

May/June 2012

Volume 39 Number 3

# DOES GOD EXIST?

A nonprofit effort  
to convince mankind  
that God is real and  
the Bible is His Word.

A silhouette of a bride and groom in a church, with the bride wearing a veil and the groom in a suit. They are standing in front of a large, multi-paned window that allows bright light to stream in, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene. The couple is positioned in the lower half of the frame, looking towards each other.

*The  
Great  
Marriage  
Debate*

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In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1

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# The Great Marriage Debate

In the more than four decades this journal has been in existence, we have had numerous articles about marriage and numerous articles about homosexuality. Our primary point about marriage has been that it is a beautiful and fulfilling relationship that brings two people into a oneness that meets the needs of both and provides a foundation for raising children and meeting the needs of the struggling civilization in which we live. Our primary point about homosexuality is that it is a destructive lifestyle. This is supported by data that shows shorter life expectancies, higher disease rates, and evidence of causes rooted in abuse and possible environmental factors. The role of genetics in homosexuality is not well supported, and even if it were true it would only indicate predisposition. None of us is robotically programmed to be alcoholics or type A personalities or homosexuals, but we may have genetic factors that increase our vulnerabilities to these things.

Obviously, all of these statements are generalizations and much debate continues to rage about the whole issue of the causes of behavioral choices and lifestyles. At the present time, the world is struggling with the question of marriage. What is marriage? What should civil authorities recognize as marriage? How do those who identify themselves as Christians treat this issue both in the church and in our secular walk?

Let us emphasize that there is a number of issues we do not want to talk about in this discussion. While same-sex marriage issues have been the prime topic of the media there are many other forms of marriage to be concerned about — polygamy, polyandry, group marriages, etc. This discussion is also no “call to arms” for the church to become involved in political issues. Our teaching and our vote may be individually affected by our religious views, but the church must not become a political organization. There are just two points that need to be emphasized.



# 1. MONOGAMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S WAY

Marriage began in God's simple statement, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God created woman to be a unique companion to man. Adam's observation is "she is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23). Man's most fundamental need which is addressed in marriage is not a sexual need but a companionship need.

A marriage based entirely on sex is going to struggle. The second chapter of Genesis was written to uniquely frame the relationship of man and woman. "Therefore (in other words, here is the point of this chapter) shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the two shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

The Old Testament is a long and tedious account of mankind not doing or observing what God called mankind to do. In Deuteronomy 11:1–28 God warns that if we do as God says, the result will be a high standard of living and success, and if we do not follow God's commands the result will be catastrophic.

Man's first violation of God's marriage plan is polygamy. It is Lamech (Genesis 4:19) who takes additional wives first. Abraham's wife Sarah became impatient with God's slow fulfilling of promises and brought him Hagar to do what God told Abraham would happen. The result of this violation of marriage and also of divorce is painful for everyone involved. Jesus indicated God overlooked this due to the hardness of man's heart, but adds "but from the beginning it was not so" (Matthew 19:8).

There is good reason for the opposition of the Bible to all sexual conduct other than a committed one man-one woman relationship. Christ taught against any violent or force-directed response to any violation of God's commands, but his commitment to the plan instituted in Genesis is clear.

## 2. DEVIATION FROM GOD'S PLAN PRODUCES BAD RESULTS

The last time I wrote an article on marriage in which I stated that polygamy was a destructive lifestyle, I got a very long letter from a Mormon living in a polygamous household. In his letter he described how happy everyone in the household was and how God had blessed everything they had done. I would contest the likelihood of that evaluation in terms of what everyone in the household could experience, but it would be speculation. Let it be said that humans are adaptable



and can make things work that might seem unlikely. When my wife, Phyllis, and I lived in South Bend a gay couple moved in next door to us. We got along fine and they were good neighbors. On the other hand when you look at the divorce rate among heterosexuals in monogamous relationships you might question whether God's plan works for anyone.

One factor that nearly everyone in the marriage debate agrees on is that promiscuity and infidelity jeopardize future stable relationships. One reason for that we have already discussed—that marriage was based on “It is not good for man to be alone.” A casual sexual relationship still leaves both partners very much alone in most cases. The concept of “becoming one flesh” that Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:4–5 talk about involves a fusing of two individuals into one unit that brings a whole new sense of companionship and security. Having lost my wife of 49 years and having that relationship broken was traumatic for me. I remember a good Christian friend who had remarried tell me, when he heard I was engaged to be married again, that I was in for a tough battle with myself. “You're going to feel as though you are betraying your first wife,” he said. He was right. God condemned adultery and fornication because he knew what violation of the oneness of man and woman would do. For the same reason he sanctioned divorce for the cause of adultery.

The destructive nature of polygamy should be obvious. Males and females are roughly equal in numbers under normal conditions. If one man has 25 wives there will be 24 men with no wives. The oneness God intended for man cannot exist in such a relationship. In addition, disease will be an issue because if one person contracts an STD it will spread quickly through the population.

Similar problems come about in every alteration man makes in God's plan for marriage—including adultery and fornication. Christians need to educate and inform all of mankind about what God's plan for marriage is and why alternatives that are labeled marriage will not work. If governments wish to provide financial advantages to people who choose to live together, that is a political choice. I am reminded of a question asked of a presidential candidate in the last election, “When in the conception and birth of a human is the fetus a human?” Our president's response was that he did not know. When decisions are made without critical information the result can be disastrous. Let us show the world what marriage is and that it works.

— John N. Clayton



# THE EVOLUTION OF “GAY” RIGHTS AND THE BIBLE

There have been many changes in western culture in the past 50 years but probably none more dramatic than the public attitude and acceptance of homosexuality. In the 1950s anyone who practiced homosexuality was an outcast and was described by a set of derisive and abusive terms. Physical violence against homosexuals did happen and biblical passages were sometimes used to justify such violence (see Romans 1:26–32 or Genesis 19).



Many atheists and skeptics realized the error in such treatment of homosexuals and used this issue as a club against the Bible. When I was an atheist there was a saying atheists used which said, “If you are gay you are one of us.” Social change advocates in western countries made fighting such abuse part of their agenda. From this the gay activist movement evolved, which went beyond correcting abuse to promoting the homosexual agenda.

There has been a tendency to stereotype those who oppose homosexuality as violent “homophobes.” If you are not in support of homosexuality, then you have to be intolerant, ignorant, unkind, and a supporter of the abuse of others.

