



THE ATHEIST RESPONSES

Chris Worfolk

INTRODUCTION

- ✱ Leeds Atheist Society
- ✱ The AHS
- ✱ Leeds Skeptics
- ✱ Humanist Community
- ✱ Humanist Action Group
- ✱ Humanist Society of West Yorkshire



FOUNDATION

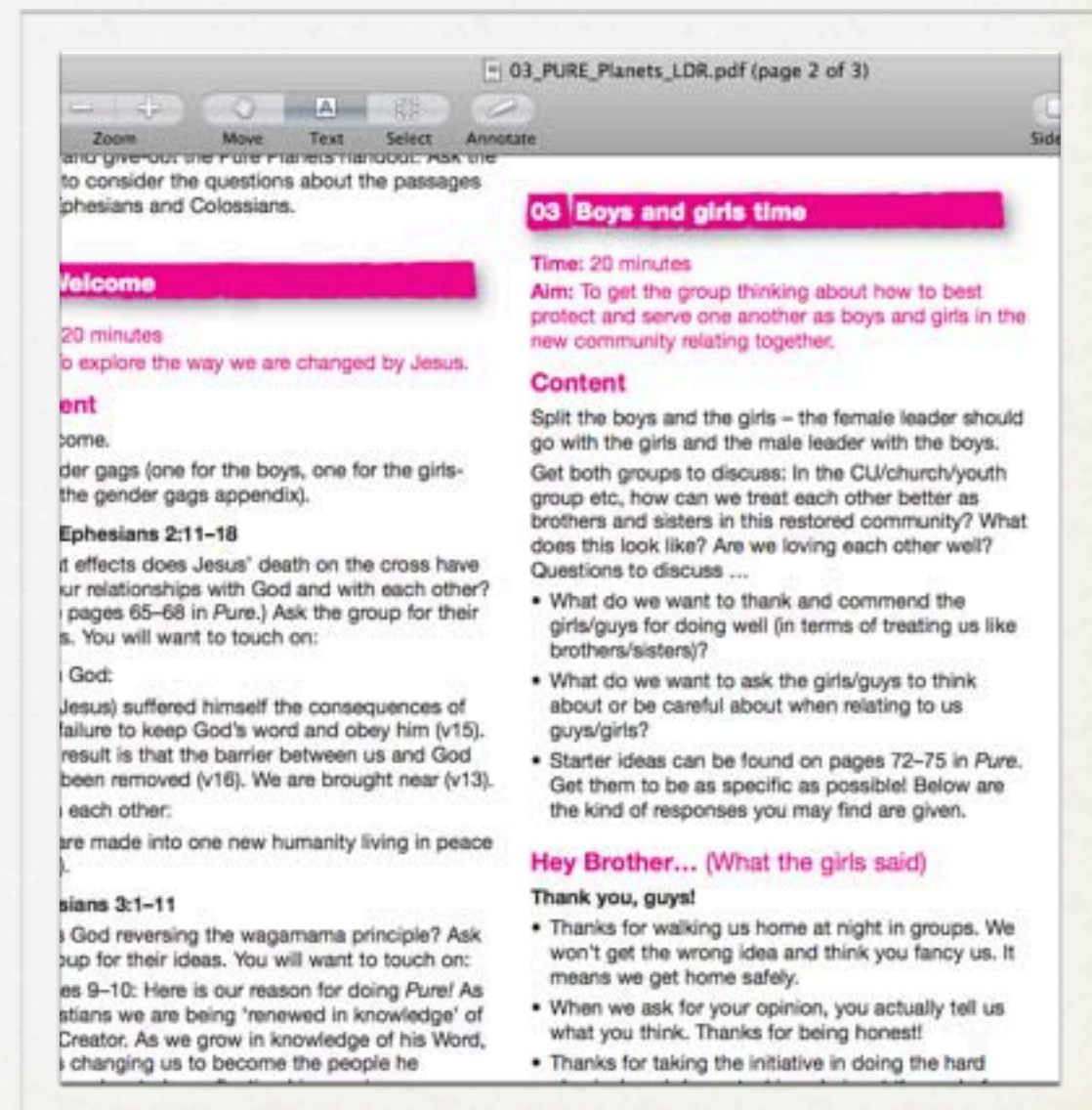


MY BACKGROUND



THE PURE COURSE

- ✿ A course about sex and relationships
- ✿ Tells you who you should and shouldn't go out with
- ✿ Openly talks against homosexuality
- ✿ And has all the answers already written down



WHAT THE GIRLS SAID

- ✱ Thanks for walking us home at night. We won't get the wrong idea and think you fancy us. It means we get home safely.
- ✱ When we ask for your opinion, you actually tell us what you think. Thanks for being honest!
- ✱ Thanks for taking the initiative in doing the hard physical work (e.g. stacking chairs at the end of a meeting).

WHAT THE BOYS SAID

- ✱ We love it when you make us any manner of food or cake!
- ✱ Be careful how you hug us – we find a side hug much more helpful for our thought lives than a front hug!
- ✱ Be careful how you dress. Guys are often more turned on by sight, so it doesn't help us to live Christianly if you wear short skirts, show us your midriff or shoulders. Please don't have your bra straps on show, either. They might just be unexciting bra straps to you, but to us, they're a whole different kettle of fish!

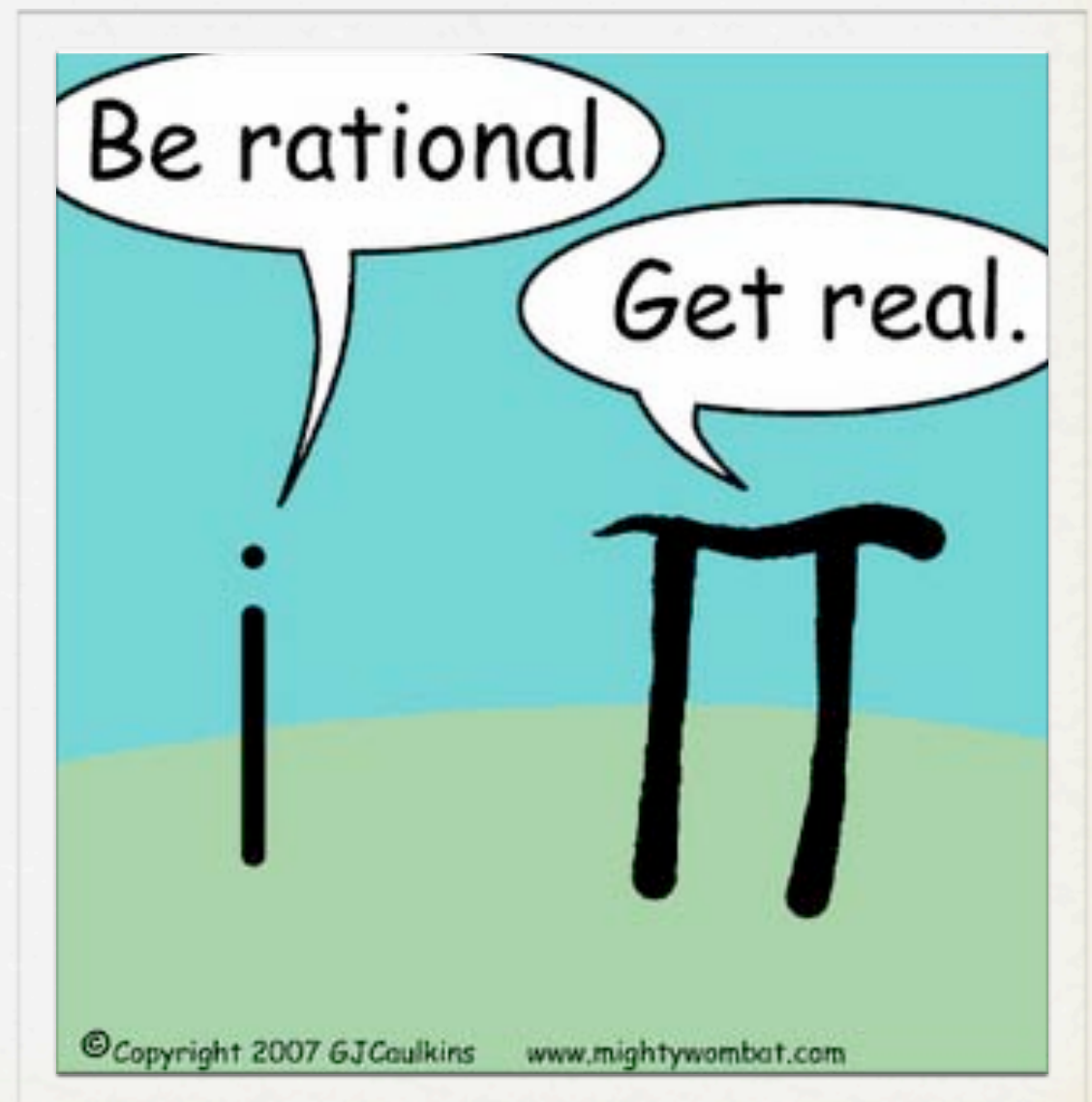
THE TALK

- ✿ Tonight I will be looking at a few of the specific arguments thrown at atheists by believers
- ✿ Somewhat more contemporary than my previous “Debating the Theists” talk



CAN YOU ARGUE?

- ✿ It's a question in itself whether it's even worth debating with them at all
- ✿ After all, it's very hard to convince irrational people with rational arguments



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INTRODUCTION

[Edit](#)

I just love talking about Jesus. I'm passionate and outgoing, I love to be doing something every day, live each day like it might be your last.

BASIC INFORMATION

[Edit](#)

Gender	Male
Location	Leeds, United Kingdom
Age	23
Ministry	None

ABOUT ME

[Edit](#)

Height	5' 10" (177 cm)
Build	Slender
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Relationship Status	Single - never been married
About Children	I don't have kids and I wouldn't like to have any
Children	0



Core Color = Red

red	62%
blue	26%
white	8%
yellow	5%

Reds Are

Chris

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True freedom Trust

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Interested in joining a support group? Click [here](#) to see a map of our Barnabas Groups in the UK.



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Welcome to TfT

True freedom Trust (TfT) is a confidential Christian support and teaching ministry for men and women who accept the Bible's prohibition of same-sex practice and yet are aware of same-sex attractions, or struggle with other sexual and relational issues. We also offer support to families, friends and church leaders of those who face these issues in their lives. Click on [About us](#) to find out more about TfT.

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SHOULD YOU ARGUE?

- ✿ Christopher Hitchens:
“What can be asserted
without evidence, can
be dismissed without
evidence.”
- ✿ Though that is only the
second best Christopher
Hitchens quote...



