

## How Do Science and Religion relate?

The main features of each of physicist Ian Barbour's (PhD) four models for how science and religion relate.

- (a) Conflict: Scientific materialism and biblical literalism are precisely at odds with one another in both their goal and methodology. The former concludes all things are or will be explained biologically, etc and the latter that science can make no meaningful contribution to theology.
- (b) Independence: Science and religion are autonomous disciplines, neither depending on the other to substantiate their respective claims. Each employs a separate “language” for their fields of concern. Science relies entirely on reason and religion on revelation. Each is asserting truth claims in their applicable “compartment”.
- (c) Dialogue: Science and religion each begin to respect the boundaries of the other's disciplines. It is also observed that science is not as objective or religion as entirely subjective as some have thought. Each is given to paradigm shifts resulting in revised conclusions. Theology can be open to “new insights” as result of scientific discovery. But there is no mention of science being open to new discovery by theological insight.
- (d) Integration: Science and theology integrate for greater metaphysical understanding. Studies in natural theology, theology of nature, and process philosophy/theology encompass the relationship necessary for such a genuine metaphysic. This model affords the greatest opportunity for comprehensive understanding.