



Marketplace Moments

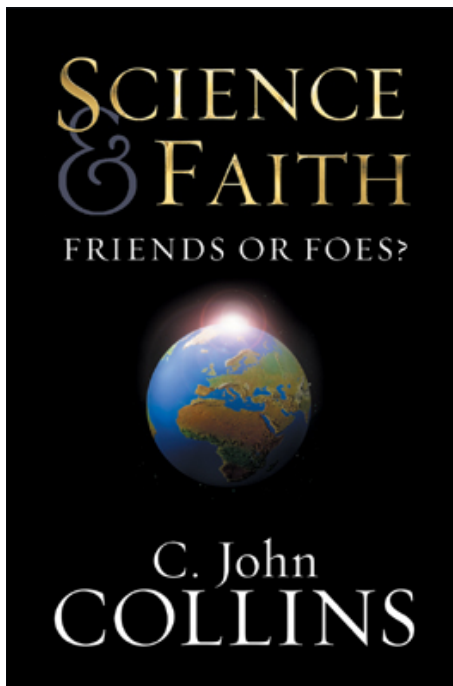
Bibliophoria

Science & Faith: Friends or Foes? C. John Collins

One of the perennial issues facing Christians from our culture is the relationship between science and faith. Has science disproven the Bible? Did God really create the world as described in *Genesis*? These are some of the questions that C. John Collins takes up in his excellent book, *Science & Faith*. Collins is eminently qualified to address the relevant issues since he not only is Professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary, but also has a B.S. and M.S. from MIT. Although tons of books on this topic are published every year, I can say without reservation that if you only buy one book on this subject, it should be this one. This is the best one-volume treatment on the complex issues of faith and science.

Collins first introduces his readers to the important issues in the philosophy of science. He defines "faith," "science," and "rationality." He surveys the different ways theology and science can relate, and argues that the two disciplines should be understood as two interacting approaches to the same reality.

The second section of Collins's book deals particularly with the biblical and theological issues. Several chapters are devoted to the Creation accounts in



Genesis and other passages. Particular attention is given to what the Bible has to say about the age of the earth. Human nature (as created) and the Fall and its implications on man and nature are then addressed. Then the Biblical view of natural revelation, faith and reason, and apologetics is sketched out. The section concludes by examining what the Bible has to say about caring for the environment.

Scientific evidences are examined in the third section, which are then evaluated. Collins then takes the scientific conclusions that he finds to be warranted and relates them to the Scriptures.

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Of the Heart and Mind

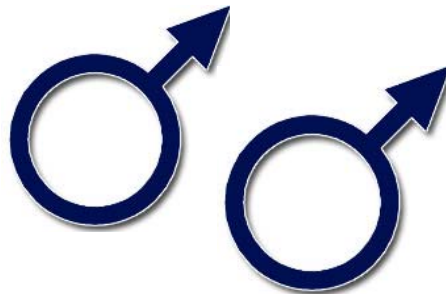
Truth and Grace

It was unavoidable these few weeks. Covered by media, petition and even meeting a dear friend and cropping up in conversations. What am I referring to? The Penal Code review and the issue of homosexuality. Obviously, I am not going to add on to the already passionate debate from both sides. And to make my stance clear, as a husband and father, I personally see homosexuality as a sin that displeases God as much as any other sins.

There are several things I would like to highlight or caution.

- 1) Christians need to be informed of issues and arguments on both side. It is a self-educational process. There are lots of information out there so it can be confusing. I highlighted some resources on the last page. I would personally like to differentiate the activists (minority) from the nominal (majority and struggling) homosexuals. My focus is more of helping the nominal group whom I feel are more genuine and transparent.
- 2) There are many mines (as in logical fallacies) that can entrap both Christians and non-Christians alike. Discussion in small groups and communities, particularly in light of Scriptures is critical. Also, remember to exercise good biblical hermeneutics or interpretations. If in doubt, check with church elders and pastors.

- 3) This is an emotional topic, for those who have close friends or relatives struggling, be aware of how emotions are affecting ones' objectivity. For those who do not have friends or relatives who are gay, be sensitive that many faces a genuine struggle within themselves. Coming at it with a pointing finger is not going to help the situation.
- 4) Christian community need to learn how to welcome gays into their midst without compromising biblical truth. It is my believe that Christians should accept homosexuals as any other person on the street who is seeking for God and in need of love. I also realize this is easier said than done. Nonetheless, it must be worked out.
- 5) The key to this issue is for churches to continue to build strong families. This also include the church family where there are healthy relationships among peers. This is particularly true for those who comes from broken or dysfunctional ones. Tendencies towards a homosexual lifestyle stems for some from dysfunctional or abusive upbringing. Others may



be through social or relational influences or rejections. For those who are in Christ, the message is to have hope and support from a loving community of brothers and sisters.

