



# The Christian Foundations of Science—*Handout*

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## A brief study of the Christian presuppositions of science and their particular source in Genesis, Chapters 1 through 4.

### I—The Issue of Source:

Key question: *What is the origin? (In the beginning . . .)*

Assumptions of science: uniformity, predictability, causation.

Genesis, Chapter 1. The hymn of the origin and the sequence of creational revelation.

Chapter 2. The focus of creation—humankind and the social order.

Chapter 3. The reality of sin.

Chapter 4. The rudiments of human life.

Three themes: Creation, Sin, Redemption.

Romans 8:18-25

Matthew 19:4

Ezekiel 28:12-19

Psalms 90:2, 95:4, 5; 102:35

Jeremiah 51:15, 16

Isaiah 14:12-17

*God Reveals: creativity, communication, and commitment.*

### II—The Nature of Humankind:

Key question: In what way or ways is humankind unique?

Assumptions of science: humankind is part of natural universe; moral aspect is original in

Human beings. (Christians can accept the first assumption, but hardly the second.)

Genesis, 1:26-31. The creative act of the 6<sup>th</sup> day, unique in plan and evaluation.

The assignments to humankind:

“Fill the earth” 1:28

Communication, 1:28 (“God said to them”)

Science, 2:19

Dominion, 1:26-28

Interdependency, 2:18, 24

Obedience, 3:3

Adam to Christ: Redemptive acts and developmental processes, I Corinthians 15:45-49

The aspects of personhood:

Physical Moral Emotional Intellectual Social

The essence of personhood: spiritual (shared nature of God)

*Humans reflect: expression, nurturing, giving*

### III—The Limitations of Knowing:

Key question: Is there anything that cannot be known through science?

Assumption of science: human knowledge can be extended through human perception and human reason.

Christian reservation: I Corinthians 2:6-15—limitations, even if a person is spiritually alive.

The perceptual problem: partial understanding—the nature of human learning; naturalistic filter of the mind.

The moral problem: the necessary option for error.

The redemptive commitment: 3:14, 15; 4:10-15

*To be human: holistic being with expanding knowledge but recognizing the limitations of finite wisdom.*