

*“****Science has disproven Christianity. Miracles are incompatible with our modern view of the world, and biblical creationism is a prescientific account of the origin of life. It is impossible to be a scientifically literate or intellectual member of society and believe in Christianity literally. The majority of the most scientific and intelligent people of this world reject religion.****”*

# Introduction

From what you know, experienced or the attached article, fill out the following chart.

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| --- | --- |
| *Science operates under these assumptions…* | *Christianity operates under these assumptions…* |
|  |  |

# Science & the Origins of Life

Explain the “*cognitive dissonance*” between an atheistic evolutionary model of natural selection & the following:

1. Human rights

*“The reductionist project usually tries to reclaim some of the originally excluded aspects of the world, by analyzing them in physical – that is, behavioral or neurophysiological – terms; but it denies reality to what cannot be so reduced. I believe that project is doomed – that conscious experience, thought, value, and so forth are not illusions, even though they cannot be identified with physical facts.”*

*-Atheist philosopher Thomas Nagel*

1. Value, purpose & dignity of life
2. Reductionism (i.e. everything can be reduced to neurochemistry) about morals, ethics, love, etc.

**Agree/Disagree:** “Agree/disagree: “Whatever your explanation or model for the origin of the world, you believe it by faith. We are no longer in the realm of science, but of philosophy and theology.”

List all the problems with solving this objection through creation science or intelligent design:

# Science & Miracles

*“In Matthew 28 we are told that the apostles met the risen Jesus on a mountainside in Galilee. ‘When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted’ (verse 17). That is a remarkable admission. Here is the author of an early Christian document telling us that some of the founders of Christianity couldn’t believe the miracle of the resurrection, even when they were looking straight at him with their eyes and touching him with their hands. There is no other reason for this to be in the account unless it really happened. The passage shows us several things. It is a warning not to think that only we modern, scientific people have to struggle with the idea of the miraculous, while ancient, more primitive people did not. The apostles responded like any group of modern people – some believed their eyes and some didn’t. … The most instructive thing about this text is, however, what is says about the purpose of Biblical miracles. They lead not simply to cognitive belief, but to* worship*, to awe and wonder. Jesus’s miracles in particular were never magic tricks, designed only to impress and coerce. … Instead, he used miraculous power to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead. Why? We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order.”*

*- Timothy Keller, The Reason for God*

Explain why C.S. Lewis’ words (a former atheist) are the fundamental to understanding this objection, “***If you believe the first four words of the Bible, you will have no trouble with the rest.”***

Explain the underlying alternate belief about religion – which leads to circular reasoning – behind this objection. “***Christianity does not conform to our modern scientific outlook about natural causes. Therefore, it cannot be true.”***

**Conclusion**

Practice how you would answer this objection to Christianity.