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COGNITIVE DISSONANCE AND THE MEANING MAKING PROCESS IN THE CONTEXT OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

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ABSTRACT

Cognitive dissonance occurs in situations where there are conflicting attitudes, beliefs or behaviors, and is experienced as a psychological discomfort. In the context of meaning-making, science, and religion, cognitive dissonance helps us understand the inner conflicts people experience when faced with contradicting belief systems and how they resolve such conflicts. Through review of literature, this study sought to discuss the dissonance people experience when there is tension between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs, explain ethical implication of scientific inquiry, explore how people process the violation of shalom and explore the meaning-making and purpose-finding processes people use.

Keywords: Cognitive Dissonance, Cognitive Dissonance Theory, Meaning making, Cosmic purpose, Science and Religion, Violation of shalom

1 INTRODUCTION

When people are faced with opposing thoughts or arguments in a certain area, they usually find it difficult to know or choose the right one between or among the different arguments put forth, leading to cognitive dissonance (Yahya & Sukmayadi, 2020). The idea of cognitive dissonance was introduced in 1957 by Leon Festinger. In the event that people realize there is an element of truth in the ideas and perspectives of other people, this leads to a conflict with their own cognitive beliefs. Cognitive dissonance has been linked to psychosomatic conditions such as anger, frustration, guilt, stress, anxiety, among others.

According to Neuhaus (2021), cognitive dissonance occurs in situations where there are conflicting attitudes, beliefs or behaviors, and is experienced as a psychological discomfort. Neuhaus (2021) further states that people are highly driven to try and eliminate the dissonance, and that the greater the dissonance, the greater the motivation. There are four major mechanisms that people use to try and reduce the discrepancy: Change of behavior to align with cognition, change the dissonant thoughts or beliefs, adding consonant thoughts to justify or reduce the significance of another thought, or minimize / trivialize the discrepancy. Cognitive dissonance can also be vicariously experienced via social identification.

In the context of meaning-making, science, and religion, cognitive dissonance helps us understand the inner conflicts people experience when faced with contradicting belief systems and how they resolve such conflicts. In science versus religion for example, there are contradicting beliefs about the origins of the universe. According to Sajedi (2020), scientific explanations of the origin of the universe such as Darwin's evolution theory, the Big Bang theory, and Quantum theory seem to be incompatible with faith and the belief in God. The Christian faith, for example, believes in God who created the world in six days according to Genesis 1 and 2 in the bible, which contradicts with many scientific theories of creation.

Such contradictions create dissonance especially for someone who wants to pursue science but who at the same time identifies with the Christian faith. This study aims to explore how people deal with and reconcile conflicting belief systems such as discrepancy between scientific evidence versus their moral and religious beliefs, belief in cosmic order and shalom versus the experience of suffering and a disorderly world, and understand the meaning-making and purpose-finding processes people follow in the midst of the dissonance.

1.1 Background of the Problem

King (2024) states that the tension between science and religion has been longstanding yet inevitable, and recently, the conflict seems to be unnecessary. Such a conflict can become warfare due to misinterpretation and selective use of data by both sides, yet not keeping in mind that science and religion fall under different domains of human experience. Some people argue that because scientific evidence is objective, it is more reliable than religious claims that are seen as dependent on personal experience and prone to confirmation bias (Rope Kojonen, 2021). Such views, coupled with the fact that at times scientific findings contradict religious views, heighten the tension between these fields.

Such tension leads to dissonance and difficulties in deciding which one is a source of valid knowledge. Brandt and Crawford (2020) state that when people are faced with conflicting worldviews, they usually try to protect their own views as valid and vital and portray prejudice towards other people's worldviews. This means that in the context of science and religion, people who experience dissonance between scientific knowledge and their religious beliefs are more likely to protect the validity of their beliefs. Many religious people, for example, deny the conflict between science and faith but at the same time have less trust in science when compared to people who are not religious (Jackson et al., 2024).

Beyond the intellectual conflict however, such a tension also has an impact on personal identity and the way people try to make meaning in life. Both science and religion play an important role in shaping people's identity. Religion helps to provide people with a transcendent worldview that anchors behavioral norms and moral beliefs (Leite et al., 2023). Religious identity helps to understand the relationship between human beings versus the sacred world, and God the creator versus created beings, and plays a role in helping people become part of a social group. Science and religion therefore help to shape people's values and their worldviews. A conflict between science and religion can thus lead to an identity crisis due to the role played by both in shaping both social and personal identity.

