

## What is Religious Science?

An Inspired Essay By Rev. Lloyd Strom



### In the Beginning

In order to more fully comprehend the true nature of Religious Science, we must first have a deeper understanding of the nature of both Religion and Science, and the ways in which they correspond and interact with each other.

In ancient times, Humanity understood the workings of the Universe through a series of Myths, Fables and Legends. Consequently, such a state of being was known as *'Mythic Consciousness,'* and it was the era in which all of the World's great Religions came into being.

In general, Religion is defined as a *'set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as having been created by a superhuman being or beings. Such Religions usually involve devotional and ritual observances, and often contain moral codes governing the conduct of human affairs.'*

Of greater significance, is the fact that the term Religion comes from the Latin root *relegate* which means to *'restrain or tie back.'* More specifically it is related to the term, *religio* meaning *'supernatural constraint.'* Therefore, the purpose of Religion is to teach us how to constrain our natural impulses, and most especially the impulse to do harm. In other words, Religion teaches us to become *harmless* in the world, and this is the essence of *morality*.

### Then Came Science

As Humanity evolved, so did the way in which we understand the nature and function of the Universe. Consequently, traditional Religion evolved into modern Science, and the bridge between them was Philoso-

phy, which is *'what we think about our thinking.'* Consequently, as our thinking became more rational and concise it eventually led us into Science, which is a rational way to think about the nature of the World, that is based upon factual evidence.

Consequently, many people today like to think of themselves as modern *'scientific thinkers.'* Yet, they fail to realize that modern Science is just another kind of myth, for it is another way of thinking about the nature of the Universe. However, it's great advantage over the myths of old, is that it is a *'transcultural myth,'* and its universal language is mathematics.

In this sense, Science is far more universal and inclusive in it's nature than Religion, which often tends to create conflicts between both individuals, and cultures. However, what Science lacks is morality, for the purpose of Science is exclusively devoted to understanding the nature of the Universe in which we live.

However, when the nature of Science is lifted up to the social level of our being, we begin to engage in a quest to understand ourselves, as well as others. This is accomplished through the Mental Science of Psychology, which is the bridge from Science back to Religion. Following this path will inevitably lead us to the experience of Love, which occurs when we fully understand ourselves and others. Given that we would never harm those whom we Love, and that *harmlessness* is the purpose of Religion, it therefore follows that Science and Religion share a common purpose which ultimately is Love. Consequently, we could say that Science without Religion is amoral, and Religion without Science is irrational. However, Religion and Science together make us both Wise and Loving.

## The Method of Science

It is unfortunate that most people in our modern era do not really understand the very foundation of Science, which is known as the '*Scientific Method*,' which is a set of Principles that are loosely assembled to form a procedure, by which we can ascertain the scientific validity of any given assertion, or speculation. Failure to comply with the Scientific Method has flooded our modern culture with a sea of Pseudo-Science. Furthermore, because the public is generally ignorant of the Scientific Method, they blindly accept as factual truth many speculative unproven theories. Consequently, much of what passes for Science today is no more reliable than the myths of old. Following is a brief overview of the five basic Principles that comprise the Scientific Method.

### 1) Observation

The Scientific Method begins with a process of observing some specific natural phenomena. However, this must be more than just a casual observation. The Scientist must closely study, measure and record the object of his investigation with the intention of understanding it.

### 2) Theorization

Once a Scientist has thoroughly observed the natural phenomena that he, or she are seeking to understand, then they formulate a Theory as to the nature of its behavior. This Theory will generally be expressed in a mathematical form.

### 3) Experimentation

Once the Scientist has developed a Theory, then they must create a repeatable Experiment that proves the validity of their Theory. Only then, are they truly ready to take the next step.

### 4) Publication

Once the Scientist has successfully de-

veloped a Theory and a repeatable Experiment that proves it, then they are ready to publish their findings for review and acceptance by other Scientists.

### 5) Certification

A Theory can be Certified as a Scientific Principle only after an affirmative consensus has been reached by other Scientists who have had the opportunity to thoroughly review the published work. This review will include the repeating of the original Experiment, as well as other Experiments that may be developed by other Scientists.

