

Does Science Disprove God?

Many people still think that you can't believe in God and science at the same time. Has science truly disproved the existence of a personal God? Asking this question can trigger very interesting conversations about worldview presuppositions, the scientific method, and evidence. In this session, we will explore some of these arguments and their limits, ultimately showing that good reasoning points in the opposite direction: that a personal creator exists.

Alexander Fink is Director of the Institute for Faith and Science (Institut für Glaube und Wissenschaft) in Marburg, Germany (www.iguw.de). He studied physics at the universities of Bayreuth and St. Andrews (UK) and received his PhD at the Institute for Biophysics at the University of Regensburg. After having worked as an industrial product manager, he became director of SMD graduates' ministry (Akademiker-SMD, the German branch of IFES) until 2014. His passion is the dialogue of science, faith, and worldviews, and has given apologetic lectures in Germany and other European countries. Since 2008 he has been a member of the ELF Steering Committee and has co-led the Scientists Network. He is editor of the Begründet-glauben-Podcast (www.begrueudet-glauben.org) and has produced two documentary movies "Fascinating universe" and "More than my brain" which have been recommended by a German federal media centre for use in public schools. Together with his wife, Alexander enjoys raising his two children, leading a house group in his local church in which he regularly leads services and preaches. He also is the coach of a youth soccer team.

1. Know the monster – The big fear

- A. Why many Christians are afraid of scientific arguments – the big bluff
- B. An appropriate attitude towards science and scientists – making friends

2. Know the foundations – Why it is essential to know and how to ask about worldview assumptions

- A. Worldview assumptions in science – everyone believes
- B. The plausibility argument versus conclusive proof – why You marry Your spouse

3. Know the limits – Can science disprove the existence of God?

- A. Has Science disproven the existence of God?
- B. Has Science made the notion of God superfluous?
- C. Has Science shown that religions are just myths and science is the way to truth?

4. Know the wonders – Helpful key questions and answers, when discussing with scientists:

- A. Why do we know anything? - The problem of epistemology and why everyone needs to believe in something

- B. Why are there rational laws in nature? - The problem of the mathematical language of nature
- C. Why does the universe exist at all, is it self-explaining? – The problem of the origin of the universe
- D. Are the universe and planet earth special? Is life an inevitable outcome in a naturalistic universe or a tremendous surprise? – The problem of the notion of purpose in the universe
- E. In which way is life itself pointing beyond a naturalistic explanation? – The problem of the origin of information in nature
- F. Does biological evolution refute God's existence? Is evolution a proven fact? – The problem of the scope of a mechanism
- G. Is consciousness just a function of neurons? Is there an immaterial soul? – The problem of perception and personal identity in nature
- H. Can moral values be explained by evolutionary variation and selection? – The problem of good and evil in nature

5. Discussion

Suggested Readings:

John Lennox, *Cosmic Chemistry; God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God; Can Science Explain Everything?*

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*

Thomas Nagel, *Mind and Cosmos*

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*

Want the slides or have further questions?

Please email: alexander.fink@iguw.de