

Message: Faith & Science - Part 2

Welcome back to JesusFamilies.org's audio messages!

This message is entitled, 'Faith and Science: Part 2'

In part one of the faith and science series, we briefly looked at the belief that physicalists – many of whom also take the label 'scientist' – hold that there is no metaphysical realm or metaphysical aspect to human nature or the human experience. We deduced that a metaphysical reality – if it existed – would not be detectable by physical means, and thus other means must be used. We used observation and reason to deduce that the best explanation for some aspects of human nature and the human experience were metaphysical – meaning physical explanations were unreasonable while metaphysical explanations were reasonable.

After posing certain questions and using reason to explore answers to those questions, we came to the following conclusion.

A reasonable and plausible conclusion is that matter and energy do not provide an adequate explanation of some aspects of the human being. Matter and energy cannot reasonably account for sentience, a moral conscience, the ability to reason using metaphysical concepts like logic, or perhaps most importantly love. The best observation of reality and the best use of deduction based upon the analysis of human beings leads one to conclude that humans do indeed have a metaphysical component. Just because physicalists cannot sense the metaphysical realm does not mean it does not exist, nor does it mean it does not provide the most reasonable and plausible explanation for human nature and the human experience.

Let us move on to the next leg of this three part series.

Let us start with the core belief of the physicalist that we will examine.

Physicalist belief 2 is as follows – Complex physical systems with interdependent parts or subsystems do not require an intelligent designer.

The opposing belief is that an intelligent designer is the best explanation of the existence of complex physical systems with interdependent parts or subsystems.

Let us start with an illustration. Say a human being is walking through the natural environment where they live – be it forest or jungle, grassland or desert, tundra or marshlands – and they come across a motorcycle. Let's say they examine it for some time. Let us say that another person whom they can speak with approaches with the following question. "Do you think that this object was created by human's (or a sentient being) or do you think it just formed itself by the laws of nature randomly acting upon raw materials?"

In this author's opinion, close to 100% would answer the question with the answer that a human created it. Why? Because it is the reasonable answer. Now, just because close to 100% majority says something is true, does not mean it is. On the other hand, reasonable deductions from physical evidence would explain why a belief is universally held. For what examples or experiences do people have to support the belief that a machine like a motorcycle – a relatively complex machine made up of inter-dependent parts or sub-systems – just spontaneously designs

and created itself? What experience can be observed that supports the idea that nothing but the laws of physics can account for the existence of complex machines with inter-dependent systems?

For the purpose of this message, we will define a ‘machine’ as a physical system using inter-dependent parts to function. What do I mean by inter-dependent components or sub-systems? What I mean is that in order for the complete or whole system or machine to fulfill its intended function – in the case of a motorcycle, to carry a human from point a to point b – each of the components or sub-systems are dependent on each other in order for the whole to work correctly...the parts or components are inter-dependent. With the motorcycle illustration, would the motorcycle fulfill its intended function without a brake component, or without a starting component, or without a transmission component or with a frame of the correct load bearing capacity to carry both the whole machine itself plus a rider? If any of the components are missing or dysfunctional, the whole system – in this case the motorcycle - will not function.

The key to this concept is that without a designer, it is unreasonable to believe that the inter-dependent components or sub-systems could integrate themselves together properly for the whole machine to operate. How would one dependent component KNOW it needed another component in order for the whole to work? How would the transmission, for example, know how to integrate with the drive train? Or how would the braking system know how to integrate with the wheel system? This is what is meant by inter-dependent parts or sub-systems – one part or sub-system is dependent upon another for the whole machine to operate properly. The reasonable deduction is an intelligent designer is required to plausibly account for the existence of a machine with inter-dependent components or sub-systems.

When humans see a machine, they reasonably conclude that the machine was designed and built by a being with a mind to reason. If **you** were walking through the woods and come across a motor cycle, would **you** conclude that the machine came into existence through billions of years of trial and error with no designer? In this speakers opinion, no reasonable human being would come to that conclusion.

A human using deductive reasoning will look at – or examine - a machine or system with inter-dependent systems and will know that the machine or system was designed and created by sentient beings using reason in the engineering or building process.

While the words or terms I am using to explain the concept are getting a bit more advanced, the concept itself is simple. Any physical system or machine with inter-dependent components requires an intelligent designer. This is intuitively known by humans who see such a physical system or machine – remember the motor cycle illustration?

