assign research papers related to animals and plants of the Bible.

Discuss the origins of natural disaster, illness, poverty, etc.

Discuss the process of science and its discoveries in relation to their effect in fulfilling the cultural mandate.

Identify some of the basic presuppositions underlying the various approaches to science.

Contrast modern theories of the origin of the universe with the biblical account of creation.

Discuss various ethical implications of modern scientific discoveries.

Identify the attributes of God and laws of nature that make scientific investigation possible.

Discuss the implications of God's transcendence with reference to scientific progress and development.

Bibliography

Perspectives have been compiled from the following resources, each of which contributes much to the concept of the Biblical integration of school subjects.

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