

TOPIC 2.2**SCIENCE AND RELIGION ARE IN
CONFLICT. FACT OR FICTION?****Conversation Points**

- ★ There are aliens living on other planets. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**
- ★ eBooks are better than hardcopy books. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**
- ★ Schools should no longer use exams to measure student's learning. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**

Reflection

J. Warner Wallace was a third generation cop. Although he graduated from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Explorer Academy in 1978, he actually went on to study graphic design at California State University earning a bachelor's degree, the a master's degree in architecture from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1979 he married his sweetheart, Suzie. (They would go on to have four children.) But then in 1988 he left his career in design and returned to pursuing a career as a policeman. J. Warner (Jim) served with Torrance Police Department on assignments with the SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) team, Gang Detail, and the Robbery Homicide squad. But the wear and tear on his body from being in the SWAT team took a toll on Jim and he then became one of the founding members of the Torrance Police Department's *Cold-Case Homicide Unit*.

It seemed that J. Warner Wallace was unusually wired to solve murder mysteries - particularly, cold-case murders (previously unsolved murder cases that happened years ago). His ability to investigate and prosecute the murderers of these cold-cases soon earned him national acclaim in the United States where he was profiled on TV crime shows such as *Dateline* (NBC) and Fox 11 *truTV*

(formerly called *Court TV*). In his twenty-year career as a cold-case homicide detective, remarkably everyone he charged with a murder, *was* found guilty and sentenced for murder. In 2015 he was recognised by the *California Peace Officer Association* with an award for the best solved cold case.

Despite coming from a family background that was associated with Mormonism, Jim was an atheist. This concerned Suzie, not because she necessarily wanted her young family to become religious, but because she was concerned that their children needed a strong moral influence in their lives *apart* from their parents. She suggested to Jim that she should enrol their kids in a church's Sunday School. Jim was aghast at the thought of this. And Suzie suggested that they try Saddleback Community Church. The first Sunday that he went with Suzie to this church and he was taken back by the intellectual depth of the pastor as he preached about Jesus *being the most intelligent man who ever walked the planet*. This provoked Jim to apply his investigative training and skills to investigate Christ and Christianity. What he discovered changed his life.



In 1996 J.Warner Wallace came to Christ when he was 35. His experience as a detective enabled him to take a natural interest in the evidence for the claims of Christianity which is often identified as *apologetics*. He would go on to earn a Master's degree in theological studies and eventually write five books about the evidence for Christianity after starting a weekly blog and podcast called *Cold Case Christianity*.

The Role of Investigating Truth Claims

J.Warner Wallace states in every cold-case murder conviction he secured, he was never able to answer *every* question about the murder. At times this even included having a “no body” murder case! He states, “In every case I prosecuted and got a conviction, all I had was ‘circumstantial evidence’. That is, he had *enough* evidence - *and no evidence to the contrary* - that his suspect was guilty.

Someone may have heard some good evidence for the truthfulness of God, yet still have unanswered questions. **What do you think are the minimum questions that need to be answered in order to believe in God?**

“You never know the impact that a particular piece of evidence will have on those who are considering your case. Sometimes the things that don’t matter much to you personally are the very things that matter the most to someone else.”

J. WARNER WALLACE
Cold Case Christianity, p. 130

The Surprising Concordance Between Science and The Bible

Much of the criticism about the Bible being out-of-step with the latest scientific discoveries is due almost entirely to how some people have interpreted what the Bible says. For example, despite claims to the contrary, the Bible does *not* say how old the earth or universe is. Science tells us that the universe had a beginning (“Big Bang cosmology”) this concords (*agrees*) with the opening verse of the Bible (Gen. 1:1). Science tells us that this universe is an “inflationary Big Bang universe” (which means it is expanding/inflating at the speed of light). The Bible also states that when God created He “stretched out the heavens” (Isa. 44:24; 45:12; Jer. 10:12; Zech. 12:1). And, perhaps surprisingly, science currently has no clue about how “life” was, or is, created! And perhaps not surprisingly, the Bible describes *life* being the result of a God “breathed” spiritual impetus (Gen. 1:30; 2:7; Job 33:4).

From the Bible

1. God has decreed certain “laws” to govern the physical universe. One such physical law is referred to Romans 8:21. Which law?
 - (a) The law of entropy (“The Second Law of Thermodynamics”).
 - (b) The law of gravity.
 - (c) The law of the speed of light.

 2. How might Hebrews 1:3 alleviate some very unscientific doomsday predictions about the future of our planet?
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3. What scientific claim does the Bible make about the origin of mankind that is contrary to some scientific theories? (Gen. 1:27-28)

4. Which scientific claim does Colossians 3:10 assert and how is this assertion relevant to living as a Christian?

5. Based on Matthew 19:4, if God is the Creator of all people (Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16), how does this inform how we understand human sexuality?

“When one starts to treat Darwinism as a hypothesis about the biochemical level of life rather than as an assumption, it takes about ten minutes to conclude it’s radically inadequate. It takes perhaps another ten minutes to realize that the molecular foundation of life was designed...to fulfill some purpose.”

PROF. MICHAEL BEHE, BIOCHEMIST, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Darwin Devolves, p.8-9

Additional References

Behe, Michael J. 2019. *Darwin Devolves. The New Science About DNA That Challenges Evolution*. New York, NY: HarperOne.

Wallace, J. Warner. 2011. *Cold-Case Christianity. A homicide detective investigates the claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook.