

Faith and science – incompatible or inseparable? Did the Church really slam dunk Galileo – or did he dunk himself? We'll answer these questions and more on this edition of Catholic Investigative Agency.

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Hello and welcome to this latest edition of CIA – Catholic Investigative Agency – I'm Michael Voris.

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Have you ever considered the story of Galileo and his rocky relationship with the Catholic Church ...

The debate between science and religion is a relatively new one ... it has only been discussed seriously since the time of Galileo.

Well ... in today's program we're going to take a look at GALILEO – and MAKING THE CASE FOR FAITH AND SCIENCE

And it is from this “relationship ... a new war emerged pitting science against religion.

This supposed war exists even today ... and hinders many souls from even considering Catholicism.

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You see ... the popular thought is that the Catholic Church mistreated Galileo ... people think he came up with a brilliant new scientific theory ... and the Church responded saying “NO way Jose!” ... we can't let reason interfere with faith.

Well ... that's silly and untrue ... and in this program we are going to show you the real truth behind Galileo and the Catholic Church.

SO ...through his dealings with the Church ... Galileo set in motion this idea that science and religion are not compatible ... it's unclear if Galileo intentionally meant to do this or if it was a by-product of how the Church dealt with him.

Whatever the case ... Galileo's involvement with the Catholic Church is used more than any other example to show that any honest intelligent man would be silly to believe that science and religion can live in harmony.

They say ... LOOK ... see how the Catholic Church made Galileo recant his scientific findings and how they put him under house arrest and how they tortured him in the most

cruel ways and ah ... this is the reason science and religion cannot live in harmony because religion tries to suppress science at every turn and blah blah blah ... YES ... they say ... I have figured it out ... I am extraordinarily marvelous!

Well folks... we hate to burst your bubble ... but we are going to let you in on a little secret ... all that garbage ... I mean popular thought ... on most occasions ... has very little truth to it.

Popular thought always seems to leave out all the important and “game changing” details.

How convenient.

Isn't it funny that popular thought always takes the adverse position to the Catholic Church?

But don't take my word for it ... let us go to the “man on the street” and see just what people think about Galileo and the Catholic Church.

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As you can see ... we came across a range of opinions and understandings about the entire Galileo case.

One main opinion resonated ... the opinion that Galileo was persecuted unjustly.

But as we can also see ... the extent of popular thought was relatively shallow ... as if these accusations were simply regurgitated.

Galileo was a man bent on proving everyone wrong while he had very little evidence to backup his position ... he refused to work with the Church ... and this is what caused his subsequent conflict.

The Catholic Church simply wanted Galileo to prove heliocentrism ... which is the idea that the planets revolve around the sun ... but he could not prove it.

It is important to know ... that the Church has always supported many of the scientific endeavors of the world ... through Church sanctioned universities and various research institutions.

So ... let's examine the Galileo myth ... and uncover further what really happened.

As with all CIA shows we start with a thesis statement.

And that thesis is ...

The true reason Galileo was tried for heresy is two-fold ...first ... for his theological

ideas ... such as the meaning of scripture ... and second ... for his scientific findings ... such as heliocentrism.

So ... in order to understand Galileo better let us begin with Galileo's early life and then later transition into the topics of science and the Catholic Church.

Life of Galileo

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Galileo Galilay was born in 1564 ... his first interest was the priesthood ... but later decided to study mathematics.

In 1589 ... with his education ... he was appointed chair of Mathematics at the university of Pisa.

A short time later ... in 1592 ... when he was a young man ... he got a job teaching math and science at the University of Padua until 1610 ... where he taught for the next 18 years.

The focus of his life then turned fully to science.

Through his observations ... discoveries ... and quarrel with the Church ... Galileo eventually became one of the most famous scientists who ever lived.

The world and the scientific community ... see Galileo in many different lights.

Galileo is seen as one of the originators of scientific inquiry – at least in the early days.

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Today is he known as a champion of forbidden intellectual truths ... and thinking in a radical way.

He is characterized as the first scientist to run the risk of complete ruin in the face of what he believed.

Even some of the most influential and well-known scientists today have commented on the role Galileo has played in making of modern science.

