

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?**

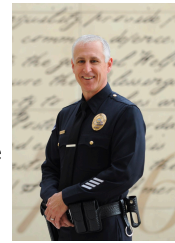
Reflection

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, then 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?**

71. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 4:17:43 pm
interpreted
72. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 4:32:29 pm
Gen. 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
73. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 4:51:52 pm
Is. 44:24 ¶ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,
74. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 4:56:38 pm
Is. 45:12 I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.
75. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 4:57:43 pm
Jer. 10:12 ¶ It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.
76. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 5:00:39 pm
Zech. 12:1 ¶ The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him:
77. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 8:40:50 pm
Gen. 1:30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
78. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 8:41:27 pm
Gen. 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
79. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 8:42:56 pm
Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
80. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 9:03:11 pm
Rom. 8:21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption (NET "bondage of decay") and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of 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 concurs (*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

- God has decreed certain "laws" to govern the physical universe. One such physical law is referred to **Romans 8:21**. Which law?
 - The law of entropy ("The Second Law of Thermodynamics").
 - The law of gravity.
 - The law of the speed of light.
- How might **Hebrews 1:3** alleviate some very unscientific doomsday predictions about the future of our planet?

83

81. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 March 2023 at 9:08:22 pm

This one

82. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 March 2023 at 9:21:58 pm

Heb. 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

83. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 March 2023 at 9:22:45 pm

It is Christ who sustains the world
- despite the alarmist claims that humans could destroy this planet
- God has an ultimate plan that no person can thwart. This does not mean that we should be irresponsible about our stewardship of the planet's resources.

84. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 9:41:14 pm
Gen. 1:27 ¶ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
Gen. 1:28 ¶ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

85. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
16 March 2023 at 9:42:05 pm
All of mankind originated from one man and one woman by the direct creation of God. This does not agree with the Darwinian theory of evolution.

86. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:01:38 pm
Col. 3:10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

87. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:02:22 pm
Col. 3:10 asserts that God is the Creator and that as we follow Christ in that knowledge we become conformed to the image of Christ as the goal of Christianity.

88. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:08:20 pm
Matt. 19:4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

89. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:07:57 pm
Eph. 3:9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

90. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:08:46 pm
Col. 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

91. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 March 2023 at 12:08:59 pm
Since God created people as either male or female, the notion of a person being opposite to their biological sex and “trapped in the wrong gendered body” does not agree with what their Creator says about them.

FACT OR FICTION

Section 2: God Exists. Fact or fiction?

3. What scientific claim does the Bible make about the origin of mankind that is contrary to some scientific theories? (Gen. 1:27-28)

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

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88 ... 90 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?

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“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.