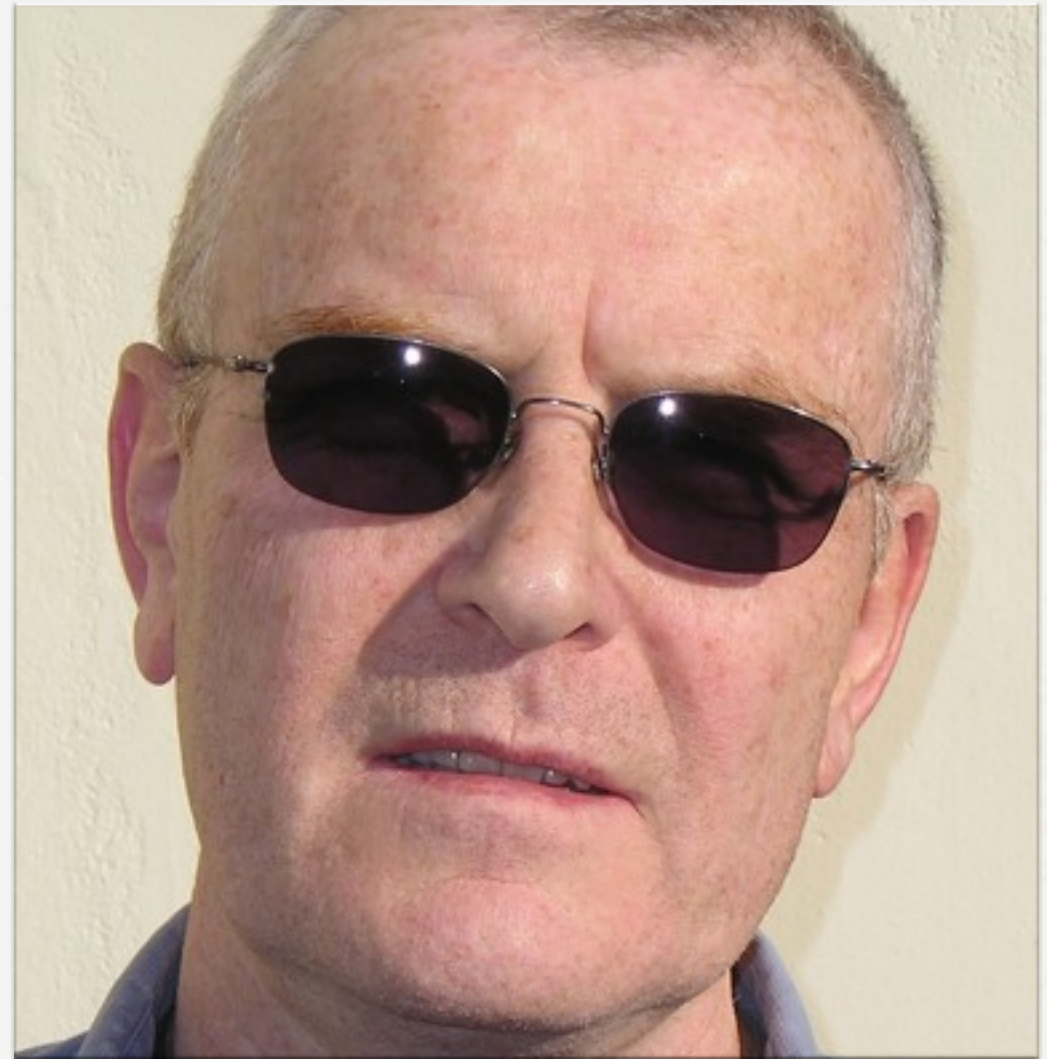
BAD ARGUMENTS

- ✱ Anecdotes are not arguments
- ✱ I don't care how amazing god is, circular arguments do not count
- ✱ You can't assume god is there and then say everything fits



YOU CAN'T PROVE...

- ✱ You can't prove God doesn't exist
- ✱ Believer: "Prove God doesn't exist."
- ✱ Pat Condell: "That's a tough one. Tell me how you did it with Zeus or Apollo and I'll use your method."



WHAT'S REQUIRED...

- ✿ Believer: “What would it take for you to believe in God?”
- ✿ “Well, some evidence might be nice.”
- ✿ Because science works this way round...



