Science & Religion

MR: let's look at question 1, Landforms like the Grand Canon were created by God and have not changed since then. You said that's a yes/no [answer]

Todd: Ahm, I just think the question, if you are trying to allude to the fact that God, ## it is not that simple, in essence, God created the universe, this is God's universe, it is from God, but the universe is changing, and it has constantly changed through time, and all that is part of God's world. I mean, of course it get's changed, but I mean, it still is created by God. And it is a part of God, and man also is a part of God and was created by God.

MR: so that's then the same for the next one [question]? Living things were created during a short period of time

Todd: living things are in essence, are parts of, living things are part of God similar to the universe and like and the world, for me, and I don't know. God didn't sit down and make things, if you read Genesis, it is rather bluntly stated that God did this and this and this one day after another, its more that where things had come form. Like, the essence is that things came from God, and they are part of God, God doesn't have two hands, doesn't have a face, doesn't have a mind, God just is, and he should have sat down and done all this stuff? This is all very naive, and a church way of thinking, and these questions are really pointed, it just doesn't work that way.

MR: I think that ultimately gets down to evolution, whether you believe for example that God created the universe and then developed, or if all living things were just put there, or did they evolve?

Todd: they evolved through God and with God

MR: but how was it created? I mean, what do you think?

Todd: in essence, I have seen a lot of stuff like scientists how life and how the earth came about and the universe, and they proved this and proved that and back and forth. I mean, in essence, all these things out there, somehow, all these things got started, something got the ball rolling, somebody threw the first ball and it all got started, and along the way, that's the first snowball still in there. When you study Aquinas or when you study (?ansem?) and Augustine you got the prime mover, the first cause. And we attribute, that's one of the proof of God, the prime mover, in essence, that might be, there might be a simplistic proof of God for some poor to justify God, but that's not a very fundamental aspect of God, here there, or wherever we came from

MR: but do you then believe that our lives as it is described in [question number] 16 and 17 predetermined by a master plan, are nature and human life predetermined, or?

Todd: that is determinism and free will, personally I studied both, if I am choosing to do something, I think that I have a choice, but I am choosing what I am supposed to choose, then I guess that would be determined, I don't know, and I don't think we can know, if there is a master plan set down by God. I mean there is no way to look at, one way or the other. It's been argued, and I read a lot of stuff that we have the freedom of choice in order to differentiate between good and evil free choice is a necessity. And Augustine said for
deciding between good and evil, free will is a necessity. If you don't choose good then, then its not doing you any good, its the choosing rather than the actual action and so the necessity is the ability to choose and what not. But I am not inclined to stick to this, I am not decided, I don't know if it is a fatalistic society. I wish it was predetermined, I know, I wish if I had the choice or not, if I could, but I don't know

MR: because some people say that the laws of physics are this predetermined master plan

Todd: I find this hard to believe, just because there is so much change, like just from what I have read and from what I have seen I find it really, I find, may be there is an underlying essence in force which comes from God, that derives how things react and how they occur. However, once we start defining them and start defining and placing human, our finiteness upon infinity, then that is, it doesn't work, it is an impossibility. You can't perceive ultraviolet light, you just can't, we can't perceive it, that's just the way it is we can't do it. And just as we can't perceive God and we can't perceive the master plan. But we can create things to help us on our way, we can create things that can pick up ultraviolet light, and say hey, that's what looks ultraviolet, and I wish I could pick up that, or X-ray or gamma ray, but we still can't perceive it. That's like the, the idea

MR: I sort of remember from your last conversation you talked about things being not absolute.

Todd: ya, nothing is, it makes, there is no truth

MR: so when you think about it again, man makes up theories, what can we know about reality then?

Todd: we create our own, like we create our own reality, as long as we all agree that its reality. Are you saying reality in the sense of, the essence of everything, this is an impossibility, you can't like know, this is an impossibility, it just doesn't work, we are finite

MR: so you are saying then, basically we make up this knowledge, what about God?

Todd: what about God? God?

MR: where does that fit in?

