



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. The feedback has been encouraging. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, Stephen looks at some important historical moments through the eyes of Rodney Stark, and in particular his *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust that this gives you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

Please remember to contact us at The Excellence Centre if we can assist you with any of the topics raised in these Conversations.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 3:

NOTIONS
OF THE
WEST

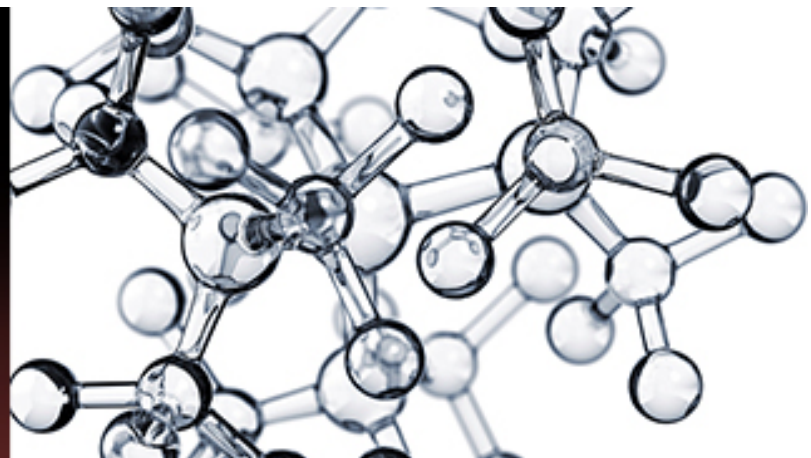


REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 6:

Whither Science?



There is such a strong tendency to assume that there is major conflict between Science and Theology. As Alvin Plantinga has demonstrated in his book *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion and Naturalism* (Oxford Uni press 2011), Naturalism poses many more threats to thinking scientifically than Christian theology. As he noted in his introduction:

... there is a science / religion (or science/ quasi religion) conflict, all right, but it isn't between science and theistic religion: it's between science and naturalism. (p. x)

Paul noted this tendency in Romans 1 – where he explained that if we push

aside knowledge of God, we become so focused on His good creation, that we do not thank or glorify Him. We use the creation as a child who selfishly takes a gift without thanking the giver, and without sharing and serving others with it.

Rodney Stark has reminded his readers of the inextricable link between the rise and Science and Christian theology:

Only Westerners thought that science was possible, that the universe functioned according to rational rules that could be discovered. We owe this belief partly to the ancient Greeks and partly to the unique Judeo-Christian conception of God as a rational creator... The act of invention is obviously crucial but just as important, societies must value innovations enough to use them [5]

How can we thank God more in our classrooms for His gift of rationality, and of His gifts of each discipline that is taught? That is a question to be answered over time, and in fellowship, one with the other, before God.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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