## The Problem of Modern Science

One of the problems with modern Science is the fact that so many researchers today are quick to publish Theories, based upon their findings, before the Theory has ever been tested and proven by experimentation. Hardly a day goes by when the results of some new Study are released for public consumption, as though they were Scientific fact.

Actually, a Study is nothing more than a '*statistical analysis*,' which is not an experiment. Additionally, Theories are often put forth as scientific fact on the basis of '*computer models*,' which are also a form of statistical analysis. What most people do not realize is that there is literally nothing that cannot be proven by statistical analysis. This is because such an analysis is always subject to bias from the person performing it. More often than not, the bias is subconscious in nature, but it is there just the same. This is why we must be very careful about what we choose to believe about life on the basis of Science alone.

## The Kingdoms of Science

Another aspect of Science that many people do not understand, is that it becomes increas-

ingly unreliable as it moves up through the Kingdoms of Life on this planet. For example, Science is pretty much infallible when it comes to dealing with the Mineral Kingdom. In other words, with substances that are inert, and do not readily change in response to our presence. However, Science becomes increasingly unreliable as we move up through the Biological Kingdoms of the Plant, Animal and ultimately the Human Being.

For example, Science cannot explain the phenomena of what is known as a 'Green Thumb,' which is the extraordinary ability that some people have to cause flora to flourish in their presence. Additionally, there is no experiment that could ever be performed to prove the Theories of Anthropology, which is the Study of Man. This is because we cannot study Human Beings without interacting with them, and this interaction changes them. Consequently, the conclusions that we derive today, will change tomorrow because the subject that we are studying has been changed by our very presence, and interaction with them.

Therefore, to truly understand the nature of a Human Being, we must embrace a different kind of Science that can accommodate our constantly changing nature. Such a Science is called Religious Science.

## Religious Science vs Natural Science

Religious Science and Natural Science are reciprocals of each other. This is because, Natural Science is an 'Inductive Process.' In other words, we gather up specific evidence from which we derive a generalized conclusion that we call a Theory, which then must be proven to be True through a process of Experimentation.

On the other hand, Religious Science is a 'Deductive Process,' where we start with a

universal conclusion, which is a Spiritual Principle, and then we must gather up evidence to prove that the Principle is True. This is accomplished through Spiritual Practice, which is the means by which we conform our own nature to a Spiritual Principal in order to see what evidence is produced. In this sense, we are the experiment that proves the Principle, only as far as we are concerned. In other words, 'Truth can only be realized by the one who is seeking It.' Therefore, the Principles of Religious Science will only work for us to the degree that we apply them to the circumstances of our own lives.

Consequently, the fact that they will not work for someone else who has not applied them, becomes irrelevant to us. Living in this understanding is the nature of Faith, which is simply placing our trust in what we have proven to be True in our own experience of Life.

## The Theory of Religious Science

Given this understanding, that our life is the experiment that proves the Theories, or Principles of Religious Science, it then becomes important to understand what those Theories are. For those who might be involved in the institution called Religious Science, these Theories are contained in the 'Science of Mind,' a foundational text written by the late Ernest Holmes at the beginning of his life-long Ministry.

A common misconception is that the title of this book refers to 'Mental Science,' which is actually Psychology. However, the dictionary defines the word Mind, spelt with a capital 'M,' as meaning *God*, according to its Christian Science source. We must further keep in mind that Ernest Holmes wrote the Science of Mind shortly after his brief association with Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science.

Consequently, the Science of Mind actually means the Science of God, or the Divine. More importantly, the Science of Mind is actually Ernest Holmes' interpretation of the Bible, and most specifically the New Testament. Evidence of this is presented in Rev. Margo Ruark's extensive research volume entitled *'Where'd He Get That,'* wherein she deconstructs the Science of Mind, to reveal the actual scriptural sources of all that Holmes set forth in his classic work.

In a sense, we could say that the *'Gospel of Jesus Christ'* is the conclusion, or Spiritual Theory from which Ernest Holmes engaged in the grand experiment and deductive process called Religious Science. He did this in order to prove that what Jesus taught us was True. Therefore, the life-long Ministry of Ernest Holmes was devoted to exploring the *'Golden Thread of Truth'* that runs through every culture in the form of Science, Philosophy and Religion. Through his extensive research he found all of the evidence that he needed to prove that the Science of Mind was true, and he left his realizations to posterity through his final writings in the epic poem entitled *'The Voice Celestial.'* Therein, he mapped out the evolution of human consciousness as it flowed through many cultures, and ultimately came to its full conclusion in what he described as the *'Last of the Great Masters,'* which was Jesus Christ.

