

# Science & Faith

Thinking “Outside the Box”: Can We?



# Science

- **Webster's Dictionary: "Knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation"**
- **Two Types:**
  - **Observational/Empirical (experimental, repeatable)**
  - **Historical (arguments from evidence about how past events occurred)**
- **Empirical science is equipped (methodologically) to examine nature**
  - Natural, physical, material phenomena
  - Natural causes (i.e., cause-effect relationships)
- **Historical science is equipped (rationally) with argument by inference from extant artifacts**
  - **Examples**
    - The geologic column and fossil records
    - Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMBR)



# Faith

- *“Now faith is the substance [or realization] of things hoped for, the evidence [confidence] of things not seen.”*  
Hebrews 11:1
- Supernatural, metaphysical, immaterial, spiritual
- Like science, faith is equipped with observability and rationality
- *“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*  
John 20:30-31
- John was writing about, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life . . . .”

1 John 1:1

# The Limits of Science

- **Francis Bacon** (The “Father of Modern Science”)
  - “*True knowledge is knowledge by causes.*”
- **Science is *not* equipped to test for *supernatural* causes**
  - Supernatural, metaphysical, immaterial existence & cause-effect relations
- **Does empirical verification give us truth?**
  - There is no way to empirically verify that claim!
- **If science is not equipped to test for supernatural phenomena...**
  - “Can science prove or disprove the existence of God?”
- **Since the Enlightenment, science has adopted a staunch anti-supernaturalist paradigm**
  - Explain EVERYTHING on the basis of natural, physical, material processes
  - *A priori* assumption: No supernatural agency
  - The statement, “*There are no supernatural causes for any natural phenomena,*” is **NOT** testable by any experimental model



# “Why is the Water Boiling?”



Because the stove top is hot and, if you're at sea level, the heat has reached at least 212° Fahrenheit. As the heat is conducted through the base of the kettle, it is agitating the molecules of H<sub>2</sub>O inside the kettle. The agitation is causing the molecules to move faster and faster and some of them are starting to act like *Enter Sandman* is playing in the kitchen and they're bouncing up and down. But seriously, heat, heat transfer, 212° F at sea level, agitation—the water is boiling.

# NO!

**The water in the kettle  
is boiling because I  
want a cup of instant  
coffee!**



# Context: How'd the Kettle Get on the Stove?

“The ‘scientific explanation’ itself would be absolutely incomprehensible if you didn’t put it into the context as to **WHY**, or **HOW**, the kettle got on the stove in the first place.”

