

## WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN

### #6 Christianity is Irrational – Science

Over the last five weeks, we've worked our way through various problems people have with Christianity. This will test your memory, but what topics have stood out for you as particularly helpful or challenging? Why?

We now come to our last 'problem' that people have, and that is the idea that Christianity is Irrational according to Science. It's claimed by some that science disproves the bible and makes the Christian faith invalid. And the two areas that are usually spoken about are 1) evolution and 2) the possibility of miracles. While this series is about the problems unbelievers have with Christianity, this topic probably causes the most problems amongst believers who hold different opinions.

It's important that we have a framework for thinking and behaving as we relate to other Christians who have a different view point to you. Read Philippians 2:1-11.

According to this passage:

What is important in Christian fellowship?

What's central to the Christian message?

What's totally miraculous that is part of the Christian message?

What's important for us so that we can help to maintain Christian fellowship?

Read Colossians 1:15-20. What is similar to the Philippians passage about where all the world is heading and the purpose of Creation?

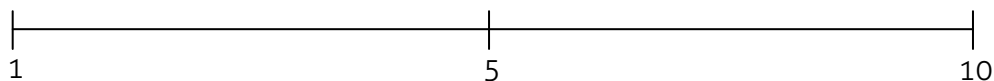
Remembering the message from Sunday, what are three clear things that the bible teaches us about the world?

How will these truths shape us in ways in ways that discoveries in Science never will?

The likes of Richard Dawkins think that being rational and scientific precludes Christian faith. But the point was made on Sunday that this 'either/or', 'conflict' approach to science and religion is not necessary. What do you think about this?

There is the topic of the origins of the universe and humankind, but on the topic of Science there's also the issue of miracles. For some, the bible's teaching about miracles makes Christianity erroneous. But rather than trying to prove the existence of the miracles as a way of arguing for the truth of Christianity, it would be good to look at miracles from the actually perspective of how they are mentioned in the New Testament.

Read Luke 16:17-31. How would you rate the important of miracles for faith on this scale?



Read John 2:23-23. What sort of rating do you think Jesus would give the faith of those who believe in him on the basis of miracles he performed?



Read Mark 13:22-23. What sort of rating would you give to indicate how much value we should give to all miraculous events we see and hear about?



We shouldn't think that miracles are meant to authenticate or create faith. Spectacular supernatural displays of power could even be the work of a power other than God and simple acceptance is never encouraged. Like all other events in the Bible, miracles on their own are taken to be mute. Without proper context and explanation, they prove nothing either way. The miracles of Jesus are only taken as significant in the context of the Old Testament prophecy, which gives the background understanding to explain the miracles as the work of the promised Messiah.

Name as many miracles of Jesus as you can.

With an understanding of the real meaning of the miracles, Jesus can say in John 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves". And even then, in terms of creating faith, the miracles themselves should not be primary. It's the words of Jesus that really counts.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-18. What is the miracle that's absolutely at the centre of the Christian message?

How is this miracle a foretaste of more to come?

Pray that we would keep believing and following Jesus—not on the basis of miracles that prove himself to us, but because we know him as the Christ and Lord who has done amazing things. Give thanks for the discoveries within science and pray that God's word would have authority in our lives.