

## **Belief Matters in Life? Part 1: Einstein's Office**

"How does my belief make sense in life?" There is an intersection and unification of heaven and earth, supernatural and natural. From the very first statement in Scripture, unity and wholeness were necessary—"the heavens and the earth" meant "everything from A to Z" in the Hebrew mindset (Gen 1:1; Josh 2:11; 2 Kings 19:15; 2 Chron 2:12).

Everything is Sacred, nothing is Secular (Genesis 1.1). There is no secular physics, just as there is no secular music. Kepler's quote about scientists being "priests of the Most High God, with respect to the book of nature" explains the Christian view: we are all priests – go-betweeners for unbelievers (Exodus 19:5-6) – in whatever vocation, position, or place we are (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Believers can enjoy the ordinary because it all comes from The Extraordinary Creator. Connections to the everyday life of the Hebrews (cf. Leviticus 11-14) makes the point, for instance, that God is interested in everything. There are no "spiritual problems"; no dichotomy exists between the so-called "secular" and sacred—the whole world and all of life belong to The Creator (1 Chronicles 29:10-16; Psalm 24:1; 50:9-12; 89:11). Jesus unites "all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph 1:9-10; Col 1:19-20).

Ask yourself, "How does my everyday life reflect my belief that God has made all things, controls all things, and expects me to enjoy all things (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)?"

## **Belief Matters in Life? Part 2: Favorite Atheist**

All truth is God's Truth. Any truth, rule, law, established principle on earth originated in Heaven. It does not matter who utters the truth, atheist or Christian. What matters is that no matter who discovers any truth, the truth had its origin within and is dependent upon God's revealing Himself in creation. All "truth" is inclusive within His "Truth." Since God alone made "the heavens and the earth" (Neh 9:6; Prov 30:4; Isa 44:24) and the whole of creation gives Him praise (Ps 69:34). If God created everything (Prov 8:30; Heb 11:3) then everything belongs to God (Ps 24:1); thus, everything is dedicated to God (Lev 25:23) and serves God (Ps 119:91); since God gave us everything (Ps 115:16), everything has been given to us for our enjoyment (1 Tim 6:17).

Ask yourself the question, "How do I acknowledge and show in my daily life that the truths I depend on have their origin in God alone?"

### **Belief Matters in Life? Part 3: Shalom**

There are no pieces and parts. Jesus holds everything together (Col 1:17). *Shalom* – meaning wholeness, completion, the unification of all truth – gives us order, structure.

How does everything fit together? How does life make sense? There must be an intersection and unification of heaven and earth, supernatural and natural. There is a unity of Truth. Rahab the prostitute (Joshua 2:11), King Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:15), and Hiram, King of Tyre (2 Chronicles 2:12), all agreed on one thing—The Lord made the heavens and the earth. Confessing the unity of creation was done by believers as well as unbelievers. All “truth” is inclusive within His “Truth.”

There is an ordered, structured, stable universe and God finds it a reliable measure of righteousness. This is the reason why God “calls heaven and earth to testify against His people” (Deut 4:26; 30:19; 31:28). The coherent, ordered, structured creation represents the completeness or wholeness of God’s righteousness.

Making sense of reality, finding consistency, knowing that all things literally stick together is the definition of *shalom*. There is no dichotomy, no bifurcation of “spiritual,” “physical,” “social,” “emotional,” “intellectual,” etc. The Greek concept of segmentation goes against the Hebraic concept of wholeness, completion, fulfillment in *shalom*. Instead of separating aspects of life into pieces, our responsibility in the Christian community is to restore all things because of Jesus’ reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-20; Col 1:15-20).

Ask yourself the question, “How do I stop segmenting my life into pieces and parts and begin to think about how the whole world and all of life is completed, fulfilled by God?”