Movies, like *Brokeback Mountain*, and TV shows have supported such stereotypes and increased support for the homosexual agenda. Popular talk show hosts like Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey have saturated the public with the homosexual view. What has not been heard by the public, or sometimes even by the church, is the Christian viewpoint—consistent with both the Bible and common sense. I would like to try to articulate that view here in the hopes it will promote understanding, unity, and tolerance.

I have a strong reaction to the use of alcohol as a recreational drug. The use of alcohol in medicine or to purify is logical and biblical (see 1 Timothy 5:23), but distillation did not exist in biblical times. The use of alcohol as a social lubricant is a part of our culture and many people include alcohol as part of their lifestyle—and it is a destructive lifestyle. I have seen the havoc that alcohol brings to those who use it, and to their families. People I love have had horrendous things

brought into their lives by the use of alcohol. My work with young people has shown me how toxic alcohol is to growing minds and bodies. It is unquestionably the most destructive recreational drug of mankind. As a Christian, I believe the use of it violates biblical principles.

While I oppose the use of alcohol, I do not ostracize those who use it. I will try to encourage people not to use it, and I will try to explain why. I will also vote and participate in political action that limits the use of alcohol to minimize its destructive effects on our society.

Homosexuality is also a destructive lifestyle. The life expectancy of “gays” is generally less than the general population. Sexually transmitted diseases are spread more efficiently in homosexual acts than through heterosexual sex. The Bible condemns homosexuality just as it does recreational drugs, premarital sex, divorce for reasons other than adultery, and greed. Alcohol is far more dangerous to me personally than is homosexuality. I am much more likely to be seriously injured or killed by someone drinking than I am by someone practicing homosexuality. However, to those engaging in homosexual sex it can be life threatening. God has given us a moral code that works if we follow it. As a Christian, my job is to help people understand and follow that code.

Following God’s directions is more difficult for some of us than it is for others. Alcoholics tend to have children who are alcoholics. Children who have endured the divorce of their parents have a higher than average rate of divorce themselves. Children who have been abused are likely to become abusers. The causes of homosexuality are complicated and are still being studied, but it is obvious that sexual orientation has external causes. In all of the cases, the person involved has to make a choice. We are not robots and we can control whatever we do. The person who has been abused and has the desire to abuse when anger sets in can learn to control or avoid that behavior. The child of alcoholic parents can take special pains to avoid alcohol. Careful planning and choosing of a mate with conscious, prayerful foundation to the marriage can break the cycle of divorce.

Paul addresses this subject with great sensitivity in 1 Corinthians 7:7 and 17 when he says, “I wish



that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. . . . Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.” He goes on in verses 20–24 with “Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. . . . You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.” He then talked about choosing to live in a way that promotes his Christian walk. Verse 35 says, “I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord” (NIV, 1984).

There is no way I can have the kind of devotion to God that I need to have if I am immersed in a destructive lifestyle. Whether that destructive lifestyle involves alcohol, abuse, greed, or sexual choices, the Bible urges us to help and support those who are in a battle with these predispositions. What we can do is find a way for these struggles to be turned into positive things.

My first wife, Phyllis, was born into poverty. When she was five her father died suddenly, leaving her ill mother with a one year old and a five year old and no money. When Phyllis and I married, I realized that the struggles she had been through as a child affected her outlook on life in a dramatic way. She could not tolerate financial risk of any kind. Investing was not something she could do, and in her view, you never borrowed money for anything. We talked and prayed together about her strong feelings which conflicted with my outlook on money. It could have torn our marriage apart, and when we did get some financial security it could have turned into greed,



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materialism, or selfishness. As Christians, we channeled her feelings into Christian work and she managed our ministry in such a way that it was always secure without ever having to beg for outside help. Our prayers were answered by God and Phyllis left a legacy of a financially secure ministry which is now approaching a half century of work.

I have friends who have taken their feelings of affection for people of the same sex and turned them into loving care and great service that I am incapable of. Rather than engaging in sexual acts that lead to destructive results, their energy and feelings have been directed into serving the mentally-challenged and elderly in kind and loving ways that build and sustain others. It takes discipline, prayer, and the compassionate support of others, but the result is incredible good coming into everyone's life.

The lesson of the past is that the abusive and destructive treatment of homosexuals has brought polarization and isolation not only to the homosexual, but to their families as well. God calls us to live according to his Word. Paul tells us in Romans 6 to “no longer be slaves to sin” (v. 6) and to “not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but ... as instruments of righteousness, for sin shall not be our master, ...” (vv. 13–14) and “just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness” (v. 19).

First Corinthians 6:9–11 records a message to Christians who struggled with a variety of life choices including sexual conduct and had chosen to change those choices. Paul says, “you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (v. 11). That process and that help are available to all who choose to accept it.

—JNC



# WRESTLING WITH THE CONCEPT OF THE SON OF GOD

One of the most important lectures in our lecture series is the lesson we call “The Nature of God” or “What Is God?” The significance of this lesson is that if we correctly understand what God is we must break free of all anthropomorphic (human-like) properties and understand that God is not a human, nor does he have the limitations or properties of humans. Isaiah says it well in Isaiah 55:8–9, “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”

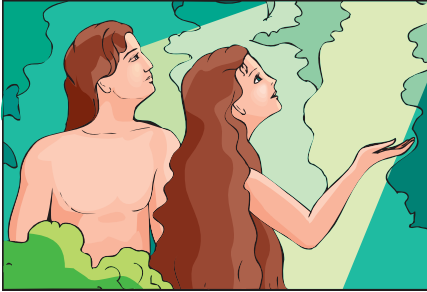
A part of our struggle involves the very nature of what the Bible calls “the Godhead” (see Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; and Colossians 2:9). Jesus told his followers in Matthew 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We are told in John 1:14 that “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” and verse one of that chapter tells us that the “Word was God.”

Theologians have done all kinds of contortions trying to put this concept together in an understandable way. It is a complex subject, but denying what the Bible says is not a valid means of understanding it. Some teachers simply deny that Jesus was what John says he was. Some translations of the Bible have even changed the wording of John 1 so that Jesus can be written off as a created being, not God himself. Other denominations have embraced the idea that Jesus became divine at the baptism of John, but prior to that he was just a normal mortal—thus denying the virgin birth. Strange interpretations of the nature of the Holy Spirit have also been generated by people struggling with the nature of God. We certainly do not pretend to have all the answers here, but there are several things that may be helpful from an apologetic approach to this question.

