

**November 13:
Session 5: The World on a String**

Where is the brave new world of astronomy and physics taking us? In this session, we will try to grasp an elementary understanding of the most extreme theories of modern science. We will enter the strange world of string theories, quantum physics, and parallel universes. It is in the context of these emerging ideas that the church of the 21st century must be able and willing to engage. Is there room in our theology for a radically different cosmology? In this session, we will ask the questions that our forefathers never asked!

**November 20:
Session 6: Can't We All Just Get Along?**

In this final session, we will return to our basic questions. Can faith and evolution peacefully coexist? In summary fashion, we will recount the ways in which a peaceful coexistence seems possible, and we will recount the serious challenges that remain in the way. Most of all, we will seek the ways in which our faith can be enlightened by science, and how our science can be informed by our faith. Can these two kingdoms rest side by side? Can't we all just get along?

Palms Campus Café

Join us for Sunday evening
Early Bird Specials starting
at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays
from October 16 - November 20
Garden Paradise Salads,
Healthy Hearty Soups,
Market Fresh Sandwiches,
Beverages and Desserts

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In
the Beginning . . .



GOD

Can
Creation
and
Evolution
Peacefully
Coexist?

*A Sunday Night
Encounter
with
Dr. Paul J. Kirbas*

In the Beginning . . . GOD

Can Creation and Evolution Peacefully Coexist?

The last three decades have provided breakthrough discoveries in the fields of physics and astronomy. With the pioneering discoveries of the Hubble Telescope, the development of the Big Bang Theory, the deeper understanding of the laws of relativity, and the advent of quantum physics, a whole new intersection between faith and science is emerging. Do these new discoveries support the idea of an intelligent design to the universe, or do they further erode the idea of a creation event? How is our theology supported, and how is it challenged? These and other questions will be the focus of our next Sunday Night Encounter.

Just like our last study on Biotech ethics, this study will lead us into a jaw-dropping new world of possibilities. Once again, we will discover that the traditional church is ill prepared to apply our beliefs to the emerging understandings of the universe. Yet, if we are willing to open our eyes to the advances of astronomy and physics, and seek a new way of applying our Christian beliefs to them, we will find a fresh new approach of intersecting our faith with our emerging understanding of the universe.

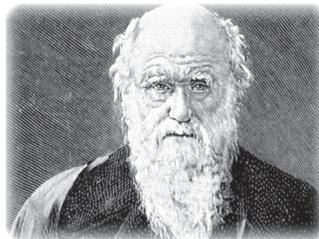
“In the Beginning....God” will be a six week Sunday Night Encounter led by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas, offered on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., October 16 - November 20, 2005. Put these dates on your calendar now, and invite your friends and neighbors to be at the next Sunday Night Encounter at the Church of the Palms!

October 16: Session 1: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

History boasts some tremendous conflicts between the kingdoms of faith and science. Most of us are familiar with the legends of Galileo, who insisted that the earth wasn't the center of the universe; of Christopher Columbus, who insisted that the earth wasn't flat; and of John Scopes, who insisted that the theory of evolution was the proper instruction of the origin of life. In each of these cases, legend has superseded reality. When we strip away the stuff of legend, we discover the real controversies. Could it be that these debates were at a much different level, and that in each case, both science and religion had valid and true arguments? In this opening session, we will take a new look at these classic conflicts, and discover a new possibility of faith and science peacefully co-existing.



October 23: Session 2: The Case for a Creator



Many of us maintain an embryonic concept of the theories of evolution, both the evolution of life classically represented in Darwinism, as well as the evolution of the universe represented in our classic astronomical theories. But in recent years, new discoveries have caused each of these theories to undergo significant change. Darwin has been challenged by modern paleontologists, and the origin of the universe has been challenged by modern “Big Bang” astronomers. Many of these scientists have come to a new realization that given the most current understandings, the case is much stronger for an actual Creator. Is science discovering God? In this session, we will uncover some of the evidence that is building a new case for a Creator.

October 30: Session 3: The Blind Watchmaker

Although many scientists believe that the newest discoveries of the origins of the universe and of life on our planet point to an intelligent design of a purposeful Creator, there are still scientists who believe that all of this could emerge without any designer, and without any purpose. A chief proponent of this view is Richard Dawkins, who took on a classical illustration of creation in his book, The Blind Watchmaker. In this session, we will discover this view, and see how some scientists insist that in spite of all that we have learned so far, life has no real purpose, and no real designer. Can you really design a watch blind-folded? In this session, we'll see how.



November 6: Session 4: Busy as a Bee

In the Blind Watchmaker approach to evolution, survival of the fittest is a dominant theme. But there is one human characteristic that threatens this theory. It is altruism, the purposeful intent of one person to come to the aid of another, usually one much less fit. Altruism is the basis of most religions, and becomes a head-on collision with some of the most basic points of evolution theory. For this reason, many evolutionary scientists have devoted a lot of time and energy trying to understand this trait. Their take on religion is quite different, and rather challenging. Are we more like bees than we think? In this session, we will see how some see a church a lot like a beehive.