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Stephen Hawking ... a well-known English theoretical physicist and cosmologist ... said ... Galileo probably bears more of the responsibility for the birth of modern science than anybody else.

And then there is Albert Einstein ... a theoretical physicist and the originator of the

famous theory of relativity ... who called him the father of modern science.

So ... the champions of modern day science obviously hold Galileo in high regard.

But ... why is this?

Well ... his scientific career was quite successful ... for example ... he was able to improve drastically upon the telescope.

These improvements made waves in the scientific community.

As a cosmologist ... Galileo broke new ground in the study of the universe.

For instance ... he was the first person to see sunspots ... the moons of Jupiter ... the phases of Venus ... surface features on the moon ... the rings of Saturn ... and faint stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

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With these accumulating discoveries ... the current standard of Aristotelian cosmology was soon to be challenged ... regarding the earth as the center.

Initially ... many astronomers and philosophers refused to believe that anything was wrong with Aristotle's ideas.

After all ... Galileo was running headlong into unknown territory and trying to break a two millennial old tradition ... this didn't sit well with people.

Around this time ... the Church got involved because Galileo began encroaching upon matters of faith and the Church didn't like this.

Not because they were out to rule the world ... but because they wanted to ensure the faithful were only being fed genuine truth.

This marks the first very public episode between the “clash” of science and religion in relation to the Catholic Church.

So ... let us shift our attention to the actual case of Galileo ... as it took place ... step by step.

The Case of Galileo

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Well ... what you have to understand ... Galileo wasn't the most humble scientist or Catholic ... he was impressed with his discoveries ... which led to an arrogance

regarding Church teaching and eventually arguing with the Church about the meaning of the Bible.

The Galileo case really begins with how Galileo reacted to his critics.

The Galileo “problem” can be seen when you remove the lens that he was somehow an innocent victim ... who stood up for truth ... and view him more as a stiff-necked person ... who had a theory and nothing more.

Galileo simply refused to be intellectually honest.

He refused to admit that ... as far as he or anyone else could see ... literally ... for the time being ... his theory was un-provable ... even though he came very close to proving it.

Galileo was an activist intent on getting his way ... who repeatedly rejected offers of compromise.

His personality wasn't the only issue he faced ... he just so happened to be alive during a time when the Church was more sensitive to challenges than before.

They were tumultuous times.

The Protestant revolt was in full ascent ... actively tearing the church and nations apart across Europe.

These two issues of Galileo's headstrong personality and political/religious turmoil ... combined to create a perfect storm.

The world was changing ... and the Church wanted to make sure Galileo's theory wasn't going down the wrong path.

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This “storm” caught up with Galileo around 1610 ... when he published a book called the “Starry Messenger.”

This marks the beginning of the Galileo Case.

It described many new discoveries Galileo had made.

The book also raised a new interest in the theory of heliocentrism.

Heliocentrism is the astronomical theory that the earth and other planets revolve around the stationary sun ... which is at the center of the universe.

However at the time most people including the Church believed in Geocentrism ... which

is the idea of having the earth as being the center of the universe.

The big shift in public thought came when Galileo's telescopic observations were made known about Venus.

Many educated people switched to a geo-heliocentric model of the universe during this time.

Heliocentrism wasn't a new idea ... having first been proposed as early as the third century BC by Aristarchus of Samos.

Eighteen hundred years later ... during the renaissance ... around the year 1540 ... Copernicus continued to develop the idea of heliocentrism and was published in 1543 ... but ultimately still could NOT prove that heliocentrism was true.

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About the same time Galileo was creating his telescope ... a fellow scientist the astronomer Johannes Kepler was trying to refine the heliocentric model.

He did this by trying to prove it with calculations but again ... Kepler wasn't able to achieve precision.

Because neither Copernicus nor Kepler could prove heliocentrism completely via geometry or another mathematical method ... the science world turned to Galileo and his vast improvements on the telescope.

It is important to remember that heliocentrism was rejected by many of the leading scientist of that day.

Many scientists attacked Galileo's discoveries because it disagreed with Aristotle's model of the universe ... as well as several passages of scripture.