- 6) The homosexual activists (minority of die hard homosexuals) may move out of the public arena. The heavier struggle and their target now goes to our children and young people. Therefore, the home and church must be safe haven for our young. The gay activists agenda now targets volunteer and charitable work as guises for propagating their lifestyles. Schools, youth groups and charities need to teach biblical truth, tempered with grace. We live in a fallen and imperfect world.
- 7) We need to come around ex-homosexuals in our midst. They have experiences and struggles that most do not fully understand. Like all of us, temptation is always near. For some, it is shopping, lust, over-work, pornography, gambling etc. to find self-worth and satisfaction. For them, it is a same-sex partner. Therefore, grounding our

Eyes in a Darkened Room

Sympathy for Lady Vengeance

This is our first review of a Korean made movie. Wasn't a first choice of what I would personally pick to watch but was presented at a seminar that I attended. I was captured by the message through the eyes of a dear brother, Robert Chan from Hong Kong.

The story line, like many Korean movies, is rather brutal and raw. It talks about Jin, an ordinary lady, whose baby daughter was abducted by a serial killer. In order to protect her child, she bore the crimes of the serial killer and went to jail for it. She was condemned by the public as the 'devil', spat upon by those who saw her because of the cruel ways many of the children had died in the hands of the serial killer.

While in jail, she was 'converted' to Christianity. She was released early by her 'exemplarily' behaviour. She was known to be an angel in jail. Upon her release, she plotted to capture the serial killer and gathered the parents of children that died

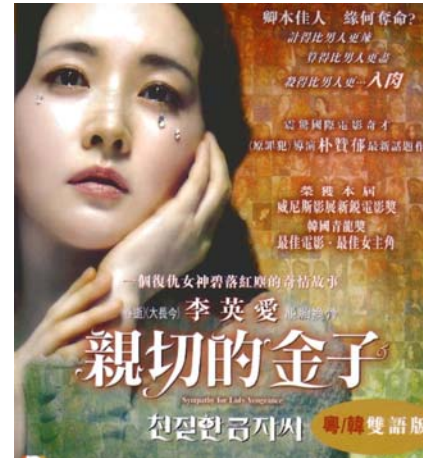
in his hands, screening previously recorded videos of their own children begging, scared and wailing, and presented them the option to kill him themselves (rouge justice) or to hand him over to the police. They chose the former. They 'celebrated' the event by baking a cake made with the man's blood, needing to find peace.

It is a powerful story of hate and grievances. That revenge, however justified, is as cruel as the perpetrator. True reconciliation is only found in Christ and Christ alone.

Here therein also lies a profound message. The intellectual understanding or assent of a Savior and Lord isn't a model answer.

Jin have had her revenge, she ate the blood cake. But she found no peace. All the bible reading and prayers she had tried in the jail cell, all the loving and good works she had done had not made one bit of a difference.

Man are not just of the mind, but of spirit, soul and strength, not separate but integrated. Jenny's deepest longing



was her daughter. When she was finally holding her daughter in her arms was she able to find release and true peace.

In our work of the Gospel, we must also remember that real people have real needs. We must therefore be integral in our approach in our gospel work, meeting real needs, whether they be intellectual, emotional, spiritual or physical. The Gospel, remains Central. So let us not be so callous in our approach to evangelism. Real lives are at stake, handle with care and prayers.

By Timothy Liu

Caution: This movie has violent and bloody content. It may cause distress to viewers.

Biblophoria Cont...

Particular attention is given to the age of the earth and the evidence for Darwinian evolution. Collins concludes the section with chapters defending Intelligent Design and the existence of the soul.

Not all readers will agree

with Collins's interpretation of the Bible or the scientific evidence—he is an old-earth creationist, but denies Darwinian evolution. Collins offers a careful, detailed interpretation of Genesis which he calls the "analogical

days" view—i.e., the days of Genesis 1 are God's "workdays" followed by a creation Sabbath—which is a far more plausible exegesis of Genesis than any other old-earth interpretation that I have heard.

By Brian Thomas

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personhood and identity in our relationship with a loving and just God and healthy relationships and accountability with fellow Christians is essential.

My message to those who are struggling is two-fold.

- 1) An apology for those who have been treated with disdain and less than human for it is not the way of Christ.
- 2) There is hope in Jesus. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor 5:17)

My message to the Christian community is: let us put money where our mouth is and dispense our min-

istry of reconciliation. "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:18-21)

Timothy Liu

Book Resource:

- Straight Answers: Exposing the myths and facts about homosexuality—Focus on the Family (Booklet)
- A Christian Response to Homosexuality—National Council of Churches Singapore (Genesis Books)
- Same-Sex Marriage, Putting every household at risk- Mathew D. Staver (Broadman & Holman)

Ministry:

- Exodus International
www.exodusasiapacific.faihtweb.com
- Choices (www.coos.org.sg/choices/)

Web:

- National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (www.narth.com)