



▶ WHAT DOES PRAYER DO?



▶ IS MONEY THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL?



▶ WHAT ARE ANGELS?

November 29, 2015

Sunday Morning

# Discovery study

SEARCHING, SHARING, AND STUDYING REAL ISSUES OF FAITH TOGETHER WITH THE BIBLE AND DISCUSSION

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me..... Philipians 4:13*

## Science, Ethics and Faith: Reproductive Technology

The world of science has become frighteningly complicated. As a Christian, I have found myself wondering how science intersects with Christian ethics, morals and responsibilities. On the one hand I can argue that God has created humans in God's own image so what comes from the mind of humans, if it does no harm, must be part of God's plans. If this is not the case, why would God create in us the unique ability to imagine, dream, calculate, envision, reason and create? For example, nobody would argue against the work of scientists who discovered the cure for diseases like tuberculosis and small pox. What would we do without advancements in medicine which have made it possible to transplant organs, remove tumors and replace heart valves with pig valves? If it wasn't for the advancements in science some of us would never have made it to adulthood.

Yet, how far can science take us? Moreover, how far should science take us? In August, American newspapers reported that a 51 year old grandmother gave birth to her own granddaughter through IVF! Three years before that a 65 year

old German woman gave birth to quadruplets after receiving IVF. What will happen to her children when she is too old to care for them? What is even more frightening is the emergence of the notion of "designer babies". In 2004 the Oxford English Dictionary added this term and its definition: "a baby whose genetic makeup has been artificially selected by genetic engineering combined with in vitro fertilization to ensure the presence or absence of particular genes or characteristics." Is this what God really wants? Who gets to decide what characteristics are desirable or undesirable? Will blonde hair and blue eyes be the fad of a generation of parents?

It is one thing to eliminate genetic markers that could cause cancer but to what level do we go?

Who determines what genetic markers are off limits? What do these actions say about what we value? Are those who have disabilities of any kind deemed of less value?

Where do ethics and faith intersect with science?

H. Vais



Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be. Psalm 139

## Asking Questions that Matter



I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

What is crooked cannot be straightened;  
what is lacking cannot be counted.

I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;  
the more knowledge, the more grief.

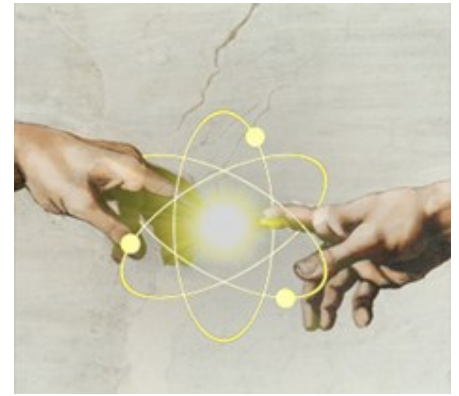
Ecclesiastes 1:13-18

### Science and Religion in Harmony?

Curiously, in the late twentieth century, even agnostic cosmologists like Stephen Hawking—who is often compared with Einstein—pose metascientific questions concerning a Creator and the cosmos, which science per se is unable to answer. Modern science of the brain, e.g. Roger Penrose's *Shadows of the Mind* (1994), is only beginning to explore the relationship between the brain and the mind -the physiological and the epistemic. Galileo thought that God's two books-Nature and the Word -cannot be in conflict, since both have a common author: God. This entails, inter alia, that science and faith are to two roads to the Creator-God. David Granby recalls that once upon a time, science and religion were perceived as complementary enterprises, with each scientific advance confirming the grandeur of a Superior Intelligence-God. Are we then at the threshold of a new era of fruitful dialogue between science and religion, one that is mediated by philosophy in the classical sense?

Abstract from Philosophy Redivivus? Science, Ethics, and Faith, Oskar Gruenwald, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research. [og@JISonline.org](mailto:og@JISonline.org)

1. What does the Bible have to say which could guide our use of science in life?
2. Should the Science and Religion not interfere with each other?



Where faith commences, science ends. Both these arts of the human mind must be strictly kept apart from each other.

Faith has its origin in the poetic imagination; knowledge, on the other hand, originates in the reasoning intelligence of man.

Science has to pluck the blessed fruits from the tree of knowledge, unconcerned whether these conquests trench upon the poetical imaginings of faith or not.

— Ernst Haeckel

In Ernst Haeckel and E. Ray Lankester (trans.), *The History of Creation* (1880), Vol. 1, 9.

