

INTRO

- What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
- Did you ever feel like it conflicted with your other beliefs in life?

READ

Psalms 19:1 & Romans 1:20

REFLECT

There is a popular belief that science and faith are incompatible. That is, that you must believe either what sciences discovers or what religion tells you.

Qu: Have you ever felt like you had to choose between science and faith? What was the reason for it?

This apparent conflict appears in different ways and it is helpful to debunk some of these common misconceptions.

1. The historical struggle

Most historians agree that the examples often brought up to defend a religion-science conflict narrative are neither accurate nor representative of history. In fact, there was a great contribution of religious thinkers and ideas to the development of modern science.

Qu: Have you ever thought that faith could strengthen science? In what ways?

2. The creation-evolution debate

There is a current polemic between some religious and scientific groups over whether God created the world and all there is in it or it was evolution that caused all species to exist. But

perhaps one doesn't have to choose between them.

To the Christian, there are many ways to faithfully interpret the Creation story. Many great believers throughout history have held different views of *how* God created the world.

Qu: What is your take on the Creation story? Are there any non-negotiables when it comes to how we understand Genesis 1?

3. The false harmony

Some people try to harmonize faith and science saying that they don't overlap. That is, science is about facts (how things *are*) and faith about values (how things *should be*). However, this attempt at reconciliation can cause more harm than good.

Qu: Are there any facts upon which the Christian faith depends? What are some of them?

4. Science that strengthens faith

Finally, since ancient times Creation has been speaking to us about God. Let's make sure we have our eyes and ears open to it.

Qu: Has your faith ever been strengthened by looking at God's creation? How?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying for one another and those you know who struggle with reconciling their faith with how we understand Creation.