

Pastor's Column

What Is Your Image Of God?

On July 4, 2012, physicists said that they had discovered a new subatomic particle that looks like the "Higgs boson," a key to understanding why there is diversity and life in the universe.

The Higgs boson is also called the "god particle." The Higgs boson is the only manifestation of an invisible force field, a cosmic molasses that permeates space and imbues elementary particles with mass. Particles wading through the field gain heft the way a bill going through Congress attracts riders and amendments, becoming ever more ponderous.

Without the Higgs field, or something like it, all elementary forms of matter would zoom around at the speed of light, flowing through our hands like moonlight. There would be neither atoms nor life.

This new discovery reminded me of a Pastor's Column I wrote a few years ago. Here it is again.

The Spirit in Technology

—Tom Mahon

Instead of picturing God as a medieval monarch on a marble throne, imagine God as the living awareness in the space between the atoms, 'empty' space that makes up about 99.99% of the universe.

Thinking of God that way gets us past some of the great theological divides of the past. Is God immanent or transcendent, internal or external, composed or compassionate? Like the question of whether the atom is wave or particle, the answer is: yes.

The Call of Moses

—Exodus 3:11-14

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" God answered, "I will be with you; and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain."

"But," said Moses to God, "when I go to the Israelites and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, if they ask me, what is his name? What am I to tell them?"

God replied, "I am who am." Then God added, "this is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

The two quotes above give us an image of God from within this decade and an image of God from 3,000 years ago. Years apart, but eerily similar!

What is your image of God? How do you imagine God to be? Your "mind picture" of God shapes your daily life, your prayer, your morality, your theology, your philosophy, your interaction with others, and your "place" in the universe.

Take time to reflect upon your image of God. Is your "God Image" helpful to you and others for this time and this place?

F. Mike