Let us first point out that the beginning of this whole question starts in the second Hebrew word of the first verse of Genesis. “In the beginning God ...” The word translated “God” in this verse is the Hebrew word *Elohim*. That word carried with it the concept of the power of God, the creative capacity of God, the wisdom of God in all that he creates—and it is a plural word! There are other words



in the Hebrew language for God, but they are not used in the first chapter of Genesis. For example a word often used for God, *Yahweh* (*YHWH*), is not found in the first chapter of Genesis. In Hebrew this word is used when the subject of the passage is connected with the promises of God. You will find it used in the second chapter when the



thrust of the chapter is the promise of marriage (see Genesis 2:24) and how God planned marriage to bring blessings to man and woman. Another Hebrew word for God is *El*, the singular form of *Elohim*. But the first chapter of Genesis consistently uses the plural concept. (See Genesis 1:26, “Let **us** make man in **our**

image, after our likeness ... ” [emphasis mine].)

The biblical concept of God is not that there are many gods, but that God has a make-up that involves three separate entities comprising the one God. We too have different entities that allow us to be human. The Bible tells us that we have a body that is made of the “dust of the earth.” In Genesis 2:7 we are told God formed (*yatshir*) man from the dust of the earth. We are also told we have the breath of life—*nephesh* in the Hebrew (also in verse 7). Animals have these two components as do we, but we are finally told that we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) referring to the spiritual component of man. This is what sets man apart, and what allows us to create, worship, and feel things like an awareness of self, guilt, compassion, etc.—which are not brain-related characteristics. We call this third component of humans our soul. These are not three persons, but three essential components of a complete human being.

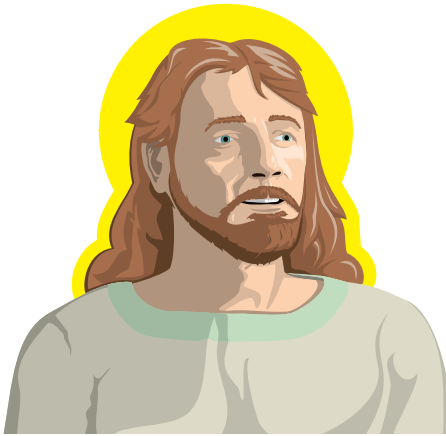
When we look at God we see a similar kind of picture. It is worthy of note that when the Holy Spirit is referred to in the Bible, it is always in connection with action (with a verb). Genesis 1:2 tells us that “the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Genesis 6:3 says, “My Spirit shall not always strive with man.” Matthew 4:1 tell us, “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit.” First Corinthians 2:10 tells us the Spirit reveals and searches. Like the word *nephesh* which refers to life or breath when used in reference to living things, the Holy Spirit is the action part of God. The Holy Spirit is distinct and separate from the other components of the Godhead while being an integral part of the Godhead.

The Father part of the Godhead involves those characteristics peculiar to God’s creative capacity. The wisdom, protection, power, energy, intelligence, and knowledge part of the divine is seen in the Father. Once again the comparison to man’s intellect is easy to see.

We do not function by instinct. We have a capacity to control our environment and to reason and think through those problems that might threaten our existence.

The challenging part of this discussion is why Jesus is referred to as the Son of God, and what that actually means. In our July/August 2009 issue of this journal we reviewed an excellent book by Oliver Rogers titled *The Faith of Christ*. In this book Rogers shows us that passages like Galatians 2:16 have been corrupted by modern translations to read “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith IN Jesus Christ” when it should read “faith OF Jesus

Christ” [emphasis mine]. Rogers’ point is that this mistranslation makes it sound as though we have to achieve a certain amount of faith to be saved, and the logical question is “how much is that?” “If we have a little doubt is that spiritually fatal?” (Other passages where this is an issue are Romans 3:22, 26; Galatians 2:20; 3:22; and Philippians 3:9.) God is the only agent by which we obtain salvation—not how much faith we have. We do not



earn heaven; we rely upon Jesus to provide salvation.

Jesus Christ is God as John 1 says, but his nature and his role in all things are special. John 1:14 says that God became flesh. John the apostle alludes to this in John 3:31–36, “The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. . . . The Father loves the Son, and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, . . . .” Colossians 1:16–17 says, “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

A human is not a human unless all three parts of the human nature are present—a body, life breath, and the soul. The Elohim of Genesis 1 involves not just the wisdom, power, strength, intelligence, and energy to accomplish the creation, but also the characteristics seen in Jesus Christ. These involve love, beauty, nurturing, protecting, caring, feeding, shaping, cleansing, and guiding all that happens. Raw power and intelligence and the capacity to actively forge physical things is not all there is to our existence. In Acts 17:24–30 Paul describes man’s relationship to Elohim and says “in him we live and move and

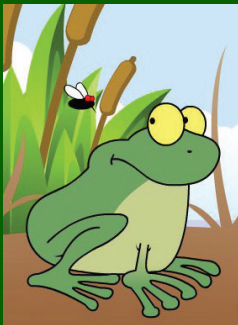
have our being, ... ‘we are his offspring.’” In the incredible Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7 Jesus repeatedly calls to mind the mechanical, physical things of the creation and of man’s interaction with them and with his fellow man by saying, “You have heard that it was said ... but I tell you ... .” In each case man is called to those characteristics of God which Jesus brings to mankind.

God came to the earth in the form of flesh—a human being. That being came from the action and the power and intelligence of the Godhead, but he brought love, compassion, peace, caring, beauty, forgiveness, and all of those things that God wants us to have. It is totally appropriate that this part of the Godhead would be called “the Son of God.” Colossians 1 makes wonderful sense if we understand the role of Christ in the creation process, and what his role should be in our lives—if we will just allow it to happen.  
—JNC



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# ADULTERY: A SIN OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

by Dr. Paul Douglas Smith

And he [Jesus] answered and said unto them, Have you not read, that he [God] which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.  
(Matthew 19:4–6 [cp. Genesis 2:24], KJV)

Editor's note: Dr. Smith was once incarcerated in Texas and writes this article not only from his professional training, but from personal experience.

