

Creation, Science & Faith

Introduction: Do I Have to Choose?

Many people feel torn between being “smart” and being “spiritual.” It’s tempting to think you must choose—science or scripture—a division that today’s culture often promotes.

But at **Love Church**, we believe such a choice is false. True science and true faith both originate from the **same Creator**, and when rightly understood, complement each other beautifully. As 1 Corinthians 10:31 says: “Whatever you do... do it all for the glory of God.”

What This Means

- **Science answers ‘how’**—how things function, unfold, and follow natural laws.
- **Faith answers ‘why’**—why anything exists, why we matter, and why life holds purpose.
- **Both share a foundation:** a rational, ordered universe created by God—an assumption essential to scientific discovery .

Key Questions to Reflect On

- When has nature—sunsets, mountains, the intricacy of DNA—led you closer to God?
- What do you worry science might reveal that conflicts with your faith?
- Have others in your life felt they had to choose between being rational and being spiritual?

Section 1: God Is the Creator of All Things

Let's explore how both Genesis and Scripture beautifully reveal that God is not a distant creator, but a purposeful, relational, and sustaining force behind all existence.

1. Creation Was Intentional and Ordered

God didn't randomly assemble the universe—He intentionally designed every aspect through divine speech. Genesis shows a God who brings light, land, seas, plants, animals, and humanity into being in structured days. This pattern emphasizes divine order and purpose in creation—a universe spoken into existence, not stumbled upon.

2. Humanity Made in God's Image

"In His image He created them"—Genesis 1:26–27 isn't filler text. It defines us: humans aren't cosmic accidents but divine reflections. This image carries relational, moral, and creative qualities—qualities that signal responsibility, worth, dignity, and divine purpose.

3. Creation Is Relational, Not Abstract

Creation is more than a backdrop—it's God's canvas for relationship. In Genesis 2, He walks with Adam, names creatures, and forms Eve as a companion. This relational design permeates marriage, friendship, and stewardship.

4. Christ as Creator and Sustainer

Scripture makes it clear: Jesus isn't separate from creation—He is behind and above it all. **Colossians 1:16–17** declares:

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Jesus is both the original architect and the ongoing sustainer of every particle, person, and purpose.

Why This Matters

- **Identity & Dignity:**

We're not byproducts—we're purpose-built image-bearers who reflect God's heart.

- **Stewardship:**

Creation isn't a disposable resource—it's a gift entrusted to our care (Genesis 2:15).

- **Science + Faith:**

The ordered complexity we study with science is part of God's design. Exploring science deepens, not diminishes, worship of its Author.

Section 2: How Do We Interpret Genesis?

Christians affirm together that **God created everything**—we simply hold different views on when and how. At **Love Church**, unity begins with sharing that core truth, even as we embrace interpretive diversity.

1. The Key Question

Genesis 1 is not a science textbook but a theological text revealing that:

- **God is sovereign—He speaks creation into being.**
- **Creation is ordered and purposeful.**
- **Humanity is uniquely image-bearing (Genesis 1:26–27).**

From this foundation, various interpretations emerge, each shaped by how one applies biblical interpretation (hermeneutics) and scientific insight.

2. Common Views on “Creation Days”

a) Young-Earth Creationism (YEC)

- Believes each “day” in Genesis is a literal 24-hour period, and that creation occurred roughly 6,000–10,000 years ago.
- Rooted in early church thought and Protestant Reformers—who consistently held to literal days .
- Sees the Genesis account as historically accurate and foundational for understanding sin, death, and the Flood’s theological significance.

b) Old-Earth / Day-Age View

- Interprets each “day” (Hebrew *yôm*) as an **epoch** or long period, possibly millions of years.
- Supported by historical theologians (e.g., Augustine, Basil) and contemporary scholars like John Collins .
- Emphasizes theological messaging over scientific detail—Genesis is poetic-scaled, not geologic-layered.

c) Theistic Evolution (Evolutionary Creation)

- Accepts cosmology and biological evolution but holds that God guided these processes—especially the emergence of humans with *imago Dei* .
- Genesis isn’t contradicted but understood as theological narrative, not scientific exposition .
- Respects modern science while affirming God’s sovereignty over creation.

3. Where We Stand at Love Church

Unified on Essentials:

- God is Creator.
- Scripture is authoritative.
- Science explores how God built His world.

Free in Timelines:

- **Literal days or ancient epochs**—both reflect worship, not warfare.
- **Agreement on foundational theology**—no division over timelines.

4. Practical Takeaways

- **Personal conviction** is welcomed—choose the view that honors Scripture and science thoughtfully.
- **Avoid division**—discuss timelines with humility, not hostility.
- **Champion theological truths:**
 - Humans are **image-bearers**—not accidents.
 - Creation is **good**, not meaningless matter.
 - **God's plan**—from creation through redemption to restoration—**holds true**, irrespective of age debates.

Section 3: What We Believe About Science and Faith

True science and true faith are not opponents—they are allies, each illuminating different facets of God's reality.

1. Scripture Is True, Science Is a Gift

The Bible is our ultimate authority on God's character and purpose, while science helps us understand how God's creation operates. Science uncovers patterns in nature; Scripture gives those patterns eternal meaning. This aligns with Psalm 19:1–2, where “the heavens declare the glory of God... day to day they pour forth speech.”