Dear listener, please don’t ever believe that this is not true, for sadly there are many who would seek to convince you otherwise due to a foundational bias they hold.

Let us take the next step. Take a look at the vast and beautiful natural world, especially the animals or creatures. Creatures are wondrous in many respects, but there is one aspect we will focus on for this next step and that aspect is their physical bodies and the body’s complexity as bio-organic based machine. You see, dear listener, an animal’s body certainly can be included in the definition of ‘machine’ as given earlier in this message. An animal’s body certainly is made up of complex inter-dependent systems. While an animal’s body is not made up of metal or plastic or ceramics – the substances we typically associate with a machine made by humans – it is none-the-less made up of physical matter, namely carbon based proteins.

Traditionally, opponents to the simple truth that the existence of complex physical systems with interdependent parts or subsystems requires a designer would say, ‘yes, that is well and good with machines that men make, but it does not apply to the biological realm’.

The question begs to be asked, why not? On what principle does it not apply to the amazing complex physical systems with interdependent parts or subsystems that are biological or organic machines?

Whether you make a machine out of metal or plastic, it does not change it from a 'machine' to a non-machine. Again, for the purposes of this message, a machine is simply a complex physical entity made up of inter-dependent systems. Therefore, it does not make a difference if the machine is made up of marshmallows or metal, paper or plastic, calcium or cement. Different substances have different physical properties which would make them better for use in some machines than others or in some components within the machine than others. But materials used to construct the machine do not make a machine a non-machine or vice versa. A system having inter-dependent components is what makes a machine a machine. And as such, organic bodies or entities qualify.

In fact, when one starts to examine the degree of complexity of organic machines versus man's inorganic machines, it is staggering how much more complex the organic machines are than the inorganic machines men create.

It is interesting that in the non-organic realm, an engineer could examine a simple machine built by a child, and if comparing it to a complex machine designed by a team of professional engineers, would have no trouble concluding that the simple machine made by a child was designed by a being with an intellectually inferior mind than the complex machine built by the team of experienced engineers. And yet, when confronted with the complexity and wondrous design of an organic machine, many scientific engineers (particularly physicalists) all of a sudden abandon the good reason they used to properly distinguish the product of the inferior mind of the child to the product of the superior mind of the professional engineers! The listener may want to ask what the cause is for this phenomenon...why that is so?

The space shuttle was designed and created by sentient beings who understood physical realm well enough to do so. It is an amazingly complex machine – that is a machine with many inter-dependent components and systems. The machine must be flown into space, provide life support for humans, perform various experiments and work tasks, and re-enter earth's atmosphere and land safely. Some of the best physicists and engineering minds the people of the world have to offer worked at building that machine.

And yet, take a close look at the human body, for example. The human body – or any creature's body – puts the space shuttle to shame regarding the complexity of inter-dependent components and systems. Medical scientists have been learning how the human body works for thousands of years and STILL there are physical mysteries left! The integration of the circulatory system with the immune system and the nervous system and the digestive system, and all the other inter-dependent systems is nothing short of an engineering marvel that makes the space shuttle look, well, childish!

Not only are those inter-dependent systems a marvel in and of themselves, but there is an additional engineering feature that is yet higher in complexity. That feature is that organic beings are self-healing. That means that the engineer who designed the complex machine with inter-dependent components or systems went a step further and designed the ability of the machine to fix itself when certain components fail or are damaged.

Yet another design feature of the organic entities that are our bodies that is more complex than mankind have been able to master for thousands of years is that the organic machine that is the human body can also defend itself against many harmful pathogens or microscopic enemies. The body has been programmed to respond to attackers of many different forms, even being able to change its defenses to match the attackers attributes. And the human body does this – both self-

healing and self-defense - without any conscience input from the machine's operating system or mind!

Let us not forget another amazing ability of the organic machine – it can reproduce itself! These physical systems have been engineered to be able to combine two extremely complex genetic blueprints – each of which is incomplete without the other – to form another complete and functional system of equal complexity yet distinctly unique features! Truly amazing.

Any competent engineer using reason - if asked whether a self-healing machine would require greater engineering skill and knowledge than a non-self-healing machine – would answer 'yes'.

Ask any competent engineer using reason - if asked whether a machine which could defend itself against attackers would require greater engineering skill and knowledge than a non-defending machine – would answer 'yes'.