Adultery is breaking the marriage covenant by mixing into it something that does not belong. It is apostasy and deflection from the truth. It is spiritual idolatry because we serve Satan when we commit adultery. It is also deadly poison to our spirituality and our marriage, because it is breaking wedlock by bringing into the covenant relationship—a covenant established by and in the sight of God—another man or woman. This places a wedge between the hearts of the husband and wife, cutting them apart in spirit as well as the flesh. The loyalty, affections, and marital duty guaranteed to one's spouse by the marriage covenant has been given to, or stolen by another.

How far does adultery really reach? Adultery brings with it a tremendous danger of physical pollution by bacteria and disease, as well as the uncleanness of the sin of harlotry. It is not only our bodies that are at risk, but so too are our spouses. First, any of several sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can be introduced to their spouse after an adulterous encounter with an unclean, promiscuous person. These diseases can be incurable, crippling, and even fatal. Secondly, since in marriage the union is so intimate that the two become one flesh, when a third party is introduced, the faithful mate will feel spiritually ripped from their spouse. Their innermost treasure has been spoiled and stolen from them, leaving them feeling violated and shamed. Their heart will feel as if it has been torn in two by the betrayal of their mate.

Women are a very special gift from God. In Genesis 2:18, God determined that it was not good for man to be alone. He says that he will make for Adam a “help meet,” or companion compatible to him intellectually, morally, and physically as his counterpart. So in verses 21–22 God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and as Adam slept, God took one of Adam's ribs and made woman to be a companion for

him. In verses 23–24, Adam says: “... This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” And God said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” In verse 25 both Adam and Eve are naked but without shame because they are of one flesh—husband and wife. There is no shame in nudity or sexuality between husband and wife, but with any one else but their spouse, it is an abomination (Leviticus 18:6–17).

It is written in an old adage that, woman is said not to have been taken out of man’s head to be lorded over by him, nor from his feet to be trampled on by him, but from his side

to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected by him and from near his heart to be loved by him.

A story about David Livingston emphasizes this well. “In the year 1812 Livingston’s wife (Mary) died of the dreaded African fever. Of this he wrote in his journal: ‘It is the first



heavy stroke I have suffered, and quite takes away my strength. I wept over her who well deserved many tears. I loved her when I married her, and the longer I lived with her I loved her the more. God pity the poor children, who were all attached to her; and I am left alone in the world by one I felt to be part of myself. I hope it may, by divine grace, lead me to realize heaven as my home, and she has but proceeded me in the journey. Oh my Mary, MY Mary; how often we have longed for a quiet home. For the first time in my life I feel willing to die. (From Mary J. H. Worchester, Jr., *David Livingston: First to Cross Africa with the Gospel*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1989.)

The love expressed by David Livingston in his journal is the kind of love and devotion God intends for a man to have for his wife. David truly believed Mary to be his special gift from God and that he and Mary were one in the eyes of God. Without Mary, his life was no longer complete.

Men in particular need to understand that their wives are a special gift and a blessing from God and that they are to love, care for, protect, and nurture the wife God blessed them with (Ephesians 5:25, 28–29). When a husband commits adultery he is committing a violent act toward both his wife and God. Adultery leaves one’s spouse emotionally bruised, maimed, broken, and sometimes permanently spotted by some STD. He is also telling God that his perfect gift is not good

enough — that the world has a better one to offer.

Marriage is a very special entity and we are to protect it from all intruders — especially Satan — and honor it as the God-ordained covenant it is. To not do so is physical and emotional violence



against one's spouse and a form of robbery from God by stealing the sanctity of the marriage covenant he created and ordained. When God looks upon a man and his wife, he does so not as two, but only as one flesh! Amen.

## BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF SEXUALITY IN FIRST CORINTHIANS 7

Dr. Paul Douglas Smith

1. Sexual relations within marriage are holy and good. God encourages sexual relations and warns against their cessation.

2. Pleasure in sexual relations is not sinful but assumed. The bodies of both parties belong to each other (note also the Song of Solomon and Proverbs 5:18–19).

3. Sexual pleasure is to be regulated by the principle that one's sexuality is not to be self-oriented but other orientated — rights over one's body are given in marriage to the other party. All homosexuality and masturbation are out of accord with this fundamental principle. The idea here, as elsewhere, is that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



4. Sexual relations are to be regular and continuous. No exact number of times per week is advised, but the principle is that both parties are to provide such adequate sexual satisfaction that both sexual desire and the temptation to find satisfaction elsewhere are avoided.

5. The principle of satisfaction means that each party is to provide sexual enjoyment (which is due him or her in marriage) as frequently as the other party requires. But, of course, other biblical principles (moderation, seeking to please another rather than self, etc.) also come into play, as well, within the marriage. Consideration for one's mate is to regulate one's request for sexual relations. But this must never be used as an excuse for failing to meet genuine needs. On the other hand, requests for sexual satisfaction must not be governed by an idolatrous lust.

6. In accordance with the principle of "rights," there is to be no sexual bargaining in a marriage, such as "I'll not have relations with you unless you ..." Neither party has the right to make such bargains.

7. Sexual relationships are equal and reciprocal. Paul does not give the man superior rights to the woman. It is clear, then, that mutual stimulation and mutual initiation of relations are legitimate. Women need not be timid about taking the initiative in requesting or suggesting sexual relations. Paul's words plainly indicate that there is a mutual need that each partner is required to satisfy. Indeed, the doctrine of mutual rights involves the obligation of mutual responsibility of active participation in sexual stimulation and intercourse. Neither the husband or wife should hesitate to cooperate or initiate foreplay in sexual relations.

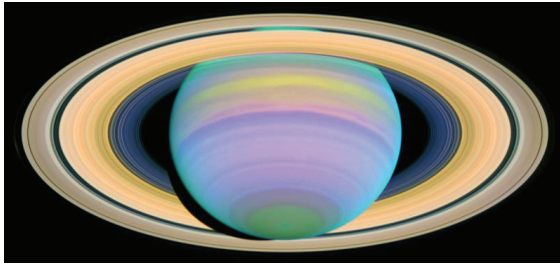
# GOD AND THE BIG BANG

by Phillip Eichman

From the teeming life in a drop of pond water to the structure of distant galaxies, we live in an amazing, orderly, and complex universe. Within ourselves as human beings we see not only this same complexity, but also personality and intelligence. Order, complexity, personality, and intelligence—did all of these just happen? There are really just two possibilities: either the universe just happened to be this way, or else there was someone or something behind it all. Francis Schaeffer

described these two possibilities as either an impersonal beginning or a personal beginning.<sup>1</sup>

Schaeffer explained that an impersonal beginning in which everything “began with an imper-



Saturn's Rings in Ultraviolet

sonal something,” cannot fully explain the order and complexity of the universe, or the existence of intelligence and personality in human beings. Only a personal beginning, Schaeffer concluded, in which everything “began with a personal something” can explain human beings and the world around us. In other words, only a Creator with intelligence and personality could design an orderly and complex universe like ours.