1.2 Problem Statement

The world has become increasingly secular and scientific. Modernization, with its associated scientific advancements such as technological innovations, has been linked to the decline in the functions of religion as secular institutions are seen as more efficient in solving life's problems, for example, medicine has replaced religious healing for many, leading to them losing religious relevance (Stolz et al., 2025). For people with deep religious convictions, scientific explanations that conflict with their spiritual beliefs can lead to psychological tension, that is, cognitive dissonance.

Some scientific inventions pose serious ethical concerns and that potentially pose great risk for psychological distress among Christians and people of other religions. Examples of these include nuclear weapons, genetic engineering, cloning, geo-engineering, among others. According to Iaccarino (2001), regarding the area of stem cell research for example, the debate is, is it ethical to destroy a human embryo in order to pursue knowledge with the aim of finding cure for diseases? Others however ask whether an embryo is more important than finding the cure for a disease. Using human embryos in such a way diminishes the sanctity of human life and goes against the concept of humans being created in God's image as outlined in Genesis 1:26-27.

Religion significantly influences people's self-perception, moral beliefs, and worldview, helps them cope with stress and life's challenges through practices such as prayer that foster resilience, and shapes their perspectives on social as well as political issues (Efremov, 2025). This shows that religion has a great impact on social adaptation, mental health, and influence how people make decisions. Therefore, cognitive dissonance in this context of science and religion has the potential to disrupt a person's moral beliefs, identity, decision-making process, sense of purpose, and their worldview.

Cognitive dissonance can also occur due to difficulties in reconciling the existence of a good God in the midst of all the chaos existing in the world. When some people find themselves in midst of injustice and chaos, they might end up

blaming God. Ekstrand (2012) gives a case of a man who became angry at God and blamed Him for his son's death. Surprisingly, anger towards God is also seen in people who in the first place say they do not believe in God. Such a difficulty in reconciling injustice with the existence of a good God can predispose people to mental illnesses such as depression.

There is need for study in the area of cognitive dissonance because of its link to mental illnesses. A study done by Byrne et al. (2023) showed that participants found to have depression had more dissonance-inducing events in their lives, had unresolved dissonance that had persisted over a prolonged period of time, had more rumination, and portrayed less cognitive efforts in reducing the dissonance. Existing research explores the topic of cognitive dissonance from the angle of attitude change, decision-making, and its link to stress and mental health problems. However, there is still a gap and need for research regarding how people resolve the cognitive dissonance, especially one that occurs due to conflict between religious beliefs and scientific knowledge within the wider concept of cosmic purpose.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore cognitive dissonance that occurs when there is conflict between spiritual beliefs and scientific knowledge and explore the meaning-making processes people use and follow to deal with and resolve the dissonance.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

To discuss the dissonance people experience regarding tension between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs and the psychological processes they use to deal with the dissonance.

- To explain the ethical implications of scientific inquiry and pursuit of cosmic purpose.
- To explore how people process the violation of shalom such as experiences of injustice and disorderliness in the world.
- To investigate the meaning-making and purpose-finding process in the context of psychology, science, and religion.
- To recommend how people can resolve the dissonance between science and religion.

1.5 Justification and Significance of the Study

This study will be useful in highlighting how people resolve internal conflicts that arise when they are faced with conflicting worldviews and will provide insights into the ways we can promote harmony in the society. Cognitive dissonance resultant from tension between science and religion can lead to existential crisis. Existential crises occur when people start wondering what the meaning or purpose of life is and experience feelings of inability to figure out and navigate through different choices in life (Warren, 2024). Existential crises can be triggered by things such as transitions through different life stages and being faced with significant choices, which can lead to feelings such as hopelessness, anxiety, and even identity conflicts. Tension between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs can put one in an uncomfortable situation where they are faced with difficult choices or inability to decide which between the two is a valid source of knowledge. This study will provide insights into how people can deal with such tensions, which would help improve mental health.