Galileo disputed with many people ... scientists and religious alike.

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His first dispute was with Christoph Scheiner ... a prominent Jesuit priest ... over the discovery of sunspots ... which became a lifelong feud.

As we can see ... he wasn't shy when talking about his peers or the prevailing ideas of the time.

He called Johannes Kepler's idea ... the moon causes the tides ... as "useless fiction".

It is important to point out that even though he happened to be correct about

heliocentrism ... there were other things ... such as Kepler's idea about the moon and tide relationship ... that he was dead wrong about ... nothing was a given back in Galileo's day ... even though it may appear obvious to modern man in present times.

Galileo also refused to accept Kepler's elliptical orbits of the planets ... believing instead the perfect shape of an orbit is a circle.

It is of the utmost importance to note that ... the Catholic Church never officially rejected the idea of heliocentrism.

They were actually neutral on physical matters in which little or no evidence existed.

And yet ... Galileo was aware of this ... he has been quoted as saying ... "I would say here something that was heard from an ecclesiastic of the most eminent degree; 'That the intention of the Holy Ghost is to teach us how one goes to heaven, not how the heavens go.'"

That's a nice summation of how the church treats scientific theories ... right from the mouth of Galileo himself.

Heliocentrism was freely discussed and often accepted in some Catholic circles.

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But ... when it came to the trial of Galileo ... the Catholic judges upheld the scientific method and said Galileo's theory had to be proven before he called it fact ... however ... Galileo continued to insist that his theory was fact ... without the necessary proof to convince the scientific community and the Church.

Galileo's position roiled many ... both in the Church and in the scientific community.

We must remember ... Aristotle had rejected heliocentricity.

Aristotelian thought was mostly the standard during Galileo's time.

Back in that day ... it was actually quite difficult to prove astronomical theories because technology hadn't advanced far enough.

The highest charge against Galileo was the fact that he couldn't completely prove heliocentricity.

He also failed to counter the very argument that had been made by Aristotle two thousand years earlier.

The argument being that if heliocentrism was true ... we would be able to observe it by obvious shifts in the positions of the stars as the earth moved around the sun ... also known as the stellar parallax.

The stellar parallax wouldn't be confirmed until the nineteenth century with astronomer Friedrich Bessel's observations.

A short time later ... William Herschel would confirm that the sun is not the center of the universe .. and by the 1920s Edwin Hubble had shown that the solar system was part of a galaxy that was only one of many billions.

Galileo ... living in the seventeenth century ... was a few centuries away from having the confirmation he needed.

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It should be pointed out that believing the earth was motionless in the seventeenth century was not absurd.

The problem for Galileo was the development of technology ... even with his personal advancements of the telescope.

To validate his stance ...he needed to show that the shift existed ... the stellar parallax ... but he was unable ... even with Geometry.

He came close to proving his theory of heliocentrism through his telescopic confirmation of the phases of Venus.

While he ultimately couldn't prove it ... Galileo's discovery of the phases of Venus was his most influential contribution to the two-stage transition from full geocentrism to full heliocentrism via a combined theory known as geo-heliocentrism.

At this point ... he should have admitted "defeat" and moved on but he did not ... he went on to say that heliocentrism was true without question.

The Catholic Church ... in this light ... was correct to disagree with Galileo.

Canadian author and TV show host ... Michael Coren ... in his new book ... "Why Catholics are Right" ... had this to say about the Church's position on science:

The science of Galileo's time was very limited and the most reasonable view ... was that the earth and the stars were not moving at all ...because essentially no high power telescopes existed.

But that the sun ... moon ... and stars were ...and at best the geo-heliocentric model was the only provable theory.

The reason heliocentrism was so controversial at the time was because it effectively re-proposed man's place in the universe.

Man ... during Galileo's time ... was thought to be extremely special ... so much so that the entire universe was physically ordered around him.

To challenge this notion was almost unheard of because it meant man was a mere nothing in the eyes of the universe.

This didn't sit well with people ... in fact ... it shook their worldview.

Although ... what the people of that time failed to realize is ... it doesn't take a physical "place" in the universe to be deemed "special".