Belief in a personal beginning and a Creator is a matter of faith. There is no need to apologize or be embarrassed about it. It is clearly explained in the Bible that belief in a Creator is a matter of faith (Hebrews 11:3). The very existence of the universe points to the necessity of a Creator, but it still requires faith to accept this.

Belief in an impersonal beginning and a universe formed by chance is also a matter of faith. It is a different kind of faith, but it is still faith. A person who rejects the idea of a Creator must believe in something else. Presently, the most accepted scientific expla-



The Antennae Galaxies

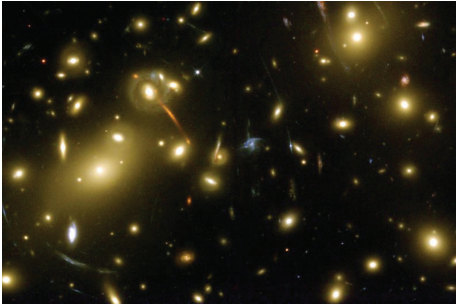
All pictures in this article: NASA (Hubble)

nation for the origin of the universe is the big bang theory. Even this requires belief in something: that matter existed before the “big bang” and that chemical processes could produce a universe like we see around us.



Barred Spiral Galaxy

Theories such as the big bang cannot fully explain the intricacies of the universe and require a “faith” in mindless, random processes rather than an intelligent and personal Creator. Robert Jastrow, an agnostic astronomer, summed up well the problems of an impersonal beginning in his book *Until the Sun Dies*: “Science, unlike the Bible, has no explanation for the occurrence of that extraordinary event [the big bang]. The Universe, and everything that has happened since the beginning of time, are a grand effect without a known cause.”<sup>2</sup>



Galaxy Cluster

Several years ago I was speaking to a group of students and one young lady with a perplexed look on her face said to me, “Do you mean that you don’t believe in the big bang?” I responded that the big bang may in fact be the way in which God created the universe, but without a personal being to direct that process, the big bang cannot fully explain the existence and nature of the universe in which we live.

Either the universe had a personal beginning directed by the Creator, or it is, as Jastrow observed, a “grand effect without a known cause.” You can believe in one or the other. The choice is yours.

### Notes

1. Francis Schaeffer, *Genesis in Space and Time* (InterVarsity Press, 1972), 19–21.
2. Robert Jastrow, *Until the Sun Dies* (Norton, 1977), 21.

ADDRESS CHANGE? To remain on our mailing list, please give us both your old and new addresses with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



# SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Tihomir Dimitrov on the nobelists.net website for quotations from many of the founders of modern science who were also fundamental believers in the God of the Bible. As we share these quotations we are reminded that being a good scientist is not at odds with belief in God.

## NICOLAUS COPERNICUS

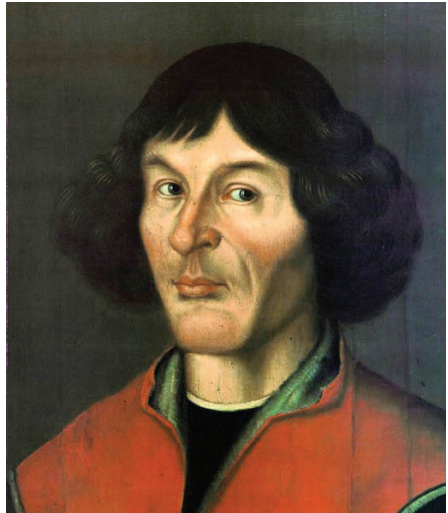
1473-1543

### The Renaissance astronomer who first formulated the Heliocentric Cosmology

“To know the mighty works of God, to comprehend His wisdom and majesty and power, to appreciate, in degree, the wonderful working of His laws, surely all this must be a pleasing and acceptable mode of worship to the Most High, to whom ignorance cannot be more gratifying than knowledge.”

“Not the Grace received by Paul do I desire,  
Nor the good will with which thou forgavest Peter.  
Only that which Thou didst grant the thief on the cross,  
That mercy I ask of thee.”

“For who, after applying himself to things which he sees established in the best order and directed by Divine ruling, would not through diligent contemplation of them and through a certain habituation be awakened to that which is best and would not admire the Artificer of all things, in Whom is all happiness and every good? For the divine Psalmist surely did not say gratuitously that he took pleasure in the workings of God and rejoiced in the works of His hands, unless by means of these things as by some sort of vehicle we are transported to the contemplation of the highest good.



# *Cynthia's Corner*

## **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**



God created man in his image, and God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:18). “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

God designed marriage to fulfill sexual and emotional needs and to produce, nurture, and train offspring (Ephesians 6:4). God designed marriage to be for life (God hates divorce—Malachi 2:16) and intended marriage to be the foundation of the family. Following the principles of God and Jesus, husband and wife are to love and respect one another (Ephesians 5:22–33) and to teach their children to love and obey God (Deuteronomy 6:7). God has not changed his mind about this.

God made us, loves us, and knows what is best for us. He knows that every individual needs someone to love him or her unconditionally and unselfishly throughout all the ups and downs of life. The family unit is an anchor of love and support and a refuge when times get tough. Everyone needs a place of safety, love, and encouragement where we can be who we are and be accepted and loved just as we are. No one should be alone or unloved. That is the purpose of families. Godly families rooted in godly principles and love are the foundation of lifelong relationships that go on for generations providing a place of love, safety, and acceptance throughout our lifetimes.

You may say that is the ideal we do not always or often see. That is true because everything that God has given us for our good can be corrupted and abused when we do not follow God. I know this from personal experience. When we follow our own selfish and sinful desires, our marriages and families suffer. When we have sex outside of marriage, when we have children outside of marriage, and when we live together without the commitment and sanctity of marriage, we are rebelling against God and doing things our way. We can try to have stable, strong relationships and families without God at the core, but our foundation is weak. It is based upon our personal values and selfish desires, not on what is best for the family and not on godly principles of love (see 1 Corinthians 13:4–7), self sacrifice, and commitment.

