

The Most Important Math Equation

According to Ian Stewart, there are seventeen math formulas that have changed the way humankind thinks about the universe.¹ In fact they still impact our thinking today.

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| 1. Pythagoras's Theorem | 10. Navier-Stokes Equation |
| 2. Logarithms | 11. Maxwell's Equation |
| 3. Calculus | 12. Second Law of Thermodynamics |
| 4. Newton's Law of Gravity | 13. Relativity |
| 5. The Square Root of Minus One | 14. Shrodinger's Equation |
| 6. Euler's Formula for Polyhedra | 15. Information Theory |
| 7. Normal Distribution | 16. Chaos Theory |
| 8. Wave Equation | 17. Black-Scholes Equation |
| 9. Fourier Transform | |

I don't claim to be a mathematician, so I'll not discuss the validity of his claims regarding these formulas. However there is one formula that I would like to address that isn't listed in the group above. It is this.

Believe + Receive = Become

Now, I'm guessing that you are probably asking yourself, "Where did that formula come from?" I have to confess, it's not original to me. It came from a movie I recently watched, "The Case for Christ", which is based on the true story of how Lee Strobel came to believe in the truth found in the Bible about who Jesus is and what He wants us to know about Himself and His great love for us.²

Back to the formula. It comes from the Gospel of John.

John 1:10-13 NASB He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Believe in His name + Receive Him = Become a child of God.

This formula has made a lasting impact on the world that is far greater than all the other formulas that came before and after it. In fact, the more that men try to search for answers to the what, why, and how of the universe, the more they discover what they don't yet fully understand.³ In this one formula, the beginning of understanding the world in which we live can be found. It is also the starting

- 1 (Stewart) – I haven't read this book yet but I have ordered it and the reviews on Amazon seem positive for the most part. I'm not endorsing the book but merely use its premise to present my own. (Kottke) – a good chart showing the formulas, <https://kottke.org/16/01/17-equations-that-changed-the-world>
- 2 (Gunn; Strobel; Strobel and Poole) the movie is a dramatization of the real events. If you're more interested in the journey of faith that is depicted in the book, I suggest reading the book or watching the 6-part DVD which is led by Lee himself.
- 3 (Wilkins and Sanford, chap.6-Scientific Naturalism) gives a good summary of the short comings of this worldview. (Lisle) offers a guide to answering questions from science, especially in the area of origins of the universe.

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place for giving meaning to our lives and gives direction to what we should be doing with our lives. It is the one formula that is the most important math equation for all time.

So, where do you fit in this equation? Have you Believed in Jesus' name? Have you received Him into your life as the one and only Lord and Savior of the universe? Have you Become the child of God that He wants you to be? If not, plug yourself into the formula and discover the beginning of the answers to the universe and your place in it. Do it today! Don't wait until some other time in the future because tomorrow is not guaranteed.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study⁴: *my LOG vs others SPECK. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.*

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

•

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

•

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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Key Words: Salvation, Belief, Faith, Discipleship



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⁴ *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

The Most Important Math Equation

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