



MLC Professional Development Series

The Foolishness of God: A Biblical Perspective on Science

Lesson 2: Science, Reason, and Values

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 and Romans 8:7.** What do these references suggest about human reason?

2. **See 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.** What is the relationship between Scripture and reason?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:25. How does this passage put the wisdom of man in its proper perspective?

Watch *Evolution Refuted* from the "[Check This Out](#)" series by AiG.

3. Fundamental differences between **science** and **religion**: a worldly perspective

- _____ attempts to bring coherence to our experiences.
- _____ statements are about sensory information.
- The discourse of _____ is always public, with precisely defined terms.
- The results of _____ are tentative and subject to revision.
- _____ is concerned about eternal truths.
- _____ attempts to infuse our experiences with meaning
- _____ statements are about what cannot be perceived with the sense
- _____ experiences are often private and ineffable.
- _____ statements are not intended to be tentative or subject to revision
- _____ is about understanding the world.

The differences between science and religion have led to conflicts throughout history. Can you identify a few?

4. Is conflict between science and the Bible inevitable?

Science

-
-

Bible

-
-

Conclusion:

5. A Biblical perspective: Read and identify three ways in which God reveals himself to us.
- **Psalm 19:1-4**
 - **Romans 2:14,15**
 - **2 Timothy 3:15**

What Biblical insights do these passages provide on the topic?

Colossians 2:8 –

Hebrews 13:8 –

Hebrews 11:3 –

6. How do we recognize science as a gift from God and keep it in its proper place? Consider the following terms
- morals –
 - ethics –
 - values –

Following a definition of these terms, we'll take a closer look at what it means to "value" something.

7. List some inherent values of science.
8. Agree or disagree: Science is value neutral.



Bible Passages - Lesson 2: Science, Reason, and Values

1 Corinthians 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Psalms 19:1-4 ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Romans 2:14,15 ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Selected quotations from various Bible scholars on using the gift of human reason ...

Luther acknowledged that reason could discover many things, but ... natural reason, which does not know God, is ignorant of that which has been created by God ... No one can understand a single work of God fully by the use of reason.

Siegbert Becker (*The Foolishness of God*)

For the Christian, reason gives way to revelation and logic gives way to faith. The how of these mysteries is far beyond us, but we believe it because Scripture says it.

Richard Lauersdorf (*Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*)

The rational human mind rejects the notion that any of these examples are reality or anything but foolishness. God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance. God's way has nothing to do with human wisdom.

Carleton Toppe (*Peoples' Bible*)

In today's era of religious tolerance, the world is willing to accept the limited role that reason plays in matters of faith. Theological truths of the Bible may be accepted in faith, but in all other matters the statements of Scripture are subject to the same kind of rationalism that would apply to any other book.

Siegbert Becker (*The Foolishness of God*)