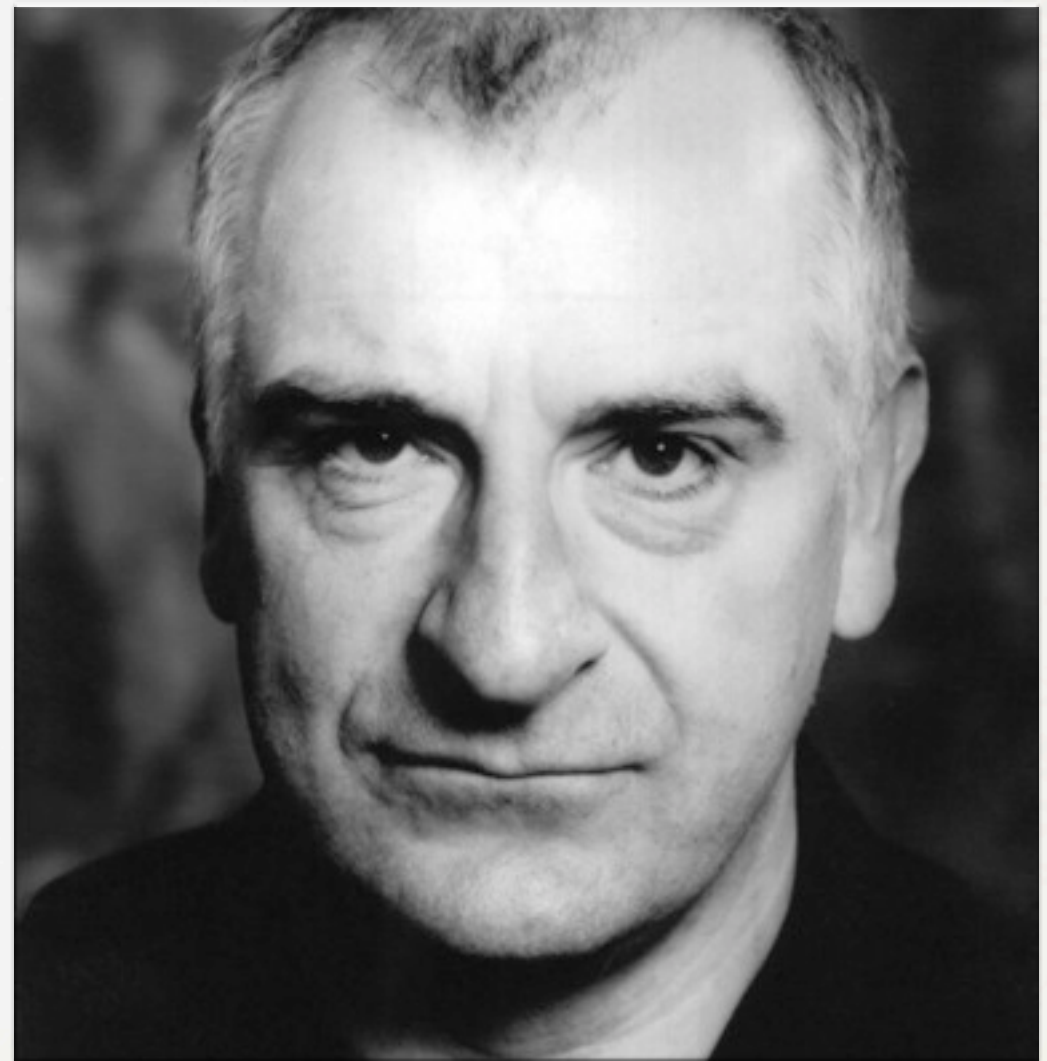
IT'S A RELIGION

- ✿ “Atheism is a religion, just like actual religions.”
- ✿ I know it's difficult, but you have to resist punching these idiots in the face.



AGNOSTIC DELUSION

- ✱ Douglas Adams:
“People will then often say ‘but surely it is better to remain agnostic just in case?’ This, to me, suggests a level of silliness and muddle that I usually edge out of the conversation.”



FAITH IS A VIRTUE

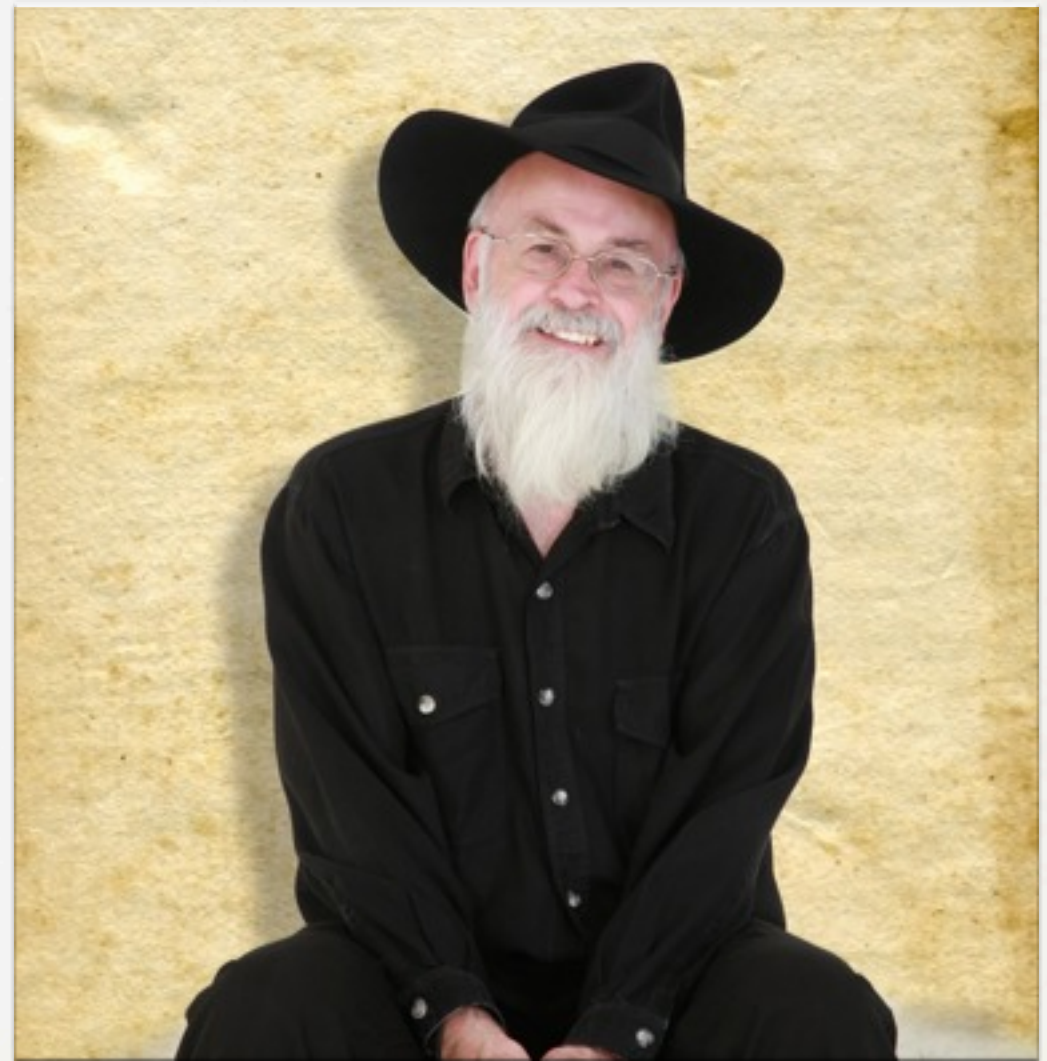
- ✱ Edith Sitwell: “I am patient with stupidity, but not with people who are proud of it.”
- ✱ “Blind faith is an ironic gift to return the creator of human intelligence.”
- ✱ Galileo Galilei: ‘I do not think it is necessary to believe that the same God who has given us our senses, reason and intelligence wishes us to abandon their use’
- ✱ Voltaire: “Those who believe in absurdities will commit atrocities.”

GOD TALKS TO ME

- ✱ Robert Pirsig: “When one person suffers from a delusion, it’s called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion, it’s called religion.”
- ✱ “George Bush says he speaks to God every day, and Christians love him for it. If George Bush said he spoke to a God through a hair dryer, they would think he was mad. I fail to see how the addition of the hair dryer makes it any more absurd.”