It simply takes recognition of the mind that any "place" God so puts you is His will ... and is "special" in its own respect.

No doubt ... Galileo was an extraordinary individual ... but he was treading on areas that challenge the relationship between science and religion and man's place in the universe ... which caused the Church to get involved.

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We need to realize that for the most part ... Galileo was alone in his fight for heliocentrism.

Galileo ... a man of high intelligence ... as it seems ... could not prove it ... although ... he did begin to move popular thought away from geocentrism.

It is important to note that some of his colleagues even thought he failed in his endeavor.

Galileo took this hard and alienated his fellow scientists by his insisting that his observations were true ... that they were fact ... that they were established ... and that any alternative was not only totally wrong ... but the product of weak thinking and incompetent analysis.

Galileo ... as it seems ... wanted everyone to accept his theory immediately with no questions asked.

The way he approached the entire situation turned many people off.

To add to his problems ... when the Church got involved ... he attacked those who were really trying to assist him in his pursuit of knowledge.

In Michael Coren's recent book ... here's what he said about the Galileo affair:

As the Galileo issue got bigger ... various people within and outside the Church responded to his comments.

Some of the clergy ... for example ... argued from the position of the Bible.

They said ... Psalm 93:1 ... 96:10 ... and 1 Chronicles 16:30 ... include the words ... “the world is firmly established ... it cannot be moved.”

Also ... Psalm 104:5 says ... “the Lord set the earth on its foundations ... it can never be moved.”

There is a problem ... however ... with taking a literal interpretation of the Bible.

To explain this further ... to a Catholic the Bible is a central part of the faith and requires interpretation and is part but not all the beliefs a Catholic holds.

A Catholic does not always interpret the Bible in a strict literal sense.

To a Catholic ... there are many SENSES of scripture.

Galileo claimed that heliocentrism was not contrary to scripture.

He took Augustine’s position ... not to take every passage literally ... particularly when the scripture in question is a book of poetry and songs ... not a book of instructions or history.

He believed that the writers of the Scripture merely wrote from the perspective of the terrestrial world ... from that vantage point that the sun does raise and set.

Galileo claimed that science did not contradict Scripture ... as Scripture was discussing a different kind of "movement" of the earth ... and not rotations.

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Given the state of the world at the time however ... Galileo became a flash point for the Church.

The Church ... on February 19, 1616 ... asked a commission of theologians ... known as qualifiers ... about the propositions of the heliocentric view of the universe.

On February 24, 1616 ... the Qualifiers delivered their unanimous report ... condemning heliocentrism ... due to its lack of evidence and hard proof.

The following day ... on February 25, 1616 ... Pope Paul the V instructed Cardinal Robert Bellarmine ... a Jesuit ... a friend of science ... an internationally respected theologian ... scholar ... and doctor of the Church ... to meet with Galileo and deliver the results of what the inquisition or commission of theologians decided on.

Galileo was subsequently summoned ... on February 26, 1616... to Cardinal Bellarmine's residence and asked to accept the orders of the inquisition ... prohibiting ... condemning ... or suspending various books which advocated the Copernican system ... Galileo agreed to these orders ... but still believed that he was right about heliocentrism.

Cardinal Robert Bellarmine ... even tried to reach a compromise with Galileo by issuing a document.

The Cardinal told his friend that he could not hold or argue the position but could explore and discuss it.

Cardinal Bellarmine was trying to allow Galileo enough wiggle room ... in the form of exploring and discussing heliocentrism ... to continue his work without officially supporting it.

This clause remained in place until 1623 when Galileo approached the new Pope and an old friend ... Urban the VIII.

Urban the VII had always supported the investigation of the arts and scientific investigation.

More to the point ... Urban supported Galileo throughout his entire professional life.

The Pope wanted to help Galileo further by suggesting that Galileo approach this entire situation carefully and as a scholar ... proposing the for and against arguments of the theory.

Galileo took the advice of Urban the 8th and published a book called ... "Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems".

This is where the real feud began.

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In writing the book ... Galileo used Urban's position to play a fictional Simpleton ... making the Pope a figure of fun in the eyes of the academic world.