Todd: God is the knowledge, God is the truth, God is the light, His universe, our universe, we are living in His universe and he's made our universe, and He has given us thought, the ability to define reaction to the unknown in order to better ourselves and so we can get ahead. But he, if we can perceive God,if we knew God, then we would know the truth, but we can't, its an impossibility, it doesn't work, you can't move the essence of the light. The only person, we have to transcribe it into our perception

MR: so you are saying that we never have access to the essence

Todd: to what's going on, ya, what, ## our limited physical and mental, I am saying, in the evolution of human being right now, we don't have the access, the essence of what is going on. If we evolve so that we got all the entire emotions, that we could hear all levels of sound have minds capable of conceiving infinity, have bodies capable of running through the hades, then we will, but that wouldn't be a human being any more, that would be something new that had evolved. I can see that happening I can see us evolving into many, our species may be evolving into something similar to that, but that's millions of years away

MR: but then, I think I don't understand your notion of God
Todd: what's God? God is truth love goodness, right
MR: So is it something, what is the extent of it then?
Todd: the extent, how far does God go? It will be everything
MR: is it outside the universe or is it the universe
Todd: it is the universe
MR: so its nothing outside the universe?
Todd: no, God is the universe, God is everything and more, I mean that's God
MR: so we are part then of God
Todd: ya, God is a piece of all of us, we have the ability to do good, we have the ability to do what's right, we have the ability to think, and that stems from God which is the heart of it all. God is not, we can't perceive him, like we can't create, whenever I think of God I get a picture of nothing, but try to think of nothing, and that's God, and that's: well think of nothing that's as close as you can get to everything, and that gives you God: that's sort of how I rationalize it. ## It's tough, we can't do it, so it drives you nuts
MR: but when you think in terms of truth or knowing, is that a basic assumption then that you make?
Todd: I just know it, I just feel it, like it's not, it's not, it's not a tangible thing, its like beauty, some things are beautiful, it just is, its no, if you are trying to justify or rationalize or whatever, you can't, it doesn't work, its like, it's like beauty: I mean, if you are sitting at night down by the lake, having a beer or a smoke or whatever, and all of a sudden the sun goes down, and the color in the sky and the horizon, I mean it's beautiful, that's it, that's beauty, you can't say why, you can't define it, it doesn't work: you can't do it
MR: so, what then, when you think of yourself, and you think of God and science, or are these completely
Todd: God is science, # God is in science, # God works with science to help, God has given us the mind in order for us to do what is good and what is right for the betterment of the world and for each other, ands science is very much an aspect of that, even though science might try to disprove His existence # or belief in him ultimately there is more good created from it than evil, and therefore, I don't really like what's happening with, probably the idea that atheism's what's going on, but there is so much good coming from it, so we can't really
MR: earlier on you said that the universe is still evolving, we are evolving, then if God is the universe, is He or She evolving too?
Todd: is God evolving? God is part of us, it ## I don't ##, God is infinite, so I mean in that sense, can infinity change? it's constant change, it's everything, it's everything, it's tough, I mean you can't define evolution and change the planet thing, if you are infinite then there is no such thing as change, but is all-encompassing, so we can't apply change to infinite things, I mean that's like saying is God good-looking, or is God plain, or, I don't know tall, we can't apply the term to infinite things ##
MR: that almost sounds like, what some people say, like Einstein's theory of relativity. If you plot, if you could perceive in 4-dimensional space time, there would be no movement ##
because in, the time would just be the 4th dimension and there would be a whole that we could perceive, which is sort of static, because you don't need time to change, or what we experience as time

(inaudible sentence)

MR: what, earlier on you mentioned that scientists, or some people try to take science to disprove God. And some people use sort of a dichotomy God versus atheism, or science versus God. How do you, do you ever experience any struggles there, when you take your science courses, do you ever feel that there is something working against your beliefs?

Todd: nothing really at all, I am being left alone. I have read where they have got people burning science textbooks, physics that somehow disproved genesis and stuff like that, I've read stuff about down in the South the bible, they themselves aren't listening to God, you have to have tolerance, everyone has to have the ability to (?), we have to have the ability to accept that, no one criticises me for my beliefs, and no one told me that I am not, not directly to me, that I am not bothered with that, and if they did, well hey, they disagree with me, I disagree with them

MR: where then do you see truth? How is it revealed, or is it revealed?