**Dr. John Lennox**  
(Oxford Professor of Mathematics)



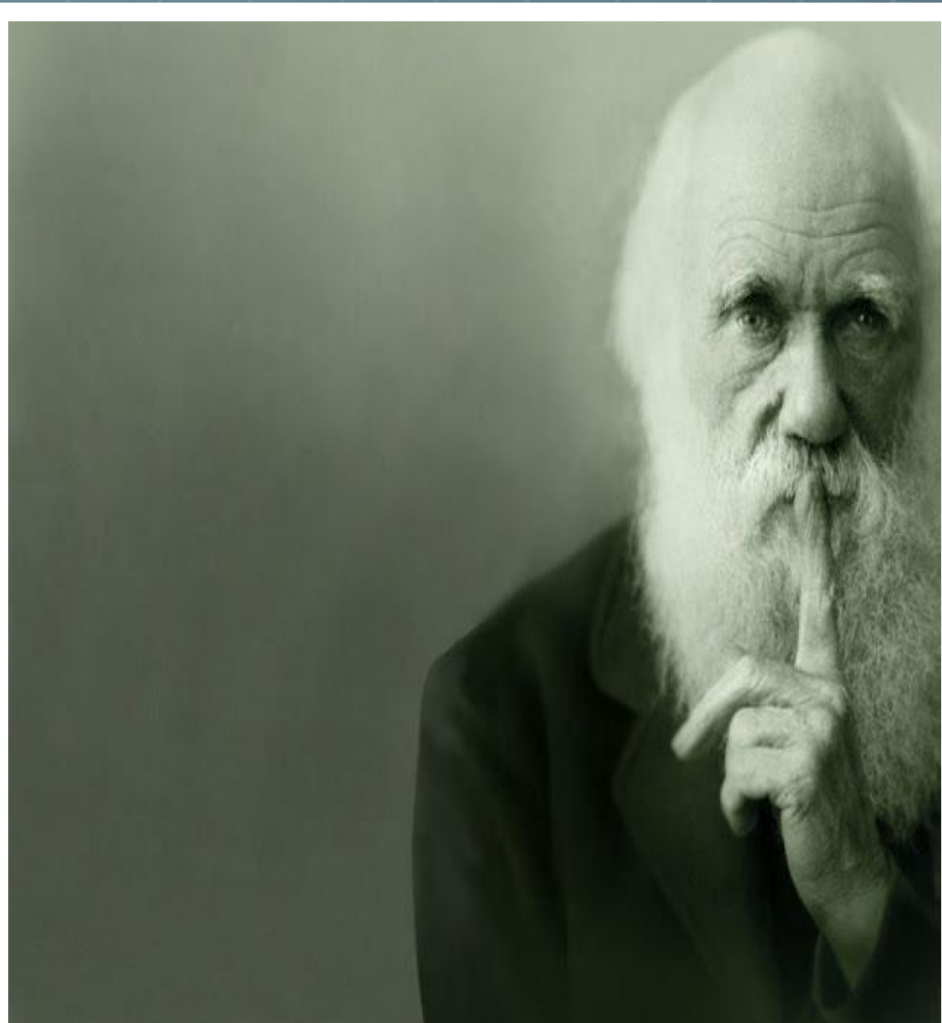
# “What is an ‘Explanation’ ”?

“ ‘**EXPLANATION**’ is a very sophisticated, multi-level concept. And **narrowly reducing** it to mechanistic explanations through naturalistic processes is **EXTREMELY LIMITING.**”

Dr. John Lennox

**“If you exclude, *a priori*,  
'agent' involvement, of  
course you'll never find  
one.”**

# Thinking INSIDE the Box: Charles Darwin's "Horrid Doubt"



"But then with me the horrid doubt always arises **whether the convictions of man's mind**, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, **are of any value or at all trustworthy**. Would any one trust in the convictions of a monkey's mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?"

Personal correspondence,  
3 July 1881

<http://dissentfromdarwin.org/index.php>

# John Gray

*“Modern humanism is the faith that through science humankind can know the truth - and so be free. But if Darwin's theory of natural selection is true this is impossible. The human mind serves evolutionary success, not truth. To think otherwise is to resurrect the pre-Darwinian error that humans are different from all other animals.”*

*From **Straw Dogs: Thoughts on Humans and Other Animals***



# Can We Think “Outside the Box”?

- Can our thinking transcend the Time-Space continuum?
- Can science provide transcendent Truth?
- Important questions: *Beyond* the scientific method
  - *How did it all begin?*
  - *Is there purpose within nature?*
  - *Human origins?*
  - *What is the meaning of life or the point of living?*
  - *God? Eternity? After Death? After-life? Heaven? Hell?*

# Sci-Faith Agreement

- *“No one has seen God at any time.”*

John 1:18

- **Science:** *Super-natural is non-existent*
- **Faith:** *“God is Spirit.”* (John 4:24)
- **Can we know if He’s “out there”?**

# Extra-Sensory Perception?

- Ever wish you could read someone else's mind?
- *“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?”*



1 Corinthians 2:11



- Who can know the thoughts of your mind?
- What about God? The mind of God?

# ***“THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD”***

***“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”***

**1 Corinthians 2:11**

***“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”***

**1 Corinthians 2:14**



# God Invaded the Box

**“... Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name . . .”**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

# The Infinite Creator...

**“He is the image of the invisible God . . . . For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”**

**Colossians 1:15-17**

# ...Has Made Himself Known

“No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, *He* has declared Him.”

John 1:18

# The Sufficiency of Christ

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through *philosophy* and empty deceit, according to *the tradition of men*, according to *the basic principles of the world*, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily [i.e., in bodily form].”

Colossians 2:8-10