

Sermon Questions: Science Disproves God

Romans 1: 18-23, Jeremiah 29:11-13

1. Pastor Mark cited statistics that demonstrate the decline of religious participation in America. Church attendance is declining, active membership in churches is declining, and the fastest growing religious group in America are the “nones” (people who profess no religious affiliation). What factors do you think account for this declining interest in traditional religious institutions?
2. In what ways has the decline in religious participation affected our nation? What impact do you think this is having on young people between the ages of 17-32?
3. In what ways might this be a great opportunity for the Church to re-connect with a culture of people who have drifted away or chosen to stay away from “organized religion?” How might the Church re-engage the next generation?
4. Some cultural observers argue that the rise of scientific knowledge has led to the decline of religious interest. In what ways might this be true?
5. Pastor Mark tells of the great debate between Bill Nye (a scientist) and Ken Ham (a young earth creationist) over whether the theory of evolution is true or the Biblical story of a 7-day creation is true. What is your view on the theory of evolution and how it relates to the story of a 7-day creation in Genesis?
6. Pastor Mark points out that the church and Christianity have not historically opposed science, but rather it was Christian theology that gave birth to science. Pastor Mark suggests that science answers the questions “what?” and “how?” while religion answers the questions “who?” and “why?” In what ways do you think science and faith can be compatible?
7. When an atheistic scientist like Richard Dawkins or Samuel Harris attack religious faith as being anti-intellectual or blind to the facts, are they being “scientific” in their claims? Why or why not?
8. Pastor Mark argues that everyone has some kind of religion. Religion is how you answer the “big questions” of meaning in life: why are we here? what happens when we die? what constitutes a good life? In this regard, how is atheism a religion?
9. Read Romans 1:18-23. The real conflict is not between science and Christianity, but between atheism and Christianity (with atheists trying to use science as a weapon). In your opinion, can science disprove the claim that God exists? Why or why not?

10. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. Pastor Mark urges modern day Christians to pursue truth and to engage in intellectual pursuits that deal with the big questions of life. How will that equip us to better engage a culture that is skeptical of organized religion?