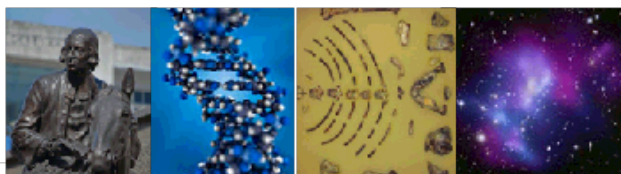


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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May 29, 2010

Dear WesleyNexus Recipient,

We recently read in the news that yet another poll shows that two-thirds of Americans don't believe in evolution. Like many of these news releases, this one raises many questions: How was the question asked? Did people really study and think about evolution before rejecting it, or is it their "off the cuff" opinion? Or, did someone tell them "don't believe in evolution"? It is not explicit in these kinds of polls, but for some the implication is that the one-third of Americans that accept evolution also reject any religious beliefs. Regardless of how accurate these polls are, we believe there are a significant number of people who grew up in the Wesleyan religious tradition who totally accept the science of evolution and have not abandoned their religious heritage. It is for this subset of the "less than 1/3" that we have organized the group called WesleyNexus. We are not particularly interested in debating whether evolution is true (it seems obvious to us), but we are interested in discussions involving those who live and work in a scientific world and are earnestly seeking a compatible theological understanding.

We believe that you have to work at theology just like you have to work at science, but where do you start if you haven't "gone to seminary"? Our goal at WesleyNexus is to be a source (obviously not the only source) of information that will make the task of studying theology easier for those of us who are not theologians. And, after some personal adventures in this field that some call "science and religion" we believe that you cannot hope to understand and communicate theology without some understanding of modern science--they go hand in hand.

For example, WesleyNexus, on May 16th, co-sponsored a lecture/demonstration by Dr. William Phillips, celebrated physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Nobel Laureate, speaking on the topic "Einstein, Time, and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe." During the question and answer period, when asked whether his work as a physicist might conflict in any way with his faith as a Methodist layman, Phillips responded emphatically, "Not at all. In fact, I find that the opposite is true. The wonders of the universe and the principles we follow in science actually strengthen my beliefs as a Christian."

So, as we try to develop the WesleyNexus website into a useful science and religion study aid, we invite you to join with us. What books do you find helpful? Where is a good place to start if you want to develop your own Wesleyan based theology that fits with your science education? Where do you learn about sound science that helps with your theological understanding of the universe? What questions do you ask when you start thinking about science and religion? WesleyNexus aims to be a place where these kinds of thoughts are discussed. Let us know what you think.

Sincerely,

Dick Rhorer, Engineer
WesleyNexus, Inc. Treasurer

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