ARROGANT ATHEISTS

- ✱ It's not arrogance, it's genuinely being smarter.
- ✱ Terry Pratchett: "The presence of those seeking the truth is infinitely preferable to the presence of those who think they have found it."



DEPRESSING ATHEISM

- ✿ “Isn’t it depressing being an atheist and knowing after you die you will just rot in the ground like a Celebrity Big Brother winner?”
- ✿ Maybe it is, but it doesn’t mean we’re not right



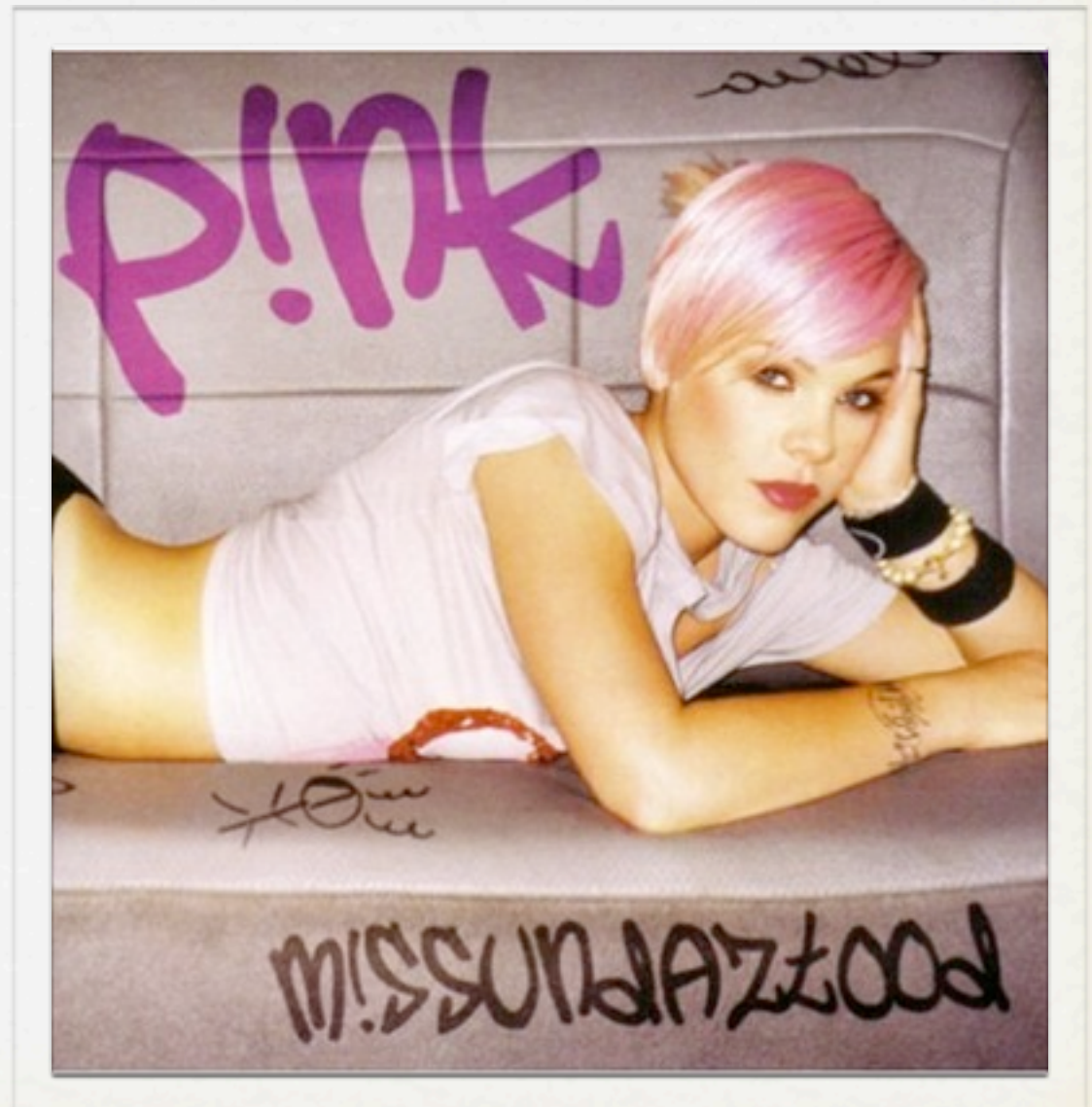
GOD PROVIDES

- ✿ “God is all you need.
And you do need Him -
you can’t make it on
your own.”
- ✿ It’s just so
condescending to think
you can’t make it
through life without
someone holding your
hand



