

## **Religion, science operate differently**

The debate over evolution and religion teaching misses the real issue that evolution uses scientific methodology whereas religion is based upon disclosure precepts. Science uses a model consisting of observing, hypothesizing, predicting, testing and re-hypothesizing, a continuing process. These models are regularly superseded as new experimental results are obtained. Newton's laws of motion model is adequate for describing the motion of a car, but Einstein's special relativity model is required for objects traveling close to the speed of light.

Religion is based upon disclosure by its prophets. For example, the Christian assertion that "God is love" is not inferable by scientific methodology. Some form of disclosure is required. Thus, Christians "know" that "God is love" because of the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

Confusion results if one tries to apply religion to science. And the insights of religion are diminished if they are presented as science. One should neither attempt to prove religious beliefs with science nor look for scientific results in religion. Nor should one be taught as the other.

— *John R. Golden, Pittsford*

The writer is a California Institute of Technology alumnus and an officer of his church.