Todd: are you talking about scientific truths?

MR: scientific truths

Todd: if we are talking about scientific truths, it is an impossibility, its more society's general, everyone gets together and we say, ok, this works like this, and I see this relationship happening, so we say, you can't, I don't want to name it truth, name it a law, because for me truth is a much more emotional spiritual type thing. Truth for me is, is, if you get a few bucks extra back on your bill, you give them the dollars back, you don't walk out, hell, they made a mistake, the truth, that's the truth, that's the way it is, and the truth is standing up on someone's feet who's being picked on and saying you are an ass hole, the truth is, you are not a brick, the truth is you know what is right, truth is more on an emotional level, a spiritual level, not so much on a factual level, that, it changes so quickly, so rapidly in the modern world

MR: you sort of mentioned, and I had in mind the moral and ethical that you mentioned, but is there moral and ethical are there truths, are there things that are right?

Todd: yes there are.

MR: but who sets these?

Todd: it's on a personal level, no one sets, a different God, we know at a personal level, each of the human beings is, you know within yourself what is right and what is wrong and, it is kind of being, it's part of having God within you. I know a lot of people, I've read plays and what not where you've got the mode of this, a character is just evil for being evil, I don't see it, I mean, you see things, a lot of greed, a lot of lust, I mean, there is always a rational behind it, people don't just hate, people just aren't evil, it doesn't make sense

MR: so you believe that man is fundamentally good?

Todd: they have the ability within them, they can ignore it, or they can't.
MR: because if I think back to my own growing up there was in Germany the Red Army Faction, and they believe that they were right in their cause against, what they believed to be an oppressive government. But what they also did, they robbed banks, they went and got money from banks, they hijacked planes, they abducted people, and try to get ransom, and they also killed people. Now they said they are right to do that because they knew the truth. And it was a sizable group, a few thousand people

Todd: that's at a personal level, I mean I've never been in a situation where I've been, I mean, is, that that, is that like, is it a necessity ## there is some basic fundamental truths, like one knows that no one likes to kill someone, everyone knows that, I find it difficult to believe that a human being could actually do that, but sometimes there are times in our lives where the truth must be ignored for a higher truth, on scales and obviously for them, the truths, the final answers are being looked for at a higher level, for to strike out against that government that was oppressing the people. I am not, I am not going to judge them, I don't know whether they were right or wrong, I don't think anyone can know that, but on a moral, that's just like taking different levels of the truth and of goodness. There might even be grieve, like greed, greed, its in the nature and responsibility of God, may be they wanted money, where people were using this moral ethical truth level just to get the money, hijack people, rob banks, if I am trying to justify this, I am taking this for a cause and say, ok, this is ok, because it is for this cause, but really the underlying tone was they wanted the money, and they did this for greed

MR: let's look at some of the things that directly bring in the ethical issues, for example, abortion or genetical engineering. What are your stands on, for example, genetic engineering? You are

R: doing genetic research this summer

MR: and then you want to become a doctor. What is your position then, there?

P: well, right now, human genetic engineering is an impossibility, you can't create, you can't specify, but research and development must be done into genetics to do the discoveries of how it functions, otherwise, there is so much good that can be wrought from it, there is that so, there is such an infinite of good that can be done, for example, if you choose AIDS, there can be a cure for AIDS, we can cure so many things with genetic engineering. At the same time, there is such a huge possibility to do evil

MR: so what do we do in this case? And who will do sort of, do we need to control? and will scientists be the controllers? or philosophers? theologians? Who will make those ethical decisions? Who will take the responsibility?

P: well ultimately the government has to, but economics as it always has will make the decisions, whether you like of not, economics always does. The money, I don't think the people, I don't think the people who have the money now are going to put it into, specifically into genetic engineering for, that isn't related to economic reasons, or isn't related to a commercial and industrial reasons. I don't think we have think about it a lot, for the next little while, it's gonna be our government to decide that they want to genetically engineer people for olympic teams, and they decide they want to genetically engineer, for war purposes they want to create a soldier. In war, the United Nations which sucks, it
doesn't have any power at all, it is going to have to, the world is going to have to say stop to genetically engineer people for that sort of thing

