

True Science Debate – A Personal Opinion

by Bruce Holman, PhD

Although I see no false doctrine inherent in either apologetic, inviting the reader to choose between opposing positions of adiaphora invites controversy rather than brotherly discussion. Therefore, I will not state a preference for either, but rather I will speak to the unnecessary divisions that such an approach can produce. If anyone is interested in a useful course for my own apologetic, I would refer you to my paper: A Modern Lutheran Apologetic. But putting forward any particular plan designed to further the Gospel does not in itself denigrate any other approach the Spirit may lead individuals to take.

An unnecessary division might occur when those espousing Apologetic A argue that their approach should be used to the exclusion of Apologetic B. This attitude fails to recognize that objective facts have been used in the presentation of the Gospel throughout the history of mankind. This is discussed thoroughly in my paper on Apologetics. To be blunt, such an attitude would look down on Thomas who perhaps insolently cried out for objective verification of Jesus' resurrection. Yet Jesus gave him that evidence. We all wish we had childlike faith which never needs confirmation, but in our fallen state we do not often have such a faith,

Another pitfall would be for those of Apologetic B to turn creation science observations into a purely scientific discussion. This approach taken for example by the intelligent design movement ignores the point of such discussions and blocks the means of grace. LSI has never been involved in that kind of activity. Every LSI blog post for example seems to be chosen by the editor for its relevance to the gospel, and he never fails to use the opportunity to glorify our Savior and his work.

It is my prayer that our church finds the wisdom to be united in the full use of the diversity of gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us.

Dr. Bruce Holman is the executive director of the Lutheran Science Institute. He is a member of St. Marcus Lutheran in Milwaukee.