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[Obesity Among Those Who Attend Religious Services Regularly](#)

New research finds that people who frequently attend religious services are significantly more likely to become obese by the time they reach middle age. The study doesn't prove that attending services is fattening, nor does it explain why weight might be related to faith. (Randy Dotinga, HealthDay)

[Controversy Over Inclusive Fitness Continues](#)

In August, *Nature* published a lengthy paper by Martin Nowak, E.O. Wilson, and Corina Tarnita in which they argued that inclusive fitness was mathematically flawed and basically superfluous. I had no trouble finding other scientists who were ready to say all sorts of scathing things about Nowak et al. I'm no fan of ginning up fake debates, but when somebody says, "This paper, far from showing shortcomings in inclusive fitness theory, shows the shortcomings of the authors," the story writes itself. *Nature* has finally published some letters from some of these critics. The first letter alone has 137 co-signers. (Carl Zimmer, *The Loom*, *Discover*)

[The Problem of Free Will](#)

Free will hasn't been disproved scientifically or philosophically. The more that researchers investigate free will, the more good reasons there are to believe in it. (John Tierney, *The New York Times*)

[Why Are Some of Us Religious and Others Atheists?](#)

[Jonathan Lanman](#): Our beliefs, behaviors, and moral sentiments are not simply the result of dispassionate reason. As psychologists and anthropologists have argued for some time, to understand them involves considering something we might call "human nature" as well as the particular socio-cultural contexts in which people live. This is as true for explaining atheism as it is for religion. (*New Scientist*)

[More on Why University Scientists Do Not Discuss Religion](#)

[Elaine Howard Ecklund](#): What do we know about the scientists who think religion and science dialogue

is important? Do any of them go so far as to discuss religion in their classrooms? (The Huffington Post)



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