The study will shed light into how people make meaning in life even in the midst of pain and suffering. A psychiatrist known as Viktor Frankl noted that it is not our circumstances that usually make life unbearable, rather, it is a lack of purpose (Testa, 2024). Frankl argued that a struggle in finding purpose when faced with adversity leaves one with a void that can contribute to depression and other mental health conditions. Understanding the psychological processes that people follow to make meaning in life will be useful in developing psychological strategies people can use to find meaning and reduce distress.

This study has practical application within the field of psychology. When people present to therapy due to distress linked to cognitive dissonance as a result of tension between science and religion, when they are seeking meaning in life in the midst of their struggles, wondering how to resolve ethical dilemmas or make moral decisions, and such like, the findings of this study would help a therapist know how to navigate such sensitive situations. The study will help psychologists know how to manage the distress of cognitive dissonance in the context of science and religion and help people develop an integrated worldview that is in alignment with their values and beliefs.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in the cognitive dissonance theory and the meaning-making model.

1.6.1 Cognitive Dissonance Theory

According to Festinger, who introduced the concept of cognitive dissonance, people are always striving to attain internal consistency (Crespo, 2023). The idea of cognitive dissonance has three elements, that is, irrelevance, dissonance, and consonance. Irrelevance comes about when two elements are unrelated and therefore nothing comes out of it. Consonance comes about when there is consistency of elements. Dissonance on the other hand comes when there is inconsistency in what one believes in and their behavior, or when new information contradicts a belief someone already has about something, which leads to psychological distress. The distress then motivates people to try and reduce the dissonance.

In this context of meaning-making, science, and religion, the study proposes that when people encounter scientific or religious information that contradicts their existing beliefs, they experience cognitive dissonance. This resulting psychological distress then motivates them to employ different psychological processes to try reduce the dissonance or to achieve consonance. One of the ways people might use to reduce the distress is trying to make sense of the situation and finding meaning or purpose through it.

1.6.2 Meaning Making Model

The meaning making model is a framework introduced by Crystal Park that posits that people have orienting systems that give them cognitive frameworks for interpreting experiences and that when they encounter situations that potentially stress or challenge their orienting systems, they appraise and assign meaning to those situations (Park, 2010). The orienting systems are known as global meaning and they contain goals, beliefs, and subjective feelings made up of broad and personal views regarding diverse matters. On the other hand, the meaning given within a particular context or environment is known as situational meaning, which is assigned within the framework of global meaning.

When people encounter stressful events, they assign those events meaning and then the appraised meaning is compared with the global meaning (Park, 2020). In situations where the appraised meaning contradicts one's global meaning, people experience distress. It is this distress that motivates people to start meaning-making efforts in an attempt to restore coherence. Meaning-making process can be done through either assimilation or accommodation. In assimilation, people try to revise how they view the situation to align with global meaning, while in accommodation people experiencing large discrepancies attempt to change global meaning to align with the situation.

In the context of this study, science and religion represent orienting systems that help people make meaning when they encounter different situations. When there is conflict between religious beliefs and scientific knowledge, people experience distress, which can disrupt how they make meaning in life. People might deal with this by either trying to change how they appraise the situation or by changing their religious or scientific beliefs. Some people might use either religion-based or science-based strategies to navigate either the scientific or spiritual uncertainty they are experiencing.

2 FINDINGS FROM LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

2.1 The Dissonance People Experience Regarding Tension between Scientific Knowledge and Religious Beliefs and the Psychological Processes They Use To Deal with the Dissonance

When there is tension between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs, many people experience cognitive dissonance. To deal with the dissonance, they employ various psychological processes to try and either reduce it or resolve it and achieve consonance.

2.1.1 Dissonance Related to the Tension between Scientific Knowledge and Religious Beliefs

Science and religion conflict in major areas such as regarding the origin, age, and end of the universe, the nature of human consciousness, the existence of the supernatural, the causes of suffering in the world, the question of moral absolutes, among others. According to Reagan and Monica (2020), science tends to concern itself with the natural world while religion deals with both the natural and supernatural, and science does not deal with the immaterial spirit or soul. The concept of the supernatural such as the existence of God and morality are usually outside the scope of science.

Such discrepancies lead to questions such as regarding which one between the two is the source of true knowledge. While both science and religion claim to be the source of truth, their approaches to getting the truth are both different and antithetical; religion uses supernatural revelation from a Deity to get the truth while science relies only on facts (English, n.d.). Science is always empirical and guided by facts though different scientists might use different methods.