Life is long and challenging, and people are imperfect. Without godly values in our homes, we cannot hope to have lasting, loving marriages and families.

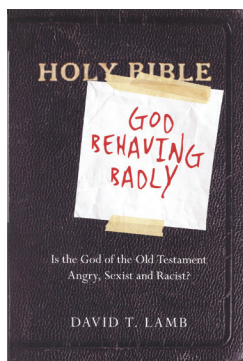
—Cynthia Clayton



The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

### God Behaving Badly

by David T. Lamb, IVP Books, 2011, 205 pages,  
\$15 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-3826-4



This book is subtitled “Is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist and Racist?” The book is an effective response to Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens’ materials accusing God of being “jealous, ... a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak, a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser, a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, ... bully,” etc. (Dawkins, *River Out of Eden*).

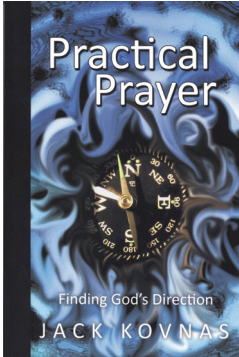
There are many challenges that atheists throw up against the nature of God. Why was Uzzah struck dead when he grabbed the ark to stop it from falling? Why did God send bears to attack children when Elisha was ridiculed for being bald? Why was Israel told to kill every man, woman, and child of the Amalekites? We have discussed stories like these in this journal, but this book goes into depth and builds a picture of a kind and loving God as opposed to the view that the God of the Old Testament is radically different from the loving God of the New Testament.

The book is divided into eight chapters titled by the contrasts between the views of God given by atheists and what the Bible actually projects. Some chapter titles are: “Angry or Loving?” “Sexist or Affirming?” “Violent or Peaceful?” “Legalistic or Gracious?” Lamb does a wonderful job of explaining difficult passages of the Old Testament. He is both scholarly and humorous. A Scripture index allows you to take a passage held up to be bad behavior on God’s part and see that there was a logical reason for what was done and how it was done. The book brings out God’s true nature and the relationship he wants with us as his children.

This is a useful study of the integrity of the Bible and the nature of God. We recommend it very highly.

## Practical Prayer

by Jack Kovnas, WestBow Press ([www.westbowpress.com](http://www.westbowpress.com)), 2011,  
226 pages, \$17.95 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-4497-2383-5



There are many approaches to knowing that God exists, that he is the God of the Bible, and that he is accessible to modern man. Jack Kovnas has approached these questions from the standpoint of prayer and has built a ministry around that approach. This book is a product of his ministry. The book is subtitled “Finding God’s Direction” and deals in a hands-on way with the subject of prayer and how prayer is answered in the lives of Christians. In his promo for the book the author writes “Inside this book you will find a declaration by somebody who learned the value

of praying and trusting God — who willingly gave up house and possessions, and then watched in amazement as they returned.”

Atheists frequently claim that prayer is an exercise in futility, and that the fact that prayers are usually not answered in a positive way is a reason to believe there is no God who answers prayers. Many of us as Christians have had to struggle with this issue when we pray for something fervently and with the right motives but do not see what we are praying for happen. What Mr. Kovnas does in this book is to take the reader through a long series of situations where prayers were answered in incredible ways, but not always with ease.

The author quotes and demonstrates a number of biblical statements about prayer. In one section (chapter 9) he engages in a speculative look at how the description of Genesis 1 and the Flood match with scientific information and calls it an epiphany in which God answered his prayer for understanding. He goes from this to the statement, “I learned from practice when and how to pray, not only for help, but also how to test and find God’s will and direction in various matters” (page 62). The book then gives his personal history and shows how that happened and worked out for him.

Atheists will write this discussion off as coincidence, but it would seem to this reader that there are too many situations that came out in remarkable ways for coincidence to be a good explanation. I have had similar experiences in my own life, and we have written about that in this journal in the past. Those who have an interest in prayer need to read this book. Whether your interest is negative or positive you will find it interesting.

# DANDY DESIGNS

## THE MAGIC OF COLOR IN BIRDS



As you travel around the world, one of the things you will notice is that on all continents there are birds with dazzling color. The colors serve many purposes for the birds—camouflage, to attract mates, dominance symbols, and the like. How they produce that color has been a mystery that is still being unraveled by scientists. Richard Prum, an ornithologist at Yale, has been studying this issue starting with the cotingas, a beautiful blue-colored bird in Central and South America.

Prum has discovered that as feathers grow, a material called keratin separates from water in the cells inside the feathers. The cells die and the water dries out leaving air pockets in the keratin so the structure is like a sponge or a box of spaghetti. In the case of the cotingas the red and green wavelengths are absorbed by the keratin leaving blue light to be reflected from the feather. Scientists refer to this as structural color because it is not pigment that is reflecting, but light interacting with the feather's structure.

Prum refers to all of this as an exceptional feat of engineering, and he dismisses any practical reason for the color but suggests that “It’s really about beauty.” Prum is teaching a class at Yale titled “The Evolution of Beauty.” While the mechanism for the production of beauty is an interesting subject, we would suggest that beauty is an artistic term that requires a sentient being. It reaches beyond survival and lies within the spiritual dimension of humans created in God’s image, with creative ability in art, music, and worship. Appreciation of beautiful color is a part of that creative ability. Source: *Smithsonian*, March 2012, page 26.







## MANGROVES: GOD'S GREAT ENVIRONMENTAL TOOL

In our day of ecological concern, there are always a number of studies of natural solutions to pollution problems that come to our attention. Recently there have been some new studies reported on mangroves. Mangroves are trees that grow along the coastal areas of tropical and subtropical regions. They have elaborate root systems that sprawl above and below the water line and thus they edge many coastal areas. If you have fished in the coastal waters of Florida you have seen the forests of mangroves that provide cover for fish and many animals including monkeys, various cats, and a variety of shellfish and corals. There are some 73 known species of mangroves and they all offer enormous ecological advantages to man and to the planet as a whole.

McGill University scientists have found that mangroves remove massive amounts of carbon, more than any terrestrial forests. Every year some 42 million tons of carbon are removed—roughly equivalent to the annual carbon emissions of 25 million cars. Mangroves handle extreme heat very well remaining active even in the hottest times of the day. A 30-foot mangrove will use three times less water than a similar sized pine tree. The root system of mangroves filter salt and oxygen and bolster the soil. Mangroves anchor and protect the shoreline. In the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami areas with mangroves were much less damaged than other areas. The mangroves reduced the height of the waves and reduced the energy of the tsunami. Mangroves offer great value to coastal areas during hurricanes in very much the same way.

