

Bedrock Principles of Liberty

PRINCIPLE ONE

God exists, has established an ordered and moral universe, and holds humanity accountable.

Let's consider Scripture and highlight several key points of overlap between biblical teachings and the Founders' ideals.

SECOND — Nature's ordered structure points to a God of precision and purpose.

The design of nature itself points to a Designer, but not just *any* Designer. Nature's ordered structure points to a God of precision and purpose. Nature is not chaotic but meaningful. It also is balanced; and, in the many instances in which it needs to be precise to sustain life, it is just that.

Dr. Robin Collins is "an articulate, physics-trained philosopher who has done his own original research on the issue [of precision in the universe]." Furthermore, he is "known as being careful and conservative in his calculations, unwilling to make judgments that exceed the bounds of the data."¹ Collins serves as Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

In an interview with investigative journalist and atheist-turned-Christian Lee Strobel, Collins said:

Over the past thirty years or so, scientists have discovered that just about everything about the basic structure of the universe is balanced on a razor's edge for life to exist. The coincidences are far too fantastic to attribute this to mere chance or to claim that it needs no explanation. The dials are set too precisely to have been a random accident.²

The areas in which precision has been noted include

- gravity,
- the nature of the earth's atmosphere,
- the presence and amount of oxygen in the atmosphere,
- the distance of the earth from the sun,
- the magnetic field of the earth, and
- the tilt of the earth's axis, to name just a few.³

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Could an ordered world and an ordered universe have come into being by random forces, or chance? Why or why not?
2. What kinds of things do an ordered world and an ordered universe potentially say about how they came into existence?
3. If they could not have come into being by chance and a Creator had to be involved, what kinds of things does the order we observe in the world and in the universe potentially say about the One who orchestrated it?
4. Although the Founders did not understand the scientific precision involved in the ordered world and the ordered universe, they still spoke of "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." How does this phrase coincide with the order we observe in nature? How does it coincide with biblical teachings on ethics and morality?

Notes:

¹Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 128.

²Strobel, 131.

³<http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/designss.html>