

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, October 28, 2018

**Doubting the Compatibility of Science and Faith
Week 5 in the series "Don't Stop Believing"
Colossians 4:14**

www.hillcrest.church



What is/was your favorite science subject in high school or college? What is/was your least favorite?

In our sermon series, we're looking at things which make people doubt the Christian faith. One of the things people struggle with is how to reconcile our ancient faith with modern science.

Read Colossians 4:14.

What was Luke's profession?

Which two books of the New Testament did Dr. Luke write?

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-11.

Was it Demas or the doctor who later abandoned the faith?

People of science can be people of faith! Pastor Tom suggested that we do four things before we think we have to make a choice between faith and science. Use your sermon notes to fill in the blanks as you come to them.

**First: Get familiar with scientists
who are b_____.**

Discuss believers you know who are in STEM jobs (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath).

Have you read any books by scientists who are also believers?

Think about believers who are in STEM jobs. In what ways might it be lonely to be a believer at work Monday through Friday, and then be a person of science at church on Sundays?

What can the church family do to make these believers feel less isolated?

In what ways can the church family encourage young people to pursue STEM jobs if they're interested in them?

Second: Don't let the o_____ d_____ distract you from more fundamental faith issues.

Pastor Tom briefly summarized the four major positions Christians have taken on the question of our origins. Recap the main position of each of the following:

- ❖ Young Earth Creationism
- ❖ Old Earth Creationism
- ❖ Intelligent Design
- ❖ Theistic Evolution

Though individual Christians will take different positions on the origins question, does our church require someone to believe one of these four positions? (See our statement of faith online at www.hillcrest.church/about/what-we-believe)

Pastor Tom suggested that anyone asking questions about the Christian faith should not start with the origins debate but with Jesus's claims about his divinity, his sacrificial death, and his resurrection. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Third: Understand where the conflict really lies.

The conflict isn't between Christianity and science, but between Christianity and philosophical naturalism. This is the belief that we can *know* only the things the scientific process can confirm.

Pastor Tom said that this weakens the foundation for love, beauty, meaning and hope. Do you agree? Why or why not?

**Fourth: Admit that disbelief involves
the h_____ and not just the h_____.**

Those who have abandoned Christianity tend to say that they arrived at their disbelief through rational conclusions. At the same time, they say those who remain in the faith do so for emotional reasons (fear of death, sentimental habit, and so on). But Pastor Tom suggested that it is a mixture of intellectual and emotional reasons that lead some people to **believe** and it is also a mixture of emotional and intellectual reasons that lead others to **disbelieve**. What are some emotional reasons that might make people disbelieve? In other words, what would make people not *want* the Christian faith to be true?

*These are the days of miracle and wonder
This is the long-distance call
The way the camera follows us in slo-mo
The way we look to us all
The way we look to a distant constellation
That's dying in a corner of the sky
These are the days of miracle and wonder
And don't cry baby don't cry
Don't cry*

*"The Boy in the Bubble"
Paul Simon*



Close with praise reports and prayer requests