When God created the earth, he built into the earth a variety of living and nonliving structures that would handle the waste products and earth elements that could do damage to man. It is tragic that we have allowed mangroves to be harvested for wood, food, lumber and medicine to such an extent that our supply of mangroves has been reduced 35% since 1980. We need to understand that part of the design of the earth provides ecological balance and must be restored and cared for. God told us this in Genesis 2:15 when he said to take care of the garden “to dress it and keep it.” We have not done that well, and we pay a heavy price when we allow selfishness and greed to recklessly destroy what God has designed for our well being. Source: *Discover* magazine, April 2011, page 19.

# News and Notes



## OUR 2012 CANYONLANDS SEMINAR TOUR IS FULL

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**GLOBAL WARMING.** The complexity of the issue of global warming increases with every new discovery. The Soufrière Hills volcano in Montserrat has been emitting tiny sulfur-rich particles referred to as aerosols since 1995. These particles tend to shield the earth from solar radiation, and that cools the earth. There is much evidence that global warming is taking place, but one of the things that appears to be limiting how much warming is actually happening is the natural introduction of cooling agents to the atmosphere. Source: *Science News*, December 31, 2011, page 32.

**JUNK DNA NOT REALLY JUNK.** Many of us were told in our college training that only about 2% of the segments of DNA carry instructions for building proteins. The rest was said to be unreadable by the cell's machinery and was called "junk DNA." It now turns out that most of this 98% of the remaining DNA is read by the cell, and it was the biologists who did not understand the DNA language. The junk DNA does contain codes for making molecules, but the molecules are not proteins. One such set of molecules called lincRNAs also regulates what happens in the cell. Stuart Knowling and Kevin Morris of Scripps Research Institute are leading the scientific investigation of the value of junk DNA. The summary of their research is that "what was once considered the trash of the cell is becoming treasure."

In a related development, a study has been released that shows that electricity can also affect the way in which cells are stimulated to accomplish their jobs. All cells have an electrical state called a "membrane potential." These act as electronic gates to control the flow of charged atoms (ions) that flow across the membrane and tell the cell what to do. Researchers at Tufts University have been able to

get eyes to grow in the gut of a tadpole by manipulating the electric signals. The complexity of this subject speaks highly of the wisdom of the Creator and the inadequacy of blind chance to make it work. Sources: *Science News*, December 17, 2011, page 2, and December 31, 2011, page 5.

### **MONARCH BUTTERFLY GENOME SHOWS DESIGN.**

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts have deciphered the entire genome of the monarch butterfly. What was found was that there were genes that help the monarch sense the sun's position and navigate their migration routes. Two-hundred-seventy-three million DNA units make up the monarch genome and their remarkable migration abilities are rooted in this complex genetic structure. The design features of the genome speak eloquently of the engineering of the genome itself. Migration routes are programmed instructions and we would suggest that God's design is the best explanation of how this ability comes about. Source: *Science News*, January 14, 2012, page 16.

**EVOLUTION MODELS AND TEXTBOOKS.** There are many models of evolution and a variety of "trees of evolution." These models and trees are based on different kinds of research from different fields. The biochemical models and the anatomical models will be somewhat different. As research continues it is hoped these differences will be reduced, but the question is which of these models do you present to students and do you let students know that there are conflicts between the models? An organization called Educational Research Analysts in Longview, Texas, has been pushing textbook publishers to point out that there are conflicts. They have had some success with some publishers. Getting young people to understand how science works is important, but selling a particular model when you know it has some weaknesses is not consistent with good science. For more on this from Educational Research Analysts go to [www.textbookreviews.org](http://www.textbookreviews.org).

**MORE ON JEFFERSON'S BIBLE.** We have mentioned several times in this column that the claim of some atheists that Thomas Jefferson was an atheist is more of an attempt to steal his name than a statement of fact. In the *Smithsonian* magazine (January 2012, page 24) there is an interesting discussion of Jefferson's views, including more information about his cutting and pasting of the New Testament. According to the article, in 1820 Jefferson produced an 84-page volume titled "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth." In



1804 he did the same thing in a volume titled “The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth” but that volume has been lost. Jefferson had some unorthodox views of the Bible, but to classify him as an atheist is a gross misrepresentation of the facts.

**MILITARY CHAPLAIN CHANGE.** We have mentioned that military chaplains have been concerned that they might be required to perform marriages such as same-sex marriages that they do not feel are moral. The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act which President Obama signed says, “A Military chaplain who, as a matter of conscience or moral principle, does not wish to perform a marriage may not be required to do so.” Hopefully that will resolve this issue. Source: *Christianity Today*, February 2012, page 13.

**MAYAN APOCALYPSE DECEMBER 21, 2012?** Doomsday predictions seem to never stop, and the current rage continues to be the Mayan calendar. The claim is that the Mayan calendar proposes a cycle of 394 years known as *baktun*. The 13th *baktun* ends this coming December 21 in which the god of war descends from the sky. In a book called *The Mayan Prophecies* published in 1996, Maurice Cotterell and Adrian Gilbert claimed that the Mayans predicted that solar activity would reverse the earth’s magnetic field in December of 2012 wiping out the human race. A huge number of books and even movies have been spawned by this, but the Mayan culture presents time as cyclical, not linear, so when the current calendar ends a new one begins. There is no reason to believe anything special will happen in December of 2012, but people fighting the recession and political struggles are good candidates for any claim that the end is near. The Pew Center released a poll in 2011 showing that 41% of all Americans believe the rapture will occur before 2050. The Bible makes it clear that no one knows when the end will come, but entrepreneurs will always find ways to make hurting people believe the worst. For a good general survey of all this see *The Week*, February 10, 2012, page 11.

