

C²: Chemistry and Christianity

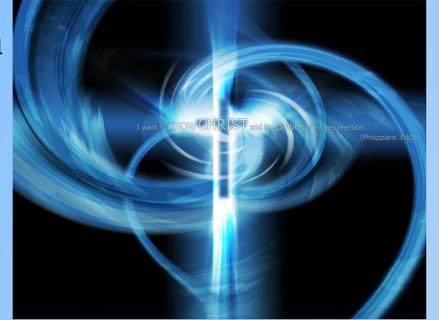


Prof S David Jackson

Rev Dr Elizabeth Adam

A series of conversations exploring the key question

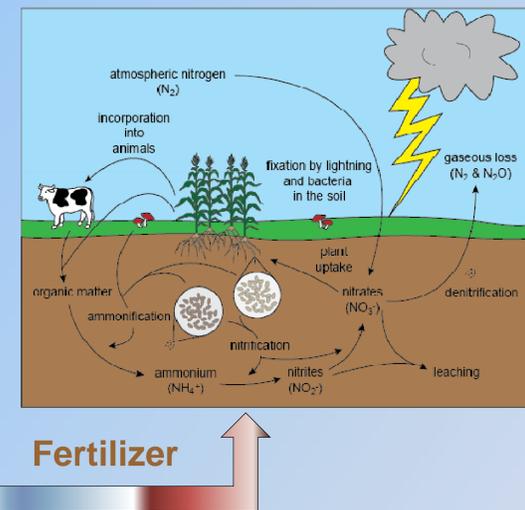
“How should Christianity and Christian congregations engage with the chemical industry?”



Often Christian engagement is protesting at a use of chemicals and supporting “organic” against “chemical” in food chains. However this is often a situation of blaming chemistry for corporate greed. When the banks failed we blamed the bankers not the pound in our pocket, yet too often we blame the “chemicals” and not the people behind them. This course would aim to give sufficient chemistry understanding for a congregation to appreciate the benefits, and dangers of a chemical industry and to approach it from a biblical framework. There will be eight sessions and we highlight a couple below.

Feeding the world

The Bible is rich in food imagery – Jesus describes himself as “the bread of life” and “the true vine”. The need to nourish God’s people well – both physically and spiritually - is at the heart of our Christian calling. Chemistry has contributed hugely to feeding the world. Making fertilizers and agrichemicals needed to grow the volumes of food for a hungry planet but as we consider the effects of pollution from overuse we will ask, “how do we reconcile our responsibility as stewards of creation with our duty to feed God’s people?”



Keeping it clean

Chemistry needs to be concerned with maintaining a clean environment. Christianity focuses on cleanliness of the spirit. Are the two intertwined? And what is the real “fuel” that drives us? Christ spoke of the “living water” of the Holy Spirit and how it fuels the life of faith. Can our congregations and churches make more responsible choices about their use of fuels?



Power up

God’s creation has a cycle of its own – do scientists re-invent it or mimic it? Over the centuries chemistry has been involved in the interconversion of energy; as mankind goes through the cycles of energy sources from sun to wood to coal to oil to gas to coal to wood to sun, can a deeper understanding of chemistry help us to understand and value God’s world more?