Some believe that religion is an attempt to escape from reality and the authoritarian nature of some religions has in the past led to offense among some scientists.

Christianity relies on the bible as the source of all truth. God's word is truth according to John 17:17. Sometimes, a person's religious convictions might contradict facts, but that does not in any way diminish the validity of the scripture. Christianity requires faith, even the belief in the existence of God requires faith, and faith does not require physical evidence. Faith itself is the evidence of things not seen, according to Hebrews 11:1. Such tensions between science and religion can lead to anxiety, stress, and identity and existential crisis, especially among people who identify with Christian faith, who might be tempted to doubt their beliefs when faced with contradictory scientific evidence.

2.1.2 Psychological Processes that People Use to Deal with the Dissonance

People use various psychological processes to deal with the dissonance such as accommodation, assimilation, avoidance, selective exposure, belief perseverance, compartmentalization, integration, and the use of various religious coping strategies. Accommodation refers to a cognitive process of changing existing schemas or creating new ones when faced with new information, while assimilation refers to the integration of new information into the already existing schemas (McLeod, 2024). This means that some people who experience cognitive dissonance between science and religion might adjust their beliefs to align with either scientific or religious knowledge while others might fit in the new information and interpret it through their already existing worldview. Some however use avoidance and refuse to deal with the dissonance altogether.

Selective exposure on the other hand refers to a phenomenon whereby people focus only on information that confirms their attitudes which might lead to confirmation bias, that is, actively seeking out and assigning more weight to information that aligns with their attitude (Williams et al., 2016). This means that people in religion might only seek out information that aligns with their religious beliefs and dismiss the rest as a way of reducing or avoiding cognitive dissonance. Others use belief perseverance, which according to Siebert and Siebert (2023) is clinging to one's beliefs even after receiving contradictory information. Belief perseverance helps people to avoid identity crisis by choosing to hold on to or even strengthen their pre-existing worldviews.

Other people choose to either compartmentalize or integrate the contradictory information between science and religion. Compartmentalization is a type of psychological defense mechanism whereby a person separates different aspects of self, for example, different beliefs, and accesses the different beliefs at different times (Békés et al., 2019). This means a person experiencing dissonance might choose to separate science and religion and view them as different entities. Others however might choose to integrate the two and form a worldview based on unification of beliefs from both science and religion.

Some however choose to use religious coping strategies such as standing on their faith in God, seeking clarification from religious figures, and interpreting science from a biblical perspective. Those who stand on their faith choose to believe in what God says and understand that God is the creator of everything. Genesis in the bible outlines how God created the heavens and the earth. Therefore, faith allows one to believe that even the knowledge to pursue science comes from God. By interpreting science from a biblical perspective, one is able to accept what aligns with the bible and reject what does not.

2.2 The Ethical Implications of Scientific Inquiry and Pursuit of Cosmic Purpose

Science has led to great advancements in technology but with that comes the potential for misuse. For example, nuclear weapons, artificial intelligence (AI), and gene editing technology all pose great ethical concerns. For example, AI cannot make complex decisions because it is difficult to digitize emotions, people's customs, or beliefs (Guan et al., 2022). AI makes decisions based on algorithms and therefore lacks important human qualities such as empathy and compassion. Another example is gene editing technology. Ansah (2022) state that human gene editing especially for reproductive purposes can result in gene mutation, which can cause disabilities and diseases that can affect both the patient and their offspring.

It is important to balance innovation with public good and understand that a permissive approach can lead to misuse of technology which would do harm. However, too strict regulations would hinder innovation and human creativity which is God given. According to Malik et al. (2024), it is important to develop guidelines that are established in safety of humanity, ethical accountability, and transparency. A global framework that maximizes on the strengths of science and innovation and eliminates the weaknesses in collaboration with various organizations and governments would help to develop protocols that minimize the misuse and the risks associated with scientific innovations.

We need to remember that we should be good stewards of the universe that God gave us. In Genesis 2:15, God placed man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it. We also need to be our brothers' keeper and always consider the effect of our actions on others. That means that scientists should always keep in mind the effect of their inventions on humanity

and the environment. We are to observe the law of God, uphold morality, and ensure that ethics are guided by biblical standards. We are to do all for the glory of God according to 1 Corinthians 10:31. Grounding everything in scripture makes it easy to resolve ethical dilemmas one encounters when conflict between science and religion arises. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 is a reminder that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.