**A NEW “DOCTOR DEATH.”** One of the most difficult issues facing many individuals and families is what to do when quality of life is virtually nonexistent and the person is ready to die. If the person is being kept alive by modern technology the issue is fairly simple, and few of us have a problem with “pulling the plug.” In some cases however such as Alzheimer’s or some kinds of cancer there is no plug to pull. Here in Michigan a few years ago Dr. Jack Kevorkian provided a chemical cocktail that people could give to themselves to commit suicide. When Kevorkian went to prison that option was removed, and he died in June of 2011. Lawrence Egbert is a retired anesthesi-

ologist and Unitarian Universalist minister who has built a hood that uses helium and allows people to kill themselves. He claims to have been involved in 100 suicides in the past 15 years. He is the medical director for the “Final Exit Network” which is a 3000-member group that will even allow patients suffering from long term depression to terminate their existence. Egbert does not believe in an afterlife, and says, “I don’t think it’s worthwhile to worry about what happens to you when you’re dead.” When you reduce human life to a strictly animal existence, death is easier to treat because you euthanize a human the same way you do the household pet when quality of life is gone. If human life has value beyond the physical, that picture changes. Many times the last days of life on this earth can be the best for both those dying and the loved ones they leave behind. Source: *Washington Post* (January 19, 2012) reprinted in *The Week*, February 17, 2012.

### **VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY BANS RELIGIOUS GROUPS.**

The whole discussion about political correctness has hit a new low at Vanderbilt University where in the name of “nondiscrimination” groups like The Christian Legal Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, are being forced off campus. Vanderbilt was upset because a Christian fraternity had refused to admit a gay student. They then went on to say that “Christian leaders could not be asked to lead Bible study or worship.” The charters and constitutions of all student organizations are being reviewed by the university and the rights of students to be able to be a part of groups that share their views will apparently be sacrificed to political correctness. Posted by Todd Starnes on FACEBOOK February 1, 2012, and circulated by Fox News.

### **SUSAN KOMEN FOR THE CURE AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD RELATIONSHIP GETS COMPLICATED.**

The Komen pink ribbon campaign has done much to fund research and programs on breast cancer. Many churches and Christian publishing companies such as LifeWay Christian Resources had contributed a great deal of money to Komen over the years—\$25,000 with \$1.00 from the sale of each pink Holman Christian Standard Bible being an example. Planned Parenthood has diversified their services so that they are not just an abortion clinic, but also provide screening and education programs, so the Komen group sent money to 19 Planned Parenthood programs. This has upset many pro-life proponents who do not want any of their money going to an organization that promotes abortion. We would hope that some compromise might be reached in this so that money donated to fight breast cancer would only go to that effort, but that remains to be seen. Resource: *Christianity Today*, February 2012, page 15.

**GOVERNMENT RULES AND CHURCH TEACHING.** What do you do when the government makes a law that violates what the church teaches is God's will? That might sound like a problem in Russia, but early in 2012 it has been a problem in the United States. President Obama's Health and Human Services Department ruled in early February that "any religious organization that serves the general public must provide free contraception, sterilization, and abortion inducing drugs to employees." The immediate conflict that this law has is with the Catholic church, but any religious group that has a college or university, preacher training school, nursing home, orphanage, etc., would be affected. The University of Notre Dame will face a \$10 million per year fine if they do not offer this to their employees, and yet all of these things are against written beliefs and practices of the university. President Obama endorsed this law, but the uproar almost certainly means it will be moderated before this column gets to you. It is our suggestion that this is just the beginning of this issue. Requiring churches to hire gays or restrict who can be a preacher will be another area that we will see soon. It is a fearsome time in America and those who have convictions about politically incorrect moral issues are in for a very hard time. Sources: *Time*, February 20, 2012, page 20; *The Week*, February 10, 2012, page 17.

**BACTERIA DEGRADED GULF OIL.** Studies released in the past several weeks have shown that the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was greatly reduced in its effect because bacteria fed on the hydrocarbon plumes. Dr. Benjamin Van Mooy of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution said, "What happened in the deep plumes was far more complex than any of the initial papers had really acknowledged." The role of bacteria and how processes on the earth are controlled and modified by bacteria is still pretty much unknown, but the design features help man even when man does something stupid like releasing massive amounts of crude into the ocean. Source: *Science News*, February 11, 2012, page 12.

**NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING USE.** Many years ago we tried to do a lectureship in a public high school that was rented and was to be used after the school day was over. There was a great deal of controversy about this use, because New York State law said that churches could not use the schools. Shortly after we were there an atheist group was allowed to rent the same building we had tried to rent. Since that time this issue has continued to fester. The U.S. Second Circuit Court recently ruled, "A worship service is an act of organized religion that consecrates the place in which it is performed, making it a church." We were talking about the existence of God when we were kicked out of the school, but now you could do anything you wished religiously as long as you did not "consecrate the

place.” That means that the New York City Department of Education can bar all religious services if it can prove that the religious groups are consecrating the building. *Christianity Today* labels the rule “unconstitutional, discriminatory, and ridiculous.” (February 2012, page 41.) It is just one more example of the bias and bigotry against believers in God that exists in America today. Hopefully as people see what is going on in this area of concern there will be pressure on those in power to make religious freedom available to everyone, and not just those who choose to be politically correct.

**INCREASE IN OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS.** New data on babies born out of wedlock is astounding, and shows the growing trend to avoid marriage in our culture today. Here are the numbers:

Percent of babies born out-of-wedlock	1965	2011
To black mothers	24%	73%
To latinos	N/A	53%
To whites	3%	29%
High school drop outs		70%
High school graduates		51%
Have had some college		34%
College graduates		8%

The message comes through loud and clear that our culture is changing rapidly, and a lack of education and the poverty that results has a high correlation with kids born in disadvantaged situations. The church has a huge opportunity to make a difference in these numbers and in the lives that these numbers describe. Source: *Time*, March 5, 2012, page 13.

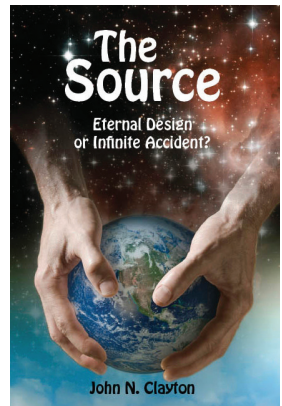
**Our best-selling book, *The Source***, is available in a new edition. We still have the original version which is written on a college level, but John Clayton has written a new and updated version for a wider audience. Both books take a scientific approach to finding answers to questions about God. Both books are available by mail-order from **Does God Exist?** or from our authorized web-store.



COLLEGE  
LEVEL



NEW  
EDITION



This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this bimonthly journal, the **Does God Exist?** program offers DVDs and video tapes, CDs and audio tapes, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

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