The fictional "simpleton" ... was the defender of the Aristotelian Geocentric view ... and was often caught in his own errors and sometimes came across as a fool.

Indeed ... although Galileo states in his book that the character is named after a famous Aristotelian philosopher ... Simplicius in Latin and Simplicio in Italian ... the name "Simplicio" in Italian also has the connotation of "simpleton".

Thus the book was used to both attack the Pope and to advocate heliocentrism ... which was an attack on Aristotelian geocentrism and a defense of the Copernican theory.

The Pope did not take this portrayal lightly ... not to mention he was deeply hurt and felt betrayed by someone he had trusted and loved.

But Galileo didn't stop with the Pope.

He also attacked the Jesuits and their astronomers ... who ... not to mention ... went to great lengths to write and speak in his defense.

Galileo not only appeared to seek confrontation with the Pope but all those around him who disagreed.

At this time ... Galileo was ordered to stand trial on suspicion of heresy in 1633 for holding the following opinions:

First ... the Sun lies motionless at the centre of the universe.

Second ... the Earth is not at its centre of the universe and moves.

And third ... one may hold and defend an opinion as probable after it has been declared contrary to Holy Scripture.

He was required to "abjure, curse and detest" those opinions.

Above all ... the Church wanted Galileo to prove heliocentrism was correct but again he could not.

And so ... this is why the Church banned his book ... the Dialogue ... and put him under house arrest.

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Remember ... Galileo was bent on trying to prove an un-provable theory ... while arguing with the Church about the meaning of the Bible and theology ... so the Church was forced to act.

Galileo later recanted his opinions and ostensibly rejected heliocentrism publicly.

There was no real tortured in the case of Galileo ... he wasn't even treated badly.

Ambassador Nicolini .. the leading Tuscan diplomat in Rome ... was a close friend of Galileo.

Nicolini wrote extensively about the case.

If he had a bias ... he was against Rome and not Galileo.

Nicolini sent regular reports to the court in relation to the Galileo case ... and reported to his king that “the pope told me ... that he had shown Galileo a favor never accorded to another” and that “he has a servant at every convenience”.

The torture instruments were not used in Galileo's case ... even though that was standard practice of the time.

Furthermore ... *The Director for Inquisitors* of 1595 prevented torture in such circumstances ... and if the rules against torture were broken ... those involved would be severely punished.

Galileo's case received attention by the Church because he declared a theory a fact and then argued with the Church about the genuine meaning of the Bible.

The Church had no other alternative but to deal with Galileo directly.

These dealings caused a sort of “legacy” to be left by Galileo that was skewed against the Church.

The legacy that religion tries to suppress science or that religion and science are not compatible.

Because of this legacy ... science and the Catholic Church debate insists on more explanation.

Science and religion and the relationship thereof have many serious modern implications ... especially in relationship to the Catholic Church.

And so ... let us explore this relationship between Science and the Catholic Church ... and answer some questions as to how the Church sought to advance science.

The Catholic Church and the Advancement of Science

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The Church has a history of breeding scientific discovery ... from the earliest days all the way up to the present day.

The Church could almost be characterized as more interested in science than some scientific agencies.

As matter of fact ... it would be difficult to find another religious organization that has done as much as the Catholic Church for science.

The earliest biblical prophecies attest to scientific endeavors as illustrated in the journey of the three wise men.

From the middle ages ... Augustine and Thomas Aquinas both argued that our ability to reason and to engage in empirical investigation is a gift from our Creator.

More recently ... Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical entitled Faith and Reason that reaffirmed the tradition of pursuing scientific investigation.

John Paul the II also gave many speeches to groups of scientist praising their work as a fulfillment of the human good.

Pope Benedict has also been very outspoken about religion and science.

If this wasn't enough ... the church has produced some amazing discoveries via their members.

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If the Church is so against the advancement of scientific discovery ... then why has the Church via their members produced so many amazing and mind-blowing discoveries?

Proof of this fact is abundant ... as we shall now see.