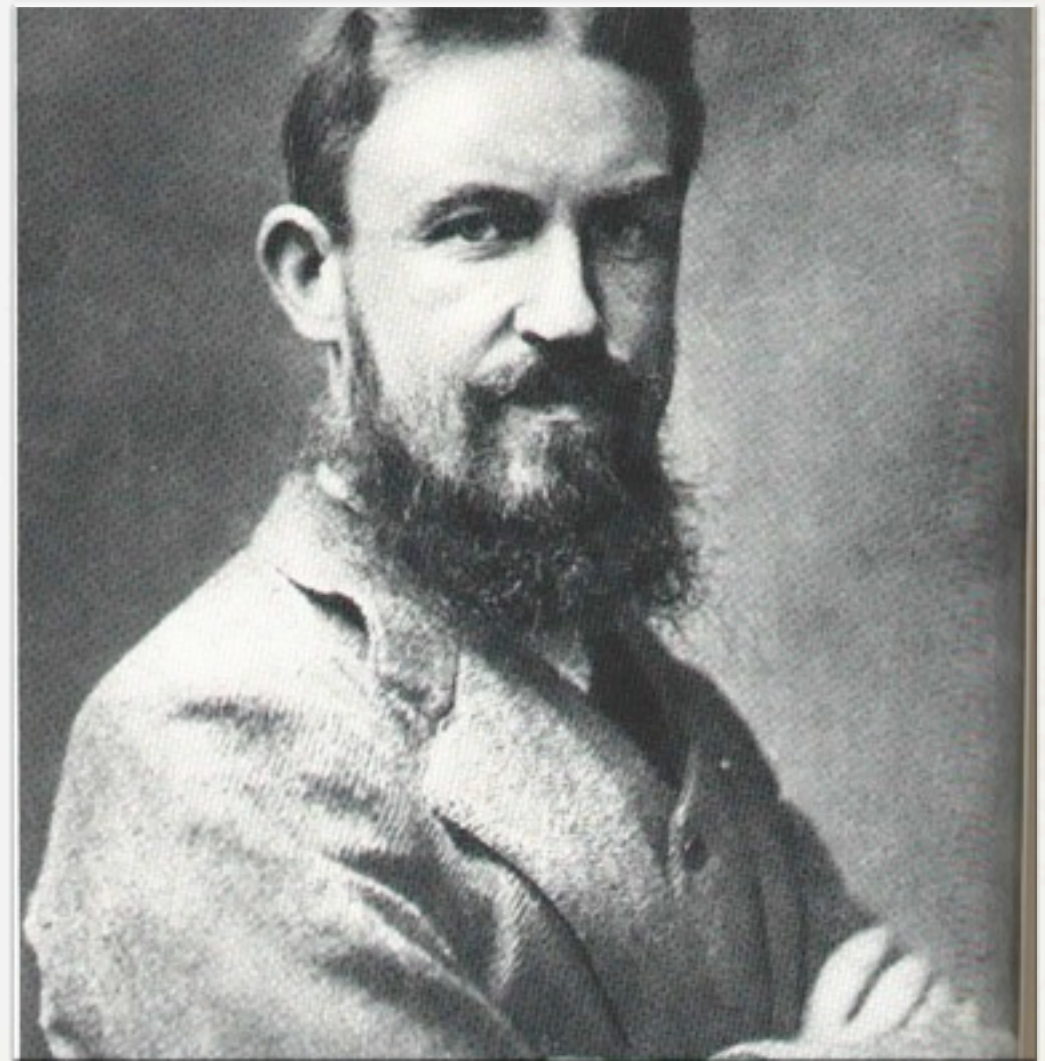
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

- ✿ “You have to respect my religion, dammit!”
- ✿ H. L. Mencken: “We must respect the other fellow’s religion, but only in the sense that we respect his theory that his wife is beautiful.”



I LOVE GOD SO MUCH

- ✿ “God is obviously there, I’m so happy since I found God.”
- ✿ George Bernard Shaw: “The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than a drunken man is happier than a sober one.”



QUESTIONING

- ✱ “Christianity makes you question things. I am always questing and examining my beliefs.”
- ✱ It clearly doesn't, because they are still religious
- ✱ And as Issac Asimov points out, “properly read, the Bible is the most potent force for atheism ever conceived.”
- ✱ Bertrand Russell: “So far as I can remember, there is not one single in the Gospels in praise of intelligence.”

