

Reasons you might want to THRIVE in Chemistry:

1. Because you really want to understand the Glory of God.
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"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1648. Because God chose to create the world as a physical world, and to make it out of substances that we call chemicals, and to have it obey scientific laws, if you wish to grasp the glories of God in fullest measure, you would be wise to study the work of His fingers -- and to understand chemistry, physics, anatomy, physiology etc. The more you understand the glory of His works, the more astonished you will be at His grandeur.

2. Because you really want to live out the Dominion Mandate
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"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" ([Genesis 1:28](#)).

This was God's first commandment to the man and woman whom He had created. If you are to exercise wise dominion over the Earth, you will need to understand chemistry.

3. Because you'd like to be allowed to participate in some of the most challenging and fulfilling careers.
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Every part of the Body is important. James points out the hypocrisy of treating people differently because of their social status. However, you may be one of the people who are called to serve God and man through such challenging careers as Surgeon, Family Physician, Pathologist, Immunologist, Anesthesiologist, Pulmonologist, Cardiologist, Gastroenterologist, Nurse, Respiratory Therapist, Physician's Assistant, Physiologist, Geneticist, Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Aerospace Engineer, Textile Engineer, Industrial Engineer.

In order to be consider for any of these challenging and fulfilling careers, you will need to understand Chemistry (and Physics, and much, much more). Only the best and most capable are allowed to enter these fields, and any weakness in your education may be used to "weed you out" and shuttle you toward a different career. Therefore, you want to do your best in your academic education.

4. Because you understand the financial stakes involved in NOT succeeding at the basic sciences.
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Let's honestly consider typical salaries in several different fields and how that might affect your ability to provide for your spouse and your children:

Career	Salary (middle)	Need Chemistry?
Surgeon	\$238,000	top grades
CRNA	\$138,000	top grades
Economist	\$104,000	strong sciences
Electrical engineer	\$ 90,000	strong sciences
Nurse	\$ 57,000	passed chemistry
High school (public) teacher	\$ 46,000	might have had chemistry
Warehouse worker	\$ 27,000	may not have
McDonalds	\$ 14,000	probably didn't
Navy E1 Seaman	\$ 13,948	probably didn't

Notice that for every dollar that the Navy seaman, or McDonalds' worker earns, the Surgeon brings home \$17.06 to his or her spouse! Quite a big difference in the standard of living that the children of the surgeon can have, compared to the minimum wage worker.

The lifetime earnings of the Surgeon are likely to be $35 \times 238,000 = \$8.33$ Million. The lifetime earnings of the minimum wage earner are likely to be \$ 0.63 Million. Big difference in how much they can save and leave to their future generations.

5. Because you understand just how great is the need of our nation for math and science majors, and you also understand how VALUABLE you will be, because of the relative rarity of good math/science graduates.

Fortune magazine reports that China is now grading 500,000+ bachelor's degrees in engineering, computer science, information technology or math every year, while the United States is only graduating 150,000. At the Ph.D. level in the same math/science fields, China is now graduating 10,000 engineers, versus 8,000 in the U.S.--but about 2/3 of the U.S. students are actually foreign students. Those foreign students are more and more likely to head back to their own growing nations. The Chinese economy is now growing at 8% per year, whereas the U.S. economy is barely able to make 3%. In 2007, according the U.S. Education Department, the fastest growing college majors in the US. were: parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies, as well as security and protective services. It takes engineers and scientists to keep a nation's economy competitive on the world scene, or a nation able to defend itself against a technologically adept aggressor. So the future doesn't look so good for the United States....and if YOU are a graduate in engineering or information technology, you are going to be more and more rare, and more and more needed!