Here are a few examples of how Catholics have pushed the boundaries of scientific thought in the world through the use of their God-given intellectual abilities:

- Monsignor Georges Lemaitre ... was a Belgian Priest and professor of physics ... he studied cosmology and astrophysics ... Monsignor Lemaitre proposed what became known as the Big Bang theory.
- The Yugoslavian Fr. Roger Boscovich was the founder of modern atomic theory ... he went by many names such as a theologian ... physicist ... astronomer ... mathematician ... philosopher ... diplomat ... poet ... Jesuit ... and a polymath ... he was a Catholic.
- Louis Pasteur ... a French chemist and microbiologist is remembered for his remarkable breakthroughs in the causes and preventions of diseases ... he created the first vaccine for rabies and anthrax ... he later invented pasteurization ... and he was a Catholic.
- Roberto Landell de Moura ... invented the radio ... and developed the concepts of "Unity and Physics Forces" and "Universal Harmony" ... Mr. Moura was the first person to publicly demonstrated a radio broadcast ... he accomplished this task on June 3, 1900 ... he was a priest.
- Alexander Fleming ... was a Scottish biologist and pharmacologist ... he wrote many articles on bacteriology ... immunology ... and chemotherapy ... he was best

known for his discovery of the enzyme lysozyme and the antibiotic substance penicillin ... he was a Catholic.

- Nicolaus Copernicus ... was a renaissance astronomer ... and famous for re-proposing the idea of heliocentrism ... Copernicus was involved in many fields' ... mathematics ... astronomy ... canon law ... medicine ... and economics ... he was a priest.
- Enrico Fermi was an Italian-American physicist ... he was known for his work on the development of the first nuclear reactor ... and for his work on the development of quantum theory ... nuclear and particle physics ... and statistical mechanics ... He was a Catholic.
- The father of modern Egyptology was Fr. Athanasius Kircher ... he published around 40 works ... the most notably being in the areas of oriental studies ... geology ... and medicine ... he has been compared to fellow Jesuit Roger Boscovich and to Leonardo da Vinci for his vast range of interests .. he was a Catholic.
- Marie Curie was known for her work in radioactivity ... Mrs. Curie worked in the physics and chemistry fields ... she is the only person to receive a Nobel Prize in two different sciences ... she was a Catholic.
- Agostino Salumbrino ... a Jesuit brother ... who lived in Lima, Peru ... observed the Quechua using the bark of a local tree ... and subsequently developed the first cure for malaria ... the medicine was then exported back to Europe and Rome ... and became known as Jesuit's bark.

The list goes on and on.

The contribution the Catholic Church and her members has made to science is enormous ... an entire series could be written on this very topic.

It is silly ... in light of this evidence ... to think that the Catholic Church is somehow OPPOSED to the advancement of scientific discovery.

A very strong argument can be made that the Church is the force behind the advancement of science ... at least in the early days.

Society owes a large debt of gratitude to the Catholic Church ... because of what its members have accomplished.

There isn't any doubt that Galileo was on to something revolutionary ... and beyond the beaten path.

After all ... he effectively re-proposed a new outlook on the existence of man and his place in the universe.

Although ... he wasn't the first scientist to propose such a theory.

He was the first to have *some* tangible proof thanks to his telescopic advancements.

We must remember that anytime the “truth” is challenged ... people are going to have issues with it and resist ... we see this time and time again throughout human history.

The resistance to this new thinking was largely justified on the Church's part.

In order for a new theory to be accepted ... all arguments against must be dispelled and if research is connected to it ... it must be both reliable and valid.

There is great importance in being able find very similar results.

The scientific method is how all scientists approach empirical investigation regardless of their religious conviction.

If other researchers cannot replicate the findings ... the study is said to be effectively worthless.

Confirmation in the scientific world is of the utmost importance.

The Church cares about Science and the advancement thereof.

The only logical conclusion ...therefore ... is that science and the Catholic Church can and do live in harmony ... for the betterment of both fields.

Now that we have seen how the Church has advanced science and continues to do so ... let us move to re-fuse science and religion in a harmonious relationship ... in our final word.

The Final Word

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The Galileo case and to a further extent ... the “clash” between religion and science ... is a cause of sadness.