Ask any competent engineer using reason - if asked whether a machine which could reproduce like machines would require greater engineering skill and knowledge than a non-reproducing machine – would answer 'yes'.

Therefore, to suggest a superior system or machine – organic creatures - did not require an intelligent designer is unreasonable.

To suggest that human minds who struggle to understand the complexity of the human genetic structure and mechanisms are not inferior to the designer who designed that genetic structure, is unreasonable.

It is simply not plausible to the mind being guided by reason, to believe that complex physical systems or machines with inter-dependent parts or subsystems built with organic materials did not require a designer while simpler physical systems or machines built with inorganic materials, did. There must be something other than 'reason' at work when minds who normally use reason to come to sound conclusions, don't arrive at sound conclusions.

Human's often like to hide in complexity, usually using complex vocabulary or complicated arguments. This area of physical design is an area where this is particularly true. A physical system or machine, whether biological, electronic or mechanical, is a physical system with varying degrees of complexity regarding their inter-dependent parts or subsystems. Whether something is made of organic material (like proteins) or inorganic material (like metal) does not have a bearing on making proper judgments regarding whether it has inter-dependent parts or subsystems which require an intelligent designer. Both entities require a designer in order to make the interdependent parts or subsystems work together to enable the whole entity to operate properly.

Somewhat ironically, the growing understanding of mankind into the both the complexity and inter-relatedness of organic beings subsystems controlled by the genetic language or code of the organism – using the metaphysical property of reason – is making it harder to deny that a designer is the only reasonable and plausible explanation for the existence of such physical systems or entities.

To sum up then, it is self-evident that complex systems or entities or machines that are made up of inter-dependent components or subsystems, require a designer in order to exist. To deny this is to reject reason based observation and deduction. To conclude that the motorcycle you encounter in the woods just caused itself to exist due to natural forces is unreasonable and implausible. To conclude that a system - so complex that the best scientists for thousands of years still cannot grasp all of the complexities - just designed and created itself, is unreasonable and implausible.

The listener should question why does it seem that having a PhD in physics somehow makes the concept of a designer of organic systems unreasonable? Is it the principles of design and engineering that make a reasonable concept unreasonable, or is it something else about human nature that causes that? Could it be the biased beliefs of those who directly benefit – which is materially gain from or wield power through – the educational system that cause the self-evident truths examined in this message to be mocked and ridiculed?

Do simple, self-evidently true things become false due to someone's education? Sadly, many would have you believe yes.

Would the principle of an intelligent designer being the best explanation of the existence of complex physical systems with interdependent parts or subsystems **not** apply to some physical realm, organic or inorganic?

Can the listener think of one?

When listening to scientists or physicalists describe the 'wonders of nature', one will usually hear who the intelligent designer is of the natural world – it is the mysterious force labeled 'Evolution'. This mysterious force is the designer behind the complex machines made up of inter-dependent parts that are the amazing organic beings that populate the planet. It just required a few billions years of random physics overseen by this designer to create human beings, for example. There is a reason that the people who write the scripts of the nature programs must attribute the marvels of design that are evident in the natural world to some creator – and that reason is that it is the only reasonable or plausible explanation. I would encourage the listener, however, to reject the mysterious force called evolution, and instead embrace the very personal Father who is in fact the Creator.

We have arrived at the place where I encourage the listener to listen to this voice:

"Unless you change or be converted and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God".

And

"I thank you Father, that you have hidden the things of the kingdom of God from the smart and intelligent, and have instead revealed them to little children."

Dear listener, we all have choices regarding who we will listen to regarding any given matter or subject. You have chosen to listen to my voice on this topic, and now I am pointing you to the voice who has trained me to be able to use my mind to reason.

Regarding the existence of an intelligent designer, I simply take the testimony of the one who defeated death to prove all he said and did was true. However, our Father sent His Son to address the most important topic we should be diligent in pursuing, which is the purpose of my life and the nature of my existence. Science cannot address those questions, for they are answered outside of the realm of science's tools and inquiry.

Which brings us to a preview of the last part of this three part message. Scientists, in their arrogance, have convinced themselves that their realm of empirical inquiry is the sole means of determining truth. They are terribly wrong as we shall see in our next message.

Thank you for listening, and I hope you will return to listen to the other audio messages on www.JesusFamilies.org

May our Father's blessing be recognized by each of us this day, and may we seek to love all we encounter this day.