

Relationships between Science and Theology; (I.U.F. Pamphlet + personal notes)

1. Multiple Approaches to Reality.

- 1.1 Scientific method. Man as observer (though not fully for he is also participant) emphasis on detachment and impersonal approach. Method: experience, hypothesis, deduction and verification by experimentation - direct observation or inference.
- 1.2 Religious method. Man as participant (though not fully for he is also observer) emphasis on personal commitment.
- 1.3 Faith plays a role in both. It is not science vs. faith, but faith in the scientific method and its deductions and faith in the religious method and its deductions.
- 1.4 These two are complimentary:
 - 1.41 There is the danger of presupposing that scientific or religious thinking is the only valid kind of thinking.
 - 1.42 There is a danger of mixing the methods and trying to introduce impersonalism into the religious method.

2. Relationship between approaches.

- 2.1 There is a need to compare theological and scientific doctrines and knowledge. ~~And~~ Neither should be put in a glass cage unexamined. This comparison should lead to consistency. The aim is not to keep scientific and Christian doctrines rigidly apart nor to make them one by chopping bits ~~from~~ each and pasting them together or by treating them as rival ways of giving identical information. We must constantly analyse them to ~~bring~~ try to gather a glimpse of the greater whole, the total revelation of God Himself.
- 2.2 Test of complementarity. (Is it complementary or a rival?) Complementary arises out of the need of both frameworks to do justice to the experience. Ill. Light. One can not deduce contradictory conclusions by a valid use of truly complementary frameworks because they represent answers to different kinds of questions.
- 2.3 Christians find they need both scientific and Christian doctrines to fully explain their experiences. ill. An electric sign board made up of thousands of bulbs. When seen up close one sees only the individual bulbs. But seen overall one sees the writing and once the words are recognized it is hard not to be ~~aware~~ aware of them.

3. Demands of Honesty.

- 3.1 In approaching truth we must be prepared to go on despite the outcome or its consequences. In approaching Christian revelation we must be prepared as whole men to be met in this process by God Himself and prepared in all honesty to take the consequences.
- 3.2 Demands realization of the power of attitude to pre-mold our thought patterns and free ourselves from them.
 - 3.21 Attitudes are an aid in perceiving ~~of~~ certain relationships. One way of acquiring an attitude is "prestige suggestion" suggestion by one we regard as knowledgeable or an expert. Some are led to be Christians by this, but at present many are led away from Christianity by this. Each needs to examine the case personally and with commitment, and be ready to pay the costs.

3.22 Attitudes differ with respect of things and persons. We see the personality of God revealed in all revelation.

3.3 Demands finding a meaningful whole.

Reflection is not only observing and relating but seeking meaning. Christianity puts meaning into the question, "What is man and his place in the universe?"

4. Incarnation as the Meeting Grounds of Science and Theology.

In Christ there meet the eternal and the temporal, the natural and the supernatural. Science and History look at His manhood, Theology at His deity.

We as observers behold Him; as participants we worship Him.