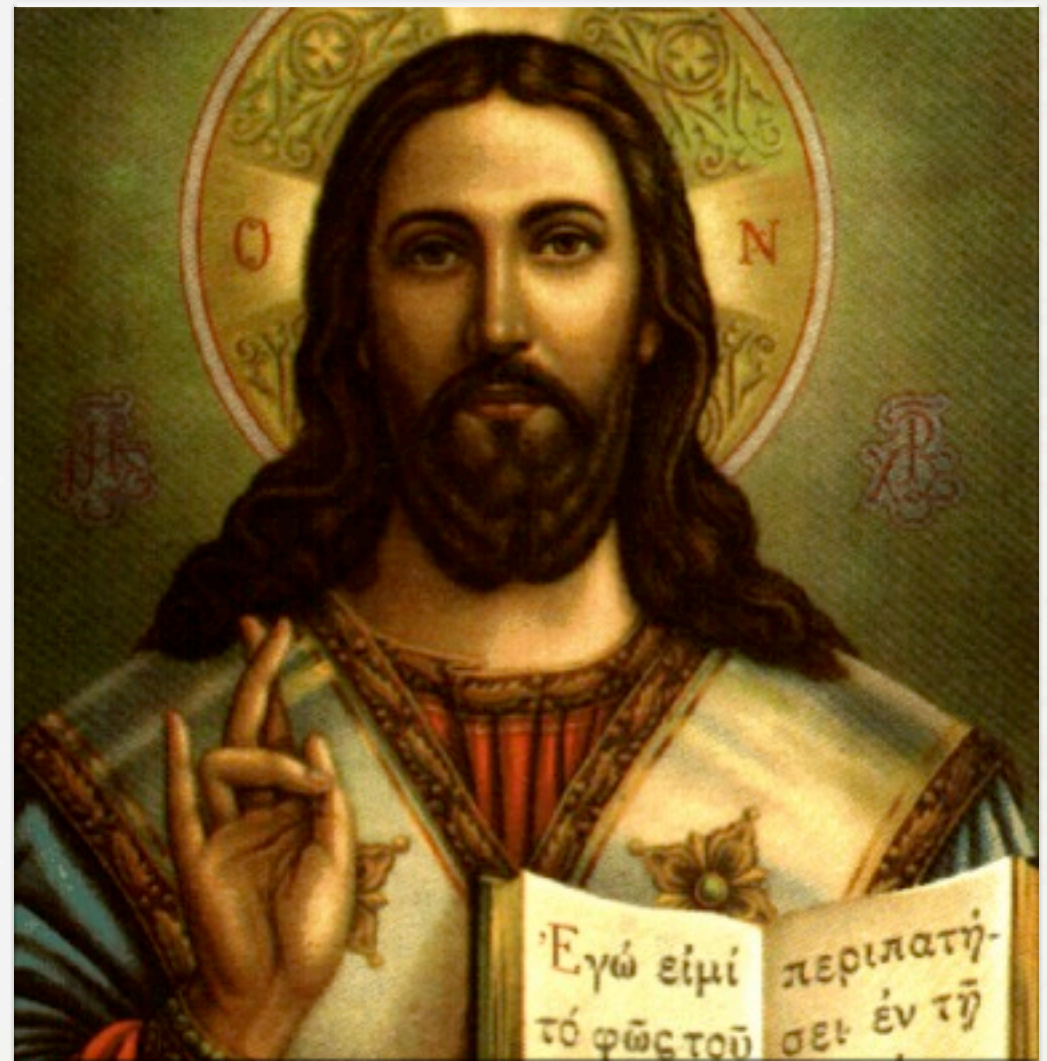
IT'S A SIN

- ✿ Gene Roddenberry:
“We must question the story logic of having an all knowing, all powerful God, who created faulty humans, and then blames them for his own mistakes.”



MAD, BAD OR GOD

- ✿ “Jesus was either mental, a liar or he genuinely was god. He isn’t crazy and he was an honest person - so he must have been god!”
- ✿ A classic example of the false dilemma fallacy



JESUS IS UNIQUE

- * 1. Hero's mother is a royal virgin;
- * 2. His father is a king, and
- * 3. Often a near relative of his mother, but
- * 4. The circumstances of his conception are unusual, and
- * 5. He is also reputed to be the son of a god.
- * 6. At birth an attempt is made, usually by his father or his maternal grand father to kill him, but
- * 7. he is spirited away, and
- * 8. Reared by foster -parents in a far country.
- * 9. We are told nothing of his childhood, but
- * 10. On reaching manhood he returns or goes to his future Kingdom.
- * 11. After a victory over the king and/or a giant, dragon, or wild beast,
- * 12. He marries a princess, often the daughter of his predecessor and
- * 13. And becomes king.
- * 14. For a time he reigns uneventfully and
- * 15. Prescribes laws, but
- * 16. Later he loses favour with the gods and/or his subjects, and
- * 17. Is driven from the throne and city, after which
- * 18. He meets with a mysterious death,
- * 19. Often at the top of a hill,
- * 20. His children, if any do not succeed him.
- * 21. His body is not buried, but nevertheless
- * 22. He has one or more holy sepulchres.

SOURCE OF MORALS

- ✱ Oppression of women
- ✱ Oppression of homosexuals
- ✱ Persecution of atheists and other religions
- ✱ Controlling our sex lives and base instincts
- ✱ Anything the Catholic Church ever does



MARK 11:12-13

- ✱ The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.
- ✱ When evening came, they went out of the city.
- ✱ In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

MARK 9:42

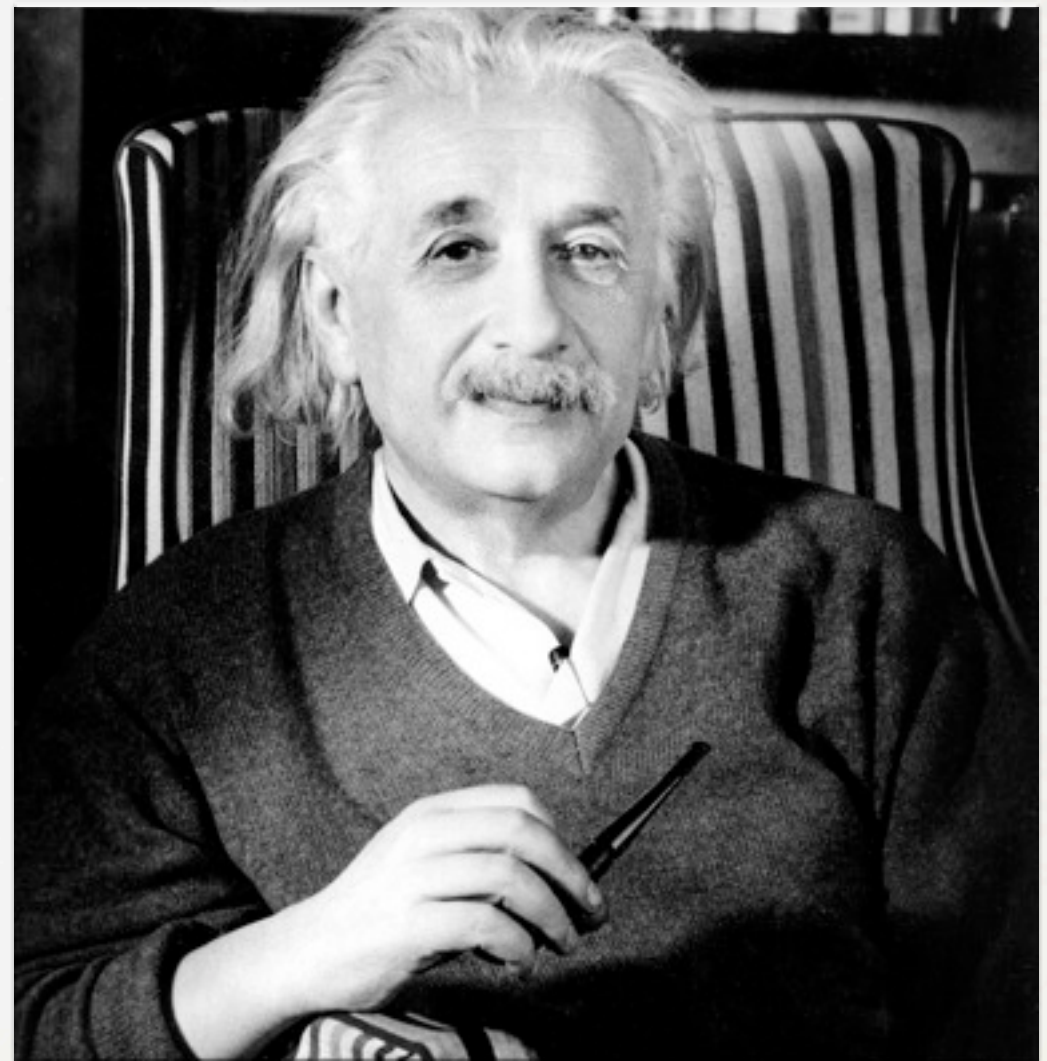
- ✱ “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.”