## **The Method of Religious Science**

Not unlike Natural Science, Religious Science also has a Method, which is comprised of the same five Principles as the Method of Natural Science. However, owing to the fact that Religious Science is a *'Deductive Process,'* the order in which we engage these Principles is somewhat different. Following is a brief description of each of these five Princi-

ples that make up the Method of Religious Science.

### **1) Theorization**

The first step in the Method of Religious Science is to turn to the Sacred Scriptures, or their interpretation in the Science of Mind in order to embrace the Promises of God as the Theory that the Divine intends for us to live happy and prosperous lives.

### **2) Experimentation**

The next step in the Method of Religious Science is to recognize that our very own life is a grand Experiment intended to prove that the Promises of God, as given in the Sacred Scriptures are actually True. We conduct this experiment by engaging in real Spiritual Practice.

### **3) Observation**

The next step is to fulfill the Principle of Observation by engaging in a practice of Contemplation, which begins by first concentrating on the Promises of God, and then observing the subtle changes that take place within our consciousness. This meditative process is intended to clarify our minds with Spiritual Truth in order to change our attitudes about Life. This occurs as a Spiritual Realization, which first instills a spark of Hope within us, that ultimately ignites a deep and abiding Faith in the Word of God.

### **4) Publication**

Once we have changed our attitude about Life as the result of Observation, then we Publish our Realization with Prayer. This is because the spoken word will set into vibration within the Mind of God that which we have found to be True in our own heart. Because the Mind of God is universal in Its nature, our Prayers will subtly publish our findings, not only to other Religious Scientists, but to every

living Soul through the One Mind of God. Here it is important to realize, that while Meditation changes our attitude about our Life, Prayer actually changes our Life. Furthermore, the better our attitude is when we Pray, the better the results will be in our life.

## 5) Certification

The Method of Religious Science relies upon a Spiritual Revelation, or personal Demonstration of the Promises of God as all of the Certification that is necessary to prove that these Promises are True, as far as we are concerned. This is consistent with the understanding that Natural Science is universal in nature, whereas, Religious Science is an individualized activity. Consequently, we can only prove that the Promises of God are True in our own lives. Furthermore, we cannot prove that they are True to anyone else, nor can anyone else ever prove that they are True to us. The best that we can do, is to teach others how to prove that the Promises of God are True for themselves, using the Method of Religious Science.

## In Conclusion

One of the great challenges faced by Religious Science is the fact that the validation of theories in the field of Natural Science can be performed for us by others, and then they are *'handed to us on a platter'* in the form of written teachings. However, no one else can prove the theories of Religious Science for us, we must put forth the effort to do it for ourselves. At the same time, it will be impossible for us to give our acquired wisdom to anyone else. The best we can do, is to share with others the process by which we were able to prove that the theories of Religious Science are true. But even then, our own personal process may not work for another, and they will have

to find their own way to Truth. In the words of the Prophet, Khalil Gibran, *"As each of us stands alone in God's knowledge, so must each of us stand alone in our knowledge of God, and of the world."*

It is important to realize that Religious Science is not just the name of a spiritual organization, nor is it simply a religious doctrine, of sorts. Religious Science is actually a Spiritual Technology that we can use to prove that the Promises of God are true in our own experience of Life. It is the method by which we reveal the *'Kingdom of Heaven that is at hand,'* awaiting our awareness of It. Furthermore, Religious Science as a practice, goes by many different names in many different cultures. In the East, it has been called the *'Method of the Siddhas,'* which is the means by which we attain spiritual perfection and bliss.

More importantly, Religious Science, as promulgated by Ernest Holmes through the Science of Mind, can lift us up and out of a dualistic interpretation of Scripture, into a *'unitive realization'* of Truth. In other words, it takes us beyond the moralistic realm of *'good and evil,'* into a World that is filled with the ultimate Goodness of God as our only Reality. It takes us from Law to Grace. Furthermore, Religious Science, by whatever name we choose to call it, is the ultimate destiny of Humanity.

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