2. Science Explains ‘How,’ Faith Explains ‘Why’

Science examines mechanisms—how cells divide, stars form, ecosystems function. Faith asks deeper questions—Why does the universe exist? What purpose do we serve? Together they offer a fuller picture of reality, not conflicting truths. As one wise summary put it:

“Science takes things apart to see how they work;
religion puts things together to see what they mean.”

3. Creation Inspires Worship, Not Division

Astrophysicist Francis Collins and theologian Deborah Haarsma both affirm that exploring nature should deepen our worship, not weaken our faith. The Big Bang's discovery affirmed the universe had a beginning—a concept deeply compatible with Genesis' truth about a Creator.

4. Point Heads and Hearts Toward the Creator

The scientific pursuit of understanding—whether in DNA, galaxies, or ecosystems—points us back to the One who made it all. Science fuels worship; theology fuels wonder. Together, they point us not to facts, but to the ultimate Truth.

5. Science and Faith: A Long-Term Relationship

In history—from early church thinkers like Augustine to modern scholars like Alister McGrath—the relationship between science and faith has been one of **harmony and dialogue**, not conflict. They've been in a “long-term relationship,” deepening our appreciation of both God's world and Word.

| Practical Application

✓ **Be Curious, Not Defensive**

Approach new scientific discoveries with humility—allow them to inform your faith, not threaten it.

✓ **Embrace Mystery**

Science won't answer every question. Some things—like God's character, heaven, or eternal truths—remain beyond test tubes and telescopes.

✓ **Witness Well**

Let your engagement with science show others that Christianity is thoughtful, intelligent, and open—countering stereotypes of faith as anti-reason.

Section 4: Addressing Key Tensions

Balancing faith and science involves thoughtful engagement with some of the most debated topics. Here's a biblically and theologically grounded yet practical guide for navigating key questions:

1. Evolution—A God-Driven Process

The tension: Some view evolution as driven by randomness, while others see it as a divinely guided mechanism.

Our view: Accepting evolution does not negate God's sovereign role. Many Christians affirm **evolutionary creationism**, which posits that God used evolutionary processes to unfold life over time .

God's image (imago Dei) could have been imparted as humans emerged—reflecting a point of divine intention, not merely biological happenstance .

Practical takeaway: Embrace scientific insights into biology and development while affirming God as the ultimate cause and giver of purpose.

2. The Big Bang & Cosmic Origins

The tension: Some see the Big Bang as excluding God; others see it confirming creation.

Our view: The Big Bang aligns with Genesis 1:1—creation had a beginning, which fits both science and biblical theology.

Many Christian scholars affirm that discovering a universe with a starting point points toward a Creator, not away from one .

Practical takeaway: Use scientific evidence like cosmic origins to embolden faith and deepen appreciation for God's intentional design.

3. Human Uniqueness & the Imago Dei

The tension: Does evolution diminish the value and distinctiveness of humans?

Our view: We affirm that humanity—no matter how formed—uniquely bears God's image. This image encompasses relationship, morality, and spiritual capacity .

Even within evolutionary frameworks, there's space to believe God graciously endowed humans with spiritual difference—a soul, a secondary creation event.

Practical takeaway: Your worth isn't based on biology or culture—it's based on bearing the likeness of God. You remain valuable, distinct, and sacred.

4. Reconciling Scripture & Science: A Dual Witness

The tension: Must Genesis be read as literal science?

Our view: Biblical interpretation (hermeneutics) considers genre: Genesis 1 is poetic and theological, focusing on who created and why, not how or when.

Science offers the how, filling in details Genesis wasn't intended to convey. When approached thoughtfully, both pathways lead to worship—one through reason, the other through revelation.

Practical takeaway: Hold Scripture as your foundation, but engage science as a faithful companion that explains “how” creation works under God’s command.

Daily Faith Practice

When tough questions arise:

- **Pray for wisdom**—James 1:5 teaches us to seek God’s help in understanding.
- **Respond graciously**—Grace and truth walk together.
- **Keep learning**—Curate reputable science and theology sources, and stay curious.
- **Live worshipfully**—Let every discovery lead to wonder, not worry.

Final Reflection:

Wonder Doesn't Require Choosing

You don't have to compromise intelligence for faith—or faith for science. At **Love Church**, we believe:

1. **You can hold deep curiosity and deep devotion.**
A rational mind and spiritual heart both lead you closer to your Creator.
2. **Science shows how creation works; faith shows why it exists.**
Together, they shape a worship-full life.
3. **God's creative design is a source of awe, wonder, and purpose.**
Every sunrise, cell, and galaxy testifies to His power and care.

You were made—not to worship science, nor to ignore it—but to wonder at the **God behind the wonder.**

| Recommended Books & Resources

Here are trusted guides to help you deepen your understanding and appreciation of both faith and science:

1. **"The Language of God"** by Francis Collins
2. **"The Language of Science and Faith"** by Francis Collins & Karl Giberson
3. **"Creation and Change"** by Douglas Kelly
4. **"The Creator and the Cosmos"** by Hugh Ross