
Similarities and difference between religion, philosophy, and science

Three of them are the continue process of figuring out how our world works, with the ever-existing question: where we come from? Where are we going? These three represent distinct way of thinking, hence lead to different understanding of our world. Science is mainly based on natural facts, and we use experiments and mathematics derivation to describe our world in an objective way; philosophy is built upon logic, forming a principle through severe debate; religion is based on spiritual belief with God as the center, demonstrate it through miracles. This the general idea that we use to distinguish three of them.

To figure out the similarities and difference, keep track of the history could give us part of the answer. Our ancestors attempted to describe the world systematically, and gave natural explanations to the movement in the cosmos. With so many things that they couldn't explain, they need a solution to fill blank that existed in their knowledge system. God is the simple explanation to most of the nature phenomenon, that's why people were engaged in the act of worshipping God in the beginning of most recorded history.

Once human started to doubt and question with reasoning, that's the start of philosophy. I would say science is a branch of philosophy, where we are using standardized methods to seek a solution. When we are using science to understand things, we would start from controlled experiments that we have learn in secondary school, then extend to sampling models supported by large data. Scientists are skeptical in everything, they would ask question, formulate hypothesis, conduct experiments, and generate theories, then apply these theories to our daily life. Theories could be expanded or altered once they are proven wrong, where new theories would kick away the old one. One of the famous example would be heliocentrism and geocentrism. When sufficient time passed by, people equipped with more comprehensive knowledge base, things could be explained are gradually increasing. Therefore, say science is the process learning from things around us then gradually increase to the enormous scale of cosmos or the unobservable atomic world.

When it comes to religious, it is the opposite way of science to understand the world. Religious tend to explain from the top to bottom. It is commonly accepted that our cosmos oriented from a big bang; but if we if questioning: Do time and space exist before gravitational singularity? What is before it? Yet there is no answer to these questions. While religious take these questions in an abstract way, where they provided the ultimate solution: God created everything. And religious are developed afterwards.

However, we shall note that only in recent times that these beliefs and activities have been classified by the common notion "religion" and "science". We would distort the past if we uncritically apply our concepts to past activities. In this long journey, we equipped ourselves with more knowledge and everyone inclines to be a specialist in certain field. Thus, people tend to ignore the relationship between them.

Three of them are not mutually exclusive, more than half of the Nobel Prizes winners are Christians. Philosophy promote logical thinking, science encourage reveal theories behind nature, and religious set up moral and support people spiritually, all these combine to better understanding of our world.