MR: but who will decide what is right and what you can do? And what is wrong that you shouldn't do? That you should, because then there are a whole range of activities

P: like you are saying we shouldn't be genetically engineering a special human being, or should we genetically engineer that person to have 4 arms and no hair, I mean, those finer points are just scary, its getting different in every country, and its gonna be, throughout the world its gonna be, there is gonna be a huge problem, and the decision is gonna be probably done by my generation and by my children's generation. And all I can hope is that they control it, if not, its just like killing ourselves. I think we can cure (some inaudible)

MR: if you had in your future job, if you had to make a decision now, how would you go about making such difficult and ethical decisions? As a scientist or a doctor, on what kind of knowledge would you draw, or would you bring in God, or is there room for God in your deliberations?

Todd: obviously you draw on , God is where you draw your beliefs out: that is the only way that you can deliberate

MR: but is that consciously

Todd: God reveals itself, God is with you always, if you consciously figure or not, he will influence your decisions

MR: he won't influence?

Todd: he will. 'Cause he is part of you, so whatever you do, it will be influenced by God. And I, what I probably choose and how far I would go, I, you have to turn to God, I mean, for that kind of decision, there is no place else to go, there is no, like when you ask this question you have to look inside yourself, you have to look at all the aspects, and think about it clearly, because ultimately you can find it only inside you, then its not so much a cognisant thing, it's an emotional thing, a spiritual thing

MR: so inside you, is spiritual, emotional, but also God?

Todd: ya, that's where God is

MR: and that's where you would look

Todd: ya, that's where you have to look. That's when you know, that's where the right is

MR: would you say that one of the issues we had in the past regarding difficult decisions was the manufacturing of the atomic bomb, and some of the scientist that were engaged were completely opposed to future nuclear development after politicians had made the decision to drop the bomb, and after Nagasaki and Hiroshima you know, had been destroyed. Now, as a scientist, how would you feel, when you make a medical or genetic engineering kind of decision, and then you leave it to politicians, and then they do something that is equivalent to

Todd: what you didn't want

MR: ya, what you didn't want
Todd: you're pissed off and you wouldn't like it at all. You have to leave with God in the hands what's right, ## that's a tough one, of course you're not gonna like it, you can't do any better than that, it's for the better, you have to think of it that way, if you can't do any good

MR: and other things, when you go through with your medicine, medical studies, other issues you might have to face are abortion and euthanasia, as a doctor and as a human being you have to make, I don't know whether you make these decision as one,

Todd: that would be case related, that is the only way that decision would be made for one person on a case, as a doctor, I will know before an operation and I can see both sides, all the arguments, and I ride the fence pretty much to all of them, if I disagree with an abortion then I wouldn't perform it, if I disagreed with euthanasia then I wouldn't perform it. However, I still think that people have a right, I have, I mean I know it's free choice euthanasia, you have to give, I go the free choice route, but I am not gonna perform it, if I don't argee with it

MR: but you then think that you have to make a decision case by case

Todd: ya

MR: and you have to look at the case, you don't

Todd: it's not black and white, just like with genetic engineering, it's not a black and white subject

MR: so you are not saying that there is one set of standard that everyone has to be measured against, but there is sort of a situational ethics

Todd: very very situational, I mean, it's totally situational, both are prime examples, with huge grey areas and I think for me I would be very very internally very case related, I'd have to be. And I mean, laws, if they could, I'd like the laws be case related and have specific rules for each one, have just a general outline and have a committee and make 2 or 3 people, but it probably would be too expensive, that wouldn't work, but I think that would be the best way to tackle

MR: that is something that I also believe that our standards, ethical deliberations that they have to be

Todd: situational

MR: situational, depending on the, on each individual case

Todd: it has to be. There are just so many variables, if you write a law to include all of them, you'd probably have 4 or 5 textbooks, may be that's the way to go about it. But there's still gonna be someone who'se gonna twist the laws

MR: another thing that we talked earlier about, truth in terms of science you said, that is something we agree upon, or what is right or more acceptable

