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Three big questions

① Do scientists **believe in God**?

② Does science have **all the answers**?

③ Is it true that there
is no **evidence for
Christianity**?



Introduction

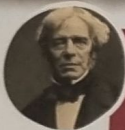
Have you ever heard people say:

- 'Scientists don't believe in God.'
- 'Science has all the answers.'
- 'Science is based on evidence. Christianity is based on faith.'

A lot of people call themselves atheists or 'not religious'. In the western world, Christianity has been the dominant religion for almost 2000 years. But today, some people think that science has disproven Christianity. Some think that science is now able to answer the big questions people ask, and so belief in science has taken over from belief in God. Others dismiss the claims of Christianity on the basis that they can't be proven. After all, they say, science is based on evidence and proven to be true, whereas Christianity is a matter of faith and can't be proven.

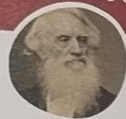
But are these three assertions correct? Let's look at them in turn.

Do scientists believe in God?



Michael Faraday
One of the greatest experimental physicists

Samuel Morse
Inventor of Morse code

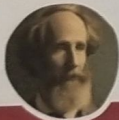


Lord Kelvin
Absolute temperature scale named after him

YES



Sir Nevill Mott
Physics Nobel Prize winner



James Clerk Maxwell
Brilliant theoretical scientist

**SCIENTISTS
CAN AND DO
BELIEVE IN GOD**



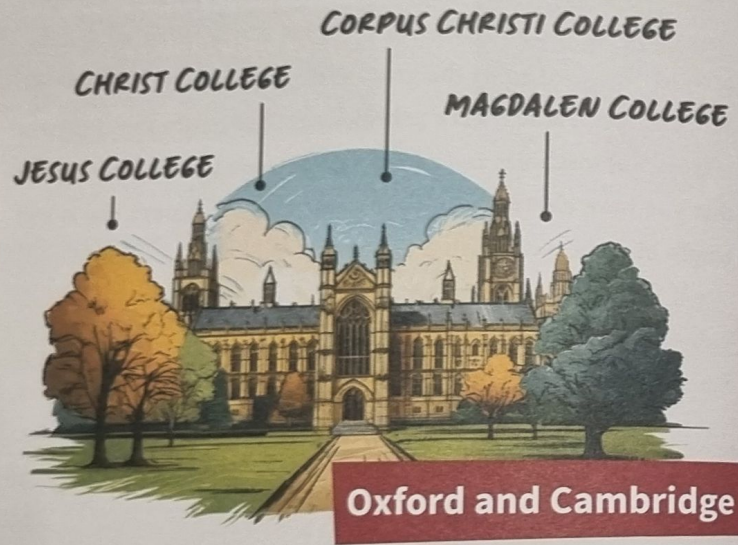
1. It is true that scientists don't believe in God?

Over the last few centuries, many of the world's greatest scientists were Christians, convinced that the Bible is true. Michael Faraday is widely believed to be the greatest experimental physicist of the 19th Century. Faraday's law provided the basis for the development of electrical machines and power systems – and it's thanks to these that you have electricity in your home today. Faraday's law is still taught in schools and universities worldwide.

If Faraday excelled in experimental science, James Clerk Maxwell was perhaps the greatest theoretical scientist of all time. His famous equations form the theoretical basis of electrical engineering and electronics – which your smart phone and satnav rely on. Just like Faraday, Maxwell was a Bible-believing Christian who regularly went to church.

John Ambrose Fleming was the first professor of electrical engineering in the UK. He invented the diode (vital for the development of radio) and formulated the electrical motor/dynamo rules that are named after him. Lord Kelvin pioneered the idea of a laboratory devoted to research and has the absolute temperature scale named after him. Samuel Morse invented Morse code – the first digital code for transferring information electronically. These were

MANY UNIVERSITIES WERE SET UP BY CHRISTIANS



Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Sir Nevill Mott said:

'I believe in God, who can respond to prayers, to whom we can give trust and without whom life on this earth would be without meaning.'

Is it true that scientists don't believe in God?

all committed Christians – and there are many more great scientists from the past who also believed the Bible.

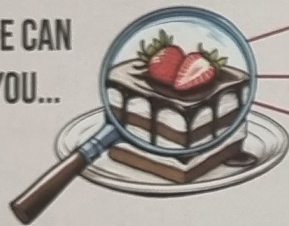
If you walk around the two great university cities in the UK (Oxford and Cambridge) you'll see colleges with names like Jesus College, Christ's College, Magdalen College and Corpus Christi College. This is because these universities, like most others in Europe, were set up by Christians.

Today, 21st century scientists who identify as Christians are found all over the world in every branch of science and engineering. For example, the 1977 Physics Nobel Prize winner, Cavendish Professor Sir Nevill Mott, said, 'I believe in God, who can respond to prayers, to whom we can give trust and without whom life on this earth would be without meaning.'

So the answer to the first question is: 'Yes – scientists can and do believe in God.' The claim that scientists don't believe in God is simply not true.

Does science have all the answers?

SCIENCE CAN
TELL YOU...

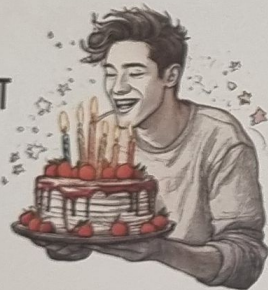


Ingredients

Weight, volume & density

Microstructure

BUT SCIENCE CANNOT
TELL YOU **WHY** IT
WAS MADE



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

SCIENCE CANNOT ANSWER EVERYTHING!

Why does the universe exist?
What is the purpose of life?
Is there life after death?

2. Does science have all the answers?

Imagine that you came home and found a large cake in the kitchen. It was nicely decorated and had all the hallmarks of your mum's careful handiwork. If you were to investigate the cake scientifically, chemical analysis would be able to tell you what the ingredients of the cake were. Measuring the cake's weight and volume would tell you what the density and other physical properties were. Scanning electron microscopy would tell you about the cake's microstructure. These questions are all within the remit of science and routinely carried out in most university science laboratories.

What physics and chemistry couldn't tell you, however, is the answer to the question 'Why did Mum make the cake?' This question is outside the remit of science – the best way to find out is to ask her! Questions of intention, such as 'Why does the universe exist?' or 'Why is there anything rather than nothing?' are similarly outside the remit of science. Science can't answer questions like this and doesn't even address them. Other examples are 'What is the purpose of life?' and 'Is there life after death?' Scientists may speculate about these questions but cannot, on the basis of science alone, give a definite answer.

Also, many people don't realise that science can't arrive at

SCIENCE CHANGES AS OUR KNOWLEDGE GROWS



Albert Einstein thought the universe was **stationary**

WRONG

Giovanni Schiaparelli suggested there were **canals on Mars**

WRONG

Urban Le Verrier believed the **planet Vulcan** existed between Mercury and the sun

WRONG

It is inevitable that some things seen as certain and believed by scientists today **will be discredited in the future.**

Does science have all the answers?

absolute certainty. This is because by its very nature, science is always changing. The science of yesterday is different to the science of today. For example, astronomers no longer believe in the static universe theory (proposed by Albert Einstein), the existence of canals on Mars (suggested by Giovanni Schiaparelli), or the planet Vulcan situated between Mercury and the sun (proposed by Urban Le Verrier). There are lots of other examples in physics, chemistry and biology of ideas people once firmly believed, that have now been shown to be false and discarded. In a similar way, it is inevitable that some things seen as certain and believed by scientists today will be discredited in the future.

So the answer to the second question is: 'No – science doesn't have all the answers, and some of the answers it gives change over time.'