2.3 How People Process the Violation of Shalom Such As Experiences of Injustice and Disorderliness in the World

A violation of shalom, such as experiencing injustice and chaos in life, can lead to psychological distress. Sin can be considered as a vandalism of shalom. According to Norwalk (2019), God hates sin not only because it breaks His law, but also because it leads to violation of shalom by undermining peace and interfering with the way God created things to be. Sin leads to shame and guilt. When Adam and Eve sinned in the book of Genesis, they experienced shame and tried to cover themselves.

When people experience injustice, suffering, and chaos in life, this can challenge their belief in God. When people experience problems in life, some end up being angry at or feeling disappointed at God (Ekstrand, 2012). Some use denial as a way of coping with challenges that threaten their well being, others experience sadness and grief, while others are thrown into existential despair and start wondering whether life has meaning.

Trying to make sense of injustice or suffering, use of rationalization, questioning God's existence, social support seeking, social activism, and the use of forgiveness are some of the ways people use to try and process the violation of shalom. Rationalization is a psychological defense mechanism that people use to explain or justify behavior and make it seem more acceptable in an effort to protect one's ego from guilt or from the feeling of discomfort (Beltrani, n.d.). Rationalization explains away injustice, which can lead to instances of victim blaming. Injustice can make some people lose faith in God; however, for some people, their faith is strengthened when they go through hard times. Social support helps people find comfort from others, activism helps people advocate for change, while forgiveness helps people find peace and let go of anger and bitterness.

2.4 The Meaning-Making and Purpose-Finding Process in the Context of Psychology, Science, and Religion

Some people use science, others use psychology, while others use religion as a way of making meaning and finding purpose in life. Of note however is that while science can explain how the universe operates, it does not provide answers regarding why things are the way they are or answer the question of cosmic purpose. According to Rezkalla (2017), science helps us to discover facts regarding what is observable and testable in the universe but cannot answer questions beyond that such as those related to morality and metaphysics. People use science as a way of meaning making by exploring things such as evolution, cosmology, trying to find out how consciousness comes about, and such like. Such explorations help people to make sense of the universe. In science, meaning is derived by use of logic and is human-centered and tends to undermine the supernatural world.

In the area of psychology, a psychiatrist known as Viktor Frankl noted that the ability to find meaning when a person is facing challenges helps such a person develop resilience and endurance (Bay Area CBT Center, 2025). Frankl was a holocaust survivor and noted that finding meaning in the midst of suffering is important as meaning finding is a primary motivation in life, grounded on the fact that people have the ability to choose their attitude in any situation. Cognitive reappraisal is a psychological technique that people can use to help them make meaning out of even the most painful situations. It refers to the reinterpretation of a stimulus which helps one to change their emotional responses to a situation (Wang & Yin, 2023). Psychology also helps people to concentrate more on their strengths rather than weaknesses, seek social support, and understand their identity.

Religion on the other hand provides people with clear instructions, principles, and commandments to live by. In Exodus 20, God provided the Israelites with the 10 commandments to guide them in their daily lives. The whole bible is God's word that provides Christians with guidelines to live by in their Christian walk. It therefore helps to provide a moral foundation for human life on earth. Religion helps people find purpose by understanding that they are part of God's divine plan and there is a reason God created them. This helps to answer the why question that science is unable to answer. In Genesis 1:27, God created man in His image and likeness, He gave man the work of naming all the animals in Genesis 2:20, and gave man dominion over the earth and asked him to be fruitful and multiply in Genesis 1:26-28. All these show that God created man with a purpose. Religion also helps people glory in and find hope even in the midst of suffering (Romans 5:3-5) and understand that there is life after death (John 11:25), which gives hope and meaning in life.

2.5 Recommendations Regarding How People Can Resolve the Dissonance between Science and Religion

To resolve dissonance that arises due to tension between science and religion, it is important to reconcile the two and understand that both have an important role to play in human existence. Science helps us understand the physical world

through experimentation and observation and acquire knowledge about general truths and how fundamental laws of the universe operate (Britannica, 2025). Religion on the other hand helps us understand God and His creation, and the Genesis account of creation is a clear illustration of how God created the world. Therefore, science cannot exist without God, because the world and everything in it belong to God. Proverbs 2:6 reminds us that wisdom, knowledge, and understanding come from God. Therefore, the ability to study the universe is God-given. Science and religion are thus not in conflict but complementary.