Todd: it's like a social truth, its something of this social, science is like a social truth in reality, at a party it is socially acceptable not to puke on the table, I mean, you just don't do it, that's like science, we know in society when it doesn't function at all, if you don't have these things, like, if you happen to do it, its not like if you go somewhere else wherever, just so that our society will function, just so that science will function we agree, but it is not carved in
stone, it was not like Moses who brought down the stone tablets, it just didn't happen like that

MR: are there similar things at the level of religious beliefs that people agree on commonalities, or do you think that

Todd: it is pretty personal. I think that religion is much more personal, there are certain socially accepted religious beliefs and that's why you get a religion, I mean, some people follow the teachings of Christ, I mean if you agree with what Jesus had to say, you know, then you do that with your life, then we all take that as a rationale for our life, but has really ambiguous laws too, so there is variations with it

MR: so for yourself would you label yourself a Christian

Todd: I am very Anglican, very Anglican, for me its a spiritual, I am attached to the church, and for me there is so much more, I draw so much strength from the church, there is this, my faith lies there and there is so much power and strength that I get from the church, so I have to, it's an emotional thing, I feel that, I don't get that in another church

MR: but you are aware that there are a number of different churches, even Christian churches

Todd: oh, there is vastly different ones

MR: and but where do you see differences then

Todd: differences are at a very small personal level, some people, I mean, it's just a small, a very very small personal, some, like in nature there is like, in the (?) church they decided that there is homosexuals as priests

MR: like what

Todd: you can have homosexuals as priests, I mean, I disagree with that and I don't think we should have them. I don't think we should have them in church or in society, but by having them in the church and in society, I am a little right wing in that, in that regard, but that's just a small point, I mean, they also agree in the teaching of Christ and the fundamentals and that's what makes them Christians. And all the different churches have fine differences

MR: but these differences, I wonder where they lead to, you say on the one hand, God is something personal and then, but there are differences in the way you go, or is it just like a family, you go people who know that they believe in the same thing, and who want to share a ritual, or how do you explain the different, the different churches

Todd: there exist different interpretations of Christ's words there are so many different interpretations and enough people feel strongly about it, but they segregate themselves, but it's not huge, they create a new church, they say, so its not really all that big, its still Christian, and I still feel very much, and I still agree very much what most of them believe, its just that there is some minor points where we disagree, just as there are minor points on which a lot of scientists disagree, and I mean, it's not, its just a personal thing, its probably more the finite, the fact that we are finite and God, that's basically the same with them all, and if God's basically within all of us, were basically all the same, why, if God is within ourselves, it's one entity, why do we all have these different ideas? and we have different churches, and my answer to that, as finite beings, we all have different experiences, and
we have different emotions, we are not all the same, and therefore our cognisance are being interpreted, they all exist in different ways than others, and so there will be certain one of us who will interpret these feelings, these ideas in a similar fashion, and they may not interpret them differently

MR: ok, that is all within the Christian

Todd: and then, God's within any, God's common, I mean, I feel that my God, the God I believe in, it's basically the God that's perceived around the world, like everyone else's it's just a different group of people who have different relationships and evaluate and interpret this relationship in different ways

MR: would you then see that there are cultural differences?

Todd: the moral and ethical are basically pretty close, the culture is rather different, it's a shame that we are so emotional, because it's such an emotional thing they take it so personally and they get so upset with it that they fight each other

MR: but actually Ghandi brought all of these religions together, he said that we all believe in the same

Todd: we do, but

MR: whether it is Hindu or Buddhist or Zen

Todd: it's all basically the same religion it's the same essence within us, the differences exist in the culture and in the different

MR: like we eat different things in different cultures, we believe in different sort of rituals

Todd: and that's where the difference lies, but all of them have the same basic religion

MR: some people associate science with atheism, or a different sort of belief, then religious, in you I can see that you have both, you are deeply religious and at the same time science, you see that as something that can be one

Todd: one, they are part of each other

MR: and yet other people

Todd: have to segregate the two

MR: or think that science is associated with atheism

Todd: the haven't, I mean I don't want to accuse anyone, I don't want to, but I just can't condemn something that's been good. I mean, science has been so good to the world, and it has been so much # there are so many interesting things, I can't condemn it, and I don't, I mean I see a threat to my faith, but on a personal level I am not afraid, not at all, it is not even bothering me, its a shame that religious people of my faith and of other faiths attack this threat instead of working with it, just as it is a shame that we attack other faiths that are different

MR: but ultimately from what you said it seems that people combine the two that it's not really a thread

Todd: for me it's not a threat but for other people, it becomes, they feel it as a thread
MR: but do you think that is because they don't understand science?

