

RPC Christian Education Series: Christ and Culture
Week 9: Topics from the Cultural Landscape—Science week 2

What truths do you see in **Colossians 1:15** about Christ and His creation?

Ian Barbour - Religion and Science, Historical and Contemporary Issues

1. **Conflict:** either science OR religion is true and the other is necessarily false

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| <p>Richard Dawkins, Ph.D., English ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and writer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Religious fanatics want people to switch off their own minds, ignore the evidence, and blindly follow a holy book based upon private 'revelation'.”• “Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.”• “I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world.” | <p>Ken Ham, Young Earth creationist, president of Answers in Genesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Evolutionary Darwinists need to understand we are taking the dinosaurs back. This is a battle cry to recognize the science in the revealed truth of God.”• “We need to attack the false foundation of autonomous human reasoning that leads to evolution and millions of years, and proclaim that God's revealed Word is authoritative and its history of the world is foundational to Christian morality and the gospel of Jesus Christ.” |
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2. **Independence:** science and religion can both be true as long as they are kept to their separate domains
3. **Dialogue:** This approach assumes that there are issues and areas where scientists and persons of faith can enter into dialogue with one another

4. **Integration:** This position goes a step beyond “dialogue” by maintaining that science and religion can make contributions to one another's on-going understanding.

[OBJ]

Tim Keller - Creation, Evolution, and Christian Laypeople

Question #1: If God used evolution to create, then we can't take Genesis 1 literally, and if we can't do that, why take any other part of the Bible literally?

Answer: The way to respect the authority of the Biblical writers is to take them as they want to be taken. Sometimes they want to be taken literally, sometimes they don't. We must listen to them, not impose our thinking and agenda on them.

Question#2: If biological evolution is true—does that mean that we are just animals driven by our genes, and everything about us can be explained by natural selection?

Answer: No. Belief in evolution as a biological process is not the same as belief in evolution as a world- view.

Question #3: If biological evolution is true and there was no historical Adam and Eve how can we know where sin and suffering came from?

Answer: Belief in evolution can be compatible with a belief in an historical fall and a literal Adam and Eve. There are many unanswered questions around this issue and so Christians who believe God used evolution must be open to one another's views.