

Christian Faith and Science

- There are people in this American culture, even here at Georgia Tech, who assert with virtual certainty that no Christian can possibly be a knowledgeable engineer or scientist
- Such individuals are quite misinformed
- Even one example is sufficient to disprove the assertion
- Of the 56 almost universally acknowledged fathers of modern science, all but two professed faith in Jesus Christ (Stark, 2003)

Great Scientists and Christians

- Isaac Newton
 - Newton's laws are used in many AE courses
 - Newton wrote much on mathematics and physics, but he wrote even more on theology – including some Bible commentaries
 - He believed the Bible to be the word of God
- Pascal
 - Pascal, famous for mathematical breakthroughs, wrote much on his Christian faith
 - He sewed Bible passages into his clothes

Great Scientists and Christians (cont.)

- Keppler
 - Keppler often inserted exuberant expressions of praise to God in the middle of his technical papers:

“O Thou Who dost by the light of nature promote in us the desire for the light of grace, that by its means Thou mayest transport us into the light of glory, I give thanks to Thee, O Lord Creator, Who has delighted me with Thy makings, and in the works of thy hands have I exulted.... Great is our Lord and great His virtue and of His wisdom there is no number: praise Him, ye heavens, praise Him, ye sun, moon, and planets.... To Him be praise, honor, and glory, world without end. Amen.” (Johannes Kepler, 1571 – 1630)



Great Scientists and Christians (cont.)

- Consider 18th century genius, Leonhard Euler, born April 15, 1707 – one of my favorite people in history
- You've no doubt heard of some of Euler's equations
 - $e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i \sin\theta$
 - Euler's dynamical equations for a rigid body (AE 2220, AE 3521)
 - Euler's equations of fluid flow (AE 2020)
 - Euler-Bernoulli beam theory (CoE 2001, 3001 and AE 3125)

Great Scientists and Christians (cont.)

- Euler (cont.)
 - Euler's theory of column buckling (AE 3125)
 - Euler's theorem on rigid-body motion (AE 6210)
 - Euler rotations and Euler parameters (AE 6211)
 - On and on it goes (human physiology, meteorology, ship construction, orbital mechanics, architecture...)
- He wrote 880 books and papers, more pages of scientific and mathematical text than any other human in history

Great Scientists and Christians (cont.)

- Euler did most of his work in the latter half of his life – after having become totally blind
 - He was said to often work with a small child in his lap or playing around his feet, or with a cat asleep on his shoulders or near him
 - He worked out equations in his head and dictated them to one of his sons
 - One day he worked out the equations for the ascent of a balloon, derived the orbital equations for Uranus, played with one of his grandchildren, then peacefully closed his eyes and died

Great Scientists and Christians (cont.)

- Euler was a devout Christian, a Calvinist
 - Euler daily taught the Bible to his 13 children and many grandchildren
 - He believed it impossible to make sense of life without presupposing the truth revealed in the Bible
 - He wrote books on the Christian faith that were published in several languages
 - I am compelled to ask you (rhetorically, of course):
 - *Do your core presuppositions allow you to make sense of life?*
 - *Can you account for such things as ethics, beauty, love, and order?*