Todd: ya, I think very much that they are ignorant of science I think we should have said that the people in science who are atheist have not had a good experience with religion or either they become so rational that they ignore the emotional and the spiritual side, which can be done, I mean science becomes such a rational, such a thought, so common so lower, what's below our head. And I think that's a shame that these people because we've got so much strength, so much energy within our faith, I mean if they find that strange, I know you are not an atheist, you are nothing, but you have so much strength, you have to draw that from somewhere

MR: you mean, you are talking about me?

Todd: ya, you draw so much energy and so much strength from somewhere, and I don't think, it's gotta be, it's gotta come from an emotional level, spiritual basis, its not, you might not profess to any faith or have any religion but you don't get all that emotion and all that energy from nothing

MR: but may be, I was thinking this afternoon while riding my bike, if Todd asked me, what would I answer, I guess, I don't like to use the word God, because I think it is used in so many different ways that if I was to say that,

Todd: you get the wrong idea

MR: i guess I am spiritual in a certain sense, and I know that other people draw a lot of, like you, a lot of positive things from their belief in God, and that's why I don't reject it, that's why I am not an atheist, I don't fight anyone, and in my own ways I am probably spiritual, so many people said that

Todd: I mean, you draw so much energy from somewhere you get, I don't know, a lot of time I feel that I got energy just from life, like living and nonliving things are made of similar materials but differ how the materials are organized, that's true, but there is so much more, I mean we grow and evolve and have life, in essence there is so much, it's energy, there is so much energy there, like part of us, it's just unknown, and you can drop them

MR: if you had to explain that it's probably more form a spiritual side that you explain a lot of these things then from a science, because we talk in physics

Todd: obviously, energy Ek is m over 2 v-squared, I mean, on an atomic level, ya they are different, and on a molecular level, like that, that's obvious, the differences are there, but there is so much more, I mean no matter what you study, biology or chemistry or physics you know where it is explained why one plus one equals 2, no where does it say where it was thought, where that notion comes from, nowhere does it say why the sky is blue, but these are facts, why the sky is beautiful, everyone says, so many people agree on it that's basically a fact, but it doesn't explain it, it's just energy, it's emotion, its spirit

MR: so it is spiritual, and that's where you draw on, that's probably liken to God

Todd: ya, the energy, the spiritual, the emotional, its there, I mean, even energy, we think about dead things, like its not the same, but it's still energy, it's like God is part of it all, like Grand Canon is, He is there, it's wrought from God, but it's not that God sat down and chiselled it
out, it's just, I don't know, they can't conflict, we can't have it, it doesn't work, conflicts don't really accomplish much at all

MR: but other people they sort of do experience conflict

Todd: ya, I don't understand

MR: if you think of our friend Preston for example, for him it is so big that he feels completely lost

Todd: you mean between (?)

MR: ya, between his beliefs

Todd: and science

MR: and science

Todd: I don't know, I though about it for so long, that it's just been, I've been brought up in a household, in a school where they've been wanting to be part of each other, where science and religion, I mean I go to the chapel in the morning and then to physics class and then back to chapel, where it has just been with each other and they have been part of each other and I draw from both places, so my parents, have put them also together, so I have always grown up with them being unified, so I really didn't feel that conflict

MR: how do your parents combine that, do they believe? Are they regular

Todd: my mother is very similar to myself, she doesn't think about it as much as I do, because for her it is a difficult question and she was brought up not to think about it, because she said, she was told that she was just a girl and girls don't answer such questions, and she is a very pacifist person, and she doesn't like that, the conflict, neither do I, she doesn't like conflict and that's why she doesn't fight all that much, and therefore she, I mean she thinks about it now and she combines the two, she also brought me up going to church, but very much also because she is the head of nursing, she's got a masters degree in nursing and studied at lot

MR: at McMasters

Todd: no she got her masters at UoT

MR: and she works at?