What the Galileo case reveals is the imperfection of its members and relatively little about science and the Church's attitude towards it.

If we really want to find evidence of an ideology controlling and oppressing science ... let us look at the great atheistic regimes of the twentieth century.

For example ... Stalin told his scientists to lie about their discoveries to the point where

they in turn lied to him and as a result enacted government policies based on fraudulent research.

The cultist Hitler had an obsession with using science to pervert truth and his theories on eugenics ... social engineering ... and racial health.

President Obama has also twisted science to promote his own agenda ... with his Department of Health and Human Services mandating that all health insurances cover contraception and sterilization ... HHS says that scientific studies show that greater use of contraception within the population produces lower unintended pregnancy and abortion rates nationally ... however ... they only used two studies to back up their new mandate ... one of which was from a very biased source ... numerous studies actually show that increased use of contraception does not lower unintended pregnancy and abortion rates.

The list goes on of course ... but we think you get the point.

The argument that Galileo was correct to stand against the church in the name of science is ridiculous and superficial at best.

Those who hold that Galileo was correct all around are seriously misled.

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As we've shown ... Galileo was actually at fault for many of his problems and the Church was merely reacting to a potentially bigger problem down the road ... considering the protestant revolt ... the Church was almost forced to act in some official way.

Galileo refused to listen to anyone but himself and that was the problem.

Galileo was seemingly a very wise man but lacked humility when it came to scientific ventures.

He also was fighting for an un-provable notion that the earth is not the center of the universe.

Many centuries would go by before the Church would speak in any official way about Galileo.

In 1989 ... under Pope John Paul II ... the Church officially cleared the name of Galileo of any wrongdoing.

The Pope discussed the mistakes the Church had made and apologized for the Church's handling of the case ... but reaffirm the Church was correct for asking Galileo to prove his theory.

Pope John Paul the II went on to say that the province of the Church is theology and revelation ... not science or astronomy.

Pope Urban had less understanding of the world during the sixteenth century than we do in the twenty-first century ... and this ... therefore ... caused him to reject the theory of heliocentrism ... which we now know today is correct.

If the Pope knew heliocentrism was true ... he would have agreed with Galileo ... but there was no way to prove this.

The Pope was not acting in his capacity of teacher when deciding if Galileo was right or wrong but in the characterization of prudent guardian.

This means ... that the Pope was in no way violating the doctrine of papal infallibility.

Science and religion will always be topics of hot debate because society at large doesn't understand that the two can live in harmony ... or maybe doesn't want to understand.

Through the use of the Galileo case ... this program aims at showing that they can live in harmony ... while showing that the Church was ... indeed ... correct in taking a stance of opposition to Galileo given the scientific technology of the day.

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Science and Religion can and do live in harmony and as we know scientific truths point to God.

So now ... let us give you some important take-away points ... we have been dealing with two relational topics ... the Church and Galileo .. and Science and Religion.

The Catholic Church was justified in how they dealt with Galileo due to various factors that were apparent during that era.

First ... Galileo's theory ... heliocentrism ... was not provable during that time ... because no high power telescopes existed.

Second ... Galileo was treading on areas of theology and the meaning of scripture ... and not focusing on science ... he was arguing with the Church about how the Bible is interpreted.

Third ... a concern for the advancement of science really starts and ends with or even flows out of a grace filled life ... the great accomplishments as put forth by Catholic scientists throughout the centuries is a testament to this fact.

Fourth ... this concern carries on to the present day with encouragement from all the recent popes ... that science is important and necessary because it helps man

“contemplate” God through the beauty of his creation.

Fifth ... even today ... the Church uses scientific and empirical investigation to determine the veracity of a miracle.

Sixth ... science and religion in no way contradict each other ... they are both concerned with the discovery of truth which leads to God.

So ... the next time you find yourself in a conversation that brings up Galileo ... the Catholic Church ... and Science ... you'll have the knowledge to slay the dragons of error and confusion along the way.

<<stay on cam 1>>

So now you know ... thanks for watching this edition of Catholic Investigative Agency ... I'm Michael Voris ... let's hit the streets.

God love you!

I'm Michael Voris.