



*Mere Science and Christian Faith: Bridging the Divide with Emerging Adults*

Available March 13, 2018

\$17, 192 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-3814-1

*“Greg Cootsona has been consistently at the vanguard of interconnections between science, faith, and the arts. Now with Mere Science and Christian Faith, he again proves to be a go-to resource for how science and faith together can offer generative solutions.”*

— Makoto Fujimura, artist and director of the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts

## Fujimura: “A Go-To Resource for How Science and Faith Together Can Offer Solutions”

*In his new book, Mere Science and Christian Faith, Greg Cootsona argues against the idea that science and faith are inherently antagonistic. We don’t have to keep them scrupulously separated – instead, we can bring them into dialogue with one another. Cootsona brings this integration to a number of current topics in science and faith conversations, including hermeneutics, the historical Adam and Eve, cognitive science, and the future of technology.*

**Books on science and Christianity (or faith, more broadly) seem to be as popular as ever. What makes *Mere Science and Christian Faith* different from the rest?**

**Greg Cootsona:** My distinctive approach is that of a theologian. I’m not saying, “I’m a scientist, and here’s how my science affects my faith or *our* faith as Christians.” Instead I’m presenting my convictions like so: “I’m a Christian pastor and theologian who has studied the discoveries of science and the philosophy of science – and I’m in continual discussion with scientists. Out of that process of study and discovery, I’m going to sound out how science informs, challenges, and enhances our faith. Ultimately, we as Christians have nothing to fear from scientists – especially those within our congregations – but instead we should embrace them and invite them to teach us.”

**Why is this a personal subject for you?**

**Cootsona:** I have served as a pastor for emerging adults for eighteen years, and I started studying science and religion almost three decades ago. In addition, I recognized, when I became a Christian at eighteen, that science is often presented as a major reason (or set of reasons) not to believe in Christ, and that many eighteen- to thirty-year-olds are convinced it’s true that when science progresses, Christianity loses. Out of this background, I started to bring together mere Christianity (the term C. S. Lewis made famous for orthodoxy) with mainstream science and found amazing and provocative discoveries.

**Why do you think this book is so important for the next generation to read?**

**Cootsona:** One of the main reasons that eighteen- to thirty-year-olds reject the church and become “nones” (those with no religious affiliation) is that the church is seen as “antiscience” (see Kinnaman’s study in *You Lost Me*). A robust interaction of faith and science is a great need for the church because 30-35% of emerging adults (those eighteen to thirty) are nones, many of whom are convinced that Christians reject mainstream science.

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# Q & A

*“What a great book. This sentence alone should be mandatory church wisdom: ‘Let’s not fool around with science that can’t be supported by scientists.’ Greg reflects on science, technology, faith, and emerging adults with learning, urgency, clarity, and grace.”*

— **John Ortberg**, senior pastor of Menlo Church, author of *I’d Like You More If You Were More Like Me*

In addition, Christians who love studying the natural world, though they are responding to God’s creation with curiosity and adoration, are often given the impression by the church that science is anti-God. Thus we are losing Christian influence in the sciences.

### **What do you hope students will take away from this book?**

**Cootsona:** As a pastor and theologian who worked both with emerging adults and with science and theology, I can affirm there is much to discover when we bring together mainstream science and mere Christianity.

We need to listen to emerging adults to see how the conversation about faith and science is moving beyond a creation-evolution conversation or debate, and thus we need to engage topics like artificial intelligence, transhumanism, sexuality and science, climate change, and cognitive science.