Todd: she teaches nursing at Sheridan College, and she's been head nurse in the hospital, very bright, very able she coulda been a doctor because she is a scientifically minded woman, who has very very strong beliefs very similar to mine, I mean, we disagree more on the social truths

MR: what about your dad?

Todd: my dad is a different person, he ### he is a religious person, he draws from the spiritual energy from within himself in our family but he goes to church, but I talk mostly with my mother, he doesn't think about too much, he focuses on his family, and on his business and he is more into having a good time and just but when he does think, he doesn't think about science at all, he doesn't even like science that much, he was not very good at it and basically he had a tough life and he was brought up to fight and he just wanted to do well, and through that he has developed his beliefs, but he is a very religious person himself, but
he is not very outward about it, and he doesn't really discuss it that much and it just is for him, it's just the way it is, and he has no, he just doesn't want to discuss it, and he doesn't have any reason to discuss it, it's not gonna change him, and he doesn't want to change anyone else, it just is for him, I just know how he feels and how I feel, but we don't talk about it that much, he is a really set, and he's got his religion (end of tape side 1)

MR: do you have a notion what your mother's position is

Todd: on religion and science?

MR: ya, and things like genetic engineering or abortion

Todd: she is a nurse and she is prolife, but as she said, when it comes right down to it she is very stubborn, but she will admit that there are cases where abortion is justified, and with genetics, very much for me to learn as much as I can, and I don't think she is really (inaudible), but I know she feels the way I do

MR: so you really developed your own ways of thinking. Do you have a lot of exchanges with your parents?

Todd: with both of my parents I talk a lot, I talk to my dad more about people and I talk to my mom more about, I talk to my dad about, people, we don't talk about energy but, not just about energy we are talking about energy but we are not going it a specific name, we talk about situations like this positive experiences, and with my mother we talk about science a lot, we talk about society and the way she was brought up. With my dad we like to spend time together, we don't talk a lot, but whereas with my mom she likes to talk and discuss and also she has similar to my ideas, and I am interested in hers, she is pretty stubborn

MR: but how does she react to your own ideas

Todd: she lets me, she says that, she listens what I have to say, but she lets me have my things my way, and as she says, I am not in her control any more, all she can do is sit down and talk to me, so that way she is cool, she is not very happy and says this is right and this is wrong, but it's my own thing. But I don't

MR: You were here a little over a year ago, do you think that your ideas

Todd: were developing

MR: I know certainly with the science side you have evolved

Todd: ya, I have been reading a lot of stuff

MR: but what about your religious

Todd: ya, my religious I have become more into the stuff, more resourceful, I find that when we have problems, we draw on our religion not on science, science is there just for man to use, but there is not the energy in it: like when we have problems and difficulties you draw on your religious and your spiritual side, and when you have a problem you look at your religious side and you are not looking for a textbook, you don't read a book about it, you look into yourself, or I do at least, and I've been looking inside myself a lot and I've evolved a lot, but my school's been, so many things have been happening here I disagree with and it set me so off, and they force me to evolve and take another chunk out of the apple and not
say anything and try to do the best I can instead of giving them the race, or the race gets me, I don't know, it's been tough

MR: but you are very reflective, and you see yourself as evolving and so that's

Todd: well, we exist in 4 dimensions, not 3, so you have to look at it that way, you have to know where you came from in order to know where you are going, I always believed that, and I look back to September and I realize how much I changed

MR: like how?

Todd: I have given up now, in September I was so hoping I was so full of expectations what I wanted to do, and now I want, I look back and I am still full of expectations, there is still so much that I want to do, but it will be in a different direction, at a different angle, I know what I have done, and I believe in what I have done, and I know that it was right, and I don't regret what I have done, what I've said or how I have dealt with people, but there is no more that I can do, (????), the things I wanna go to, the things I want to accomplish, and so because I am still a part of it, I really can't look back, I can't look back at it, and I hope that I will be finished the next, 2 days and 9 exams. ### I am always thinking

Todd: that's where I think truth lies, within ourselves, in no one else, you can't run your life based on a book, you just have to look within yourself

Todd: I am always looking within myself for strength and energy, and I think about myself, but at the same time I am always thinking, and reading, and listening