The use of mature psychological processes can also help resolve the dissonance between science and religion. Instead of using avoidance, denial, compartmentalization, and other immature psychological processes, one can embrace things like reappraisal, social support seeking, and finding meaning even in the midst of suffering. It is important to search the scripture and find out what the truth is regarding a particular situation, for the word of God is truth according to John 17:17. One should challenge contradictory scientific knowledge through the lens of the word of God and stand firm in their faith.

One should not allow injustice or suffering to make them doubt God. The story of Joseph in the bible serves as a motivation of not giving up even in the face of trials and tribulations. In the end, God exalted Joseph and made him a leader in the land he had been sold into captivity by his brothers. It is important to understand that God is sovereign and even in the midst of suffering, He is always there and His love endures forever according to Psalm 136. Choose to trust that God has everything under control and remember that He knows everything. Eventually, all things work together for good as stated in Romans 8:28. Therefore, one should find motivation in pursuing their purpose, build healthy relationships and seek social support, and get their moral compass from the bible when faced with conflicting knowledge between science and religion.

3 PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY – HUMILITY AND SURRENDER TO GOD

My philosophy is that meaning-making or purpose finding process, religion, and science can co-exist without resulting in dissonance. This requires acknowledging God as the creator of all, as the all-knowing one, and acknowledging the limitations of us human beings. Patov (2024) talks about intellectual humility that requires recognizing the limitation of one's knowledge and remaining open to continue learning and embracing new information. This requires willingness to challenge one's existing beliefs and adopting an attitude of curiosity. While science is important, it is important to acknowledge its boundaries while keeping in mind that the ability to understand the world comes from God. Proverbs 2:6-7 is a reminder that knowledge and wisdom comes from God. When dissonance arises and our spiritual beliefs are challenged by scientific knowledge, we need to go to God for answers.

There is also need to prioritize ethics when pursuing scientific inventions. This helps to humanize the process and prevents people from misusing their creativity. The evolution of ethics in research studies comes from a past history where failure to observe ethical standards led to severe consequences with violation of people's rights and exploitation of the vulnerable, for example, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study where research participants were denied effective syphilis treatment (Miteu, 2024). Ethics require a spiritual moral foundation. As we pursue science, it is important to ensure we do no harm and do it for the glory of God according to 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Therefore, when faced with conflicting knowledge between science and religion, we need to remain curious and avoid being defensive. It is important to have intellectual humility and listen to both sides. However, we need to understand that ultimately only God has all the answers and therefore when we reach a roadblock, we can trust that God will provide us with the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that we need in accordance with His will. We should be careful never to elevate creation or creativity above God and choose to always acknowledge God in everything we do as stated in Proverbs 3:6. We should never think that we know more than God, for that is pride. James 4:6 is a reminder that God resists the proud but gives more grace to the humble. It is therefore important to take on an approach of humility and surrender to God's will.

4 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when spiritual beliefs and scientific knowledge conflict, people are likely to experience psychological distress. People who are highly religious might especially experience more distress when scientific explanations contradict with scriptural foundation. The psychological distress that arises is what motivates people to try and make sense of their experience. This study was rooted in the cognitive dissonance theory and the meaning-making model and followed a personal philosophy of humility and surrender to God when dealing with such conflicts.

The study explored the dissonance people experience when faced with cognitive dissonance due to tension between scientific and religious knowledge, the psychological processes people use to deal with dissonance and injustices in the world, the ethical implications of scientific inquiry and pursuit of cosmic purpose, explored how people process the

violation of shalom and how they find meaning in life, and offered recommendations on ways of resolving the cognitive dissonance.

We should always remember that God created the universe for a purpose and as God's highest form of creation, humanity has an ethical responsibility to take care of the universe as good stewards of the resources given to us by God. As we pursue science, we need to remain humble and acknowledge God as the source of all knowledge and wisdom. We should never elevate our human creativity or scientific inventions above God and should be guided by biblical principles in all we do. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 summarizes what the whole duty of man is, that is, to fear God and keep His commandments.

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