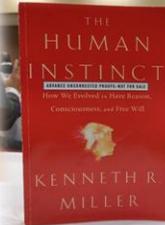




Dear Friends,

"Open-minded atmosphere...fantastic presentation...stimulating conversation..." These are some of the many positive comments we received from professors and other participants after our latest faculty dinner-discussion event on the role evolution plays in understanding the uniqueness of the human species. While everyone doesn't agree with all that's presented or discussed, many would agree with one professor's comment, that "this event is consistently one of the most academic venues" he attends.

Out of the 200+ different professors (as well as some local clergy, alumni, and community leaders) who have participated in these events, nearly 100% have an "excellent" experience. Why do these busy professors carve out 3 hours of their week? Because we use hospitality (e.g., good food, good location, good vibes) to create space that's non-threatening and welcoming; a space that's professional and personal, intellectual and interesting, rigorous and relevant. What are these table discussions over dinner like?



"Insightful and thought provoking. We had people from different backgrounds (Officer with Dept. of Public Safety, professor, PhD student, etc.) and each member contributed in a unique way." (Graduate Student).
 "Respectful; precise in that individuals were careful in their choices of declarative words and questioning words in the sincere interest in understanding others' perspectives." (Professor of



Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences)

While the conversations are great, and while most of the guests are highly educated, the actual content can still be illogical, ignorant, and even tragic. For example, one professor told me he doesn't believe there's any afterlife--we all simply cease to exist after our death. But he still finds ultimate meaning in life, even though no one will ever remember it and, ultimately, it doesn't matter.

As an atheist, his line of reasoning makes sense, to an extent--but then quickly crumbles when it's fully played out. He wants meaning without it lasting--but they must go together, certainly in the ultimate sense. He wants his life to have purpose and to count for something, yet it doesn't really matter how he (or anyone) lives, whether we're hugging or mugging. Sadly, he's not alone in this worldview--many thinkers before him (e.g Tolstoy, Camus, Freud) and with him (e.g., Dawkins, Pinker, his nearby colleagues), the very ones teaching this next generation, believe the same thing. Pray with us for God to breakthrough!

Death is real, and our desire for life beyond death is also real--which makes Jesus' resurrection all the more powerful and profound. Death is not the end! For we know the One who conquered it, and offers us eternal life now, and in the life to come. (John 10:10, 17:3) "Where, O death, is your victory [and] sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1st Corinthians 15:55-57)

In His service with you,
Jarrod & Family