SOURCE OF MORALS

- ✱ Mark Twain: “It ain’t the parts of the Bible that I don’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.”
- ✱ George Carlin: “I would never want to be a member of a group whose symbol was a huy nailed to two pieces of wood.”
- ✱ Steven Weinberg: “With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. For for a good person to do evil things, that takes religion.”

SOURCE OF MORALS

- ✿ Albert Einstein: “A man’s ethical behaviour should be based effectually on sympathy, education and social ties; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death.”



GODWIN'S LAW

- ✱ “Hitler was an atheist, as was Stalin”
- ✱ “These people were really evil, ergo all atheists are evil”
- ✱ “And while we’re on the subject, stop eating our babies, you evil atheists”



GODWIN'S LAW

Nazis always show up sooner or later.

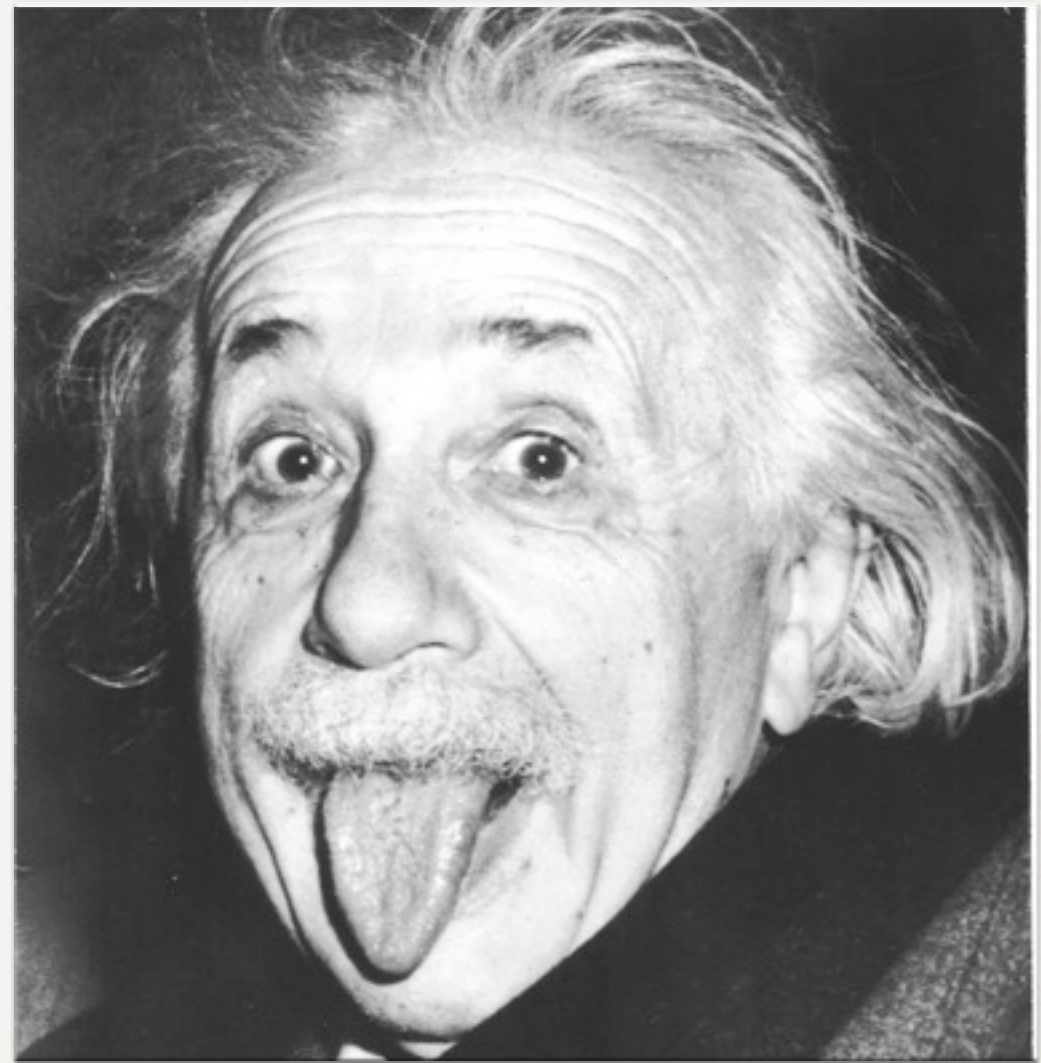
HITLER'S WRITINGS

✱ "My feeling as a Christian points me to my Lord and Saviour as a fighter. It points me to the man who once in loneliness, surrounded only by a few followers, recognised these Jews for what they were and summoned men to fight against them and who -

God's truth! - was greatest, not as a sufferer, but as a fighter."

HISTORICAL FIGURES

- ✿ Albert Einstein: “I do not believe in a personal God and I have never denied this but have expressed it clearly. If something is in me which can be called religious then it is the unbounded admiration for the structure of the world so far as our science can reveal it.”



PRAYER

- ✱ 2001 British Medical Journal
- ✱ 2003 Duke University Medical Centre
- ✱ 2006 American Heart Journal
- ✱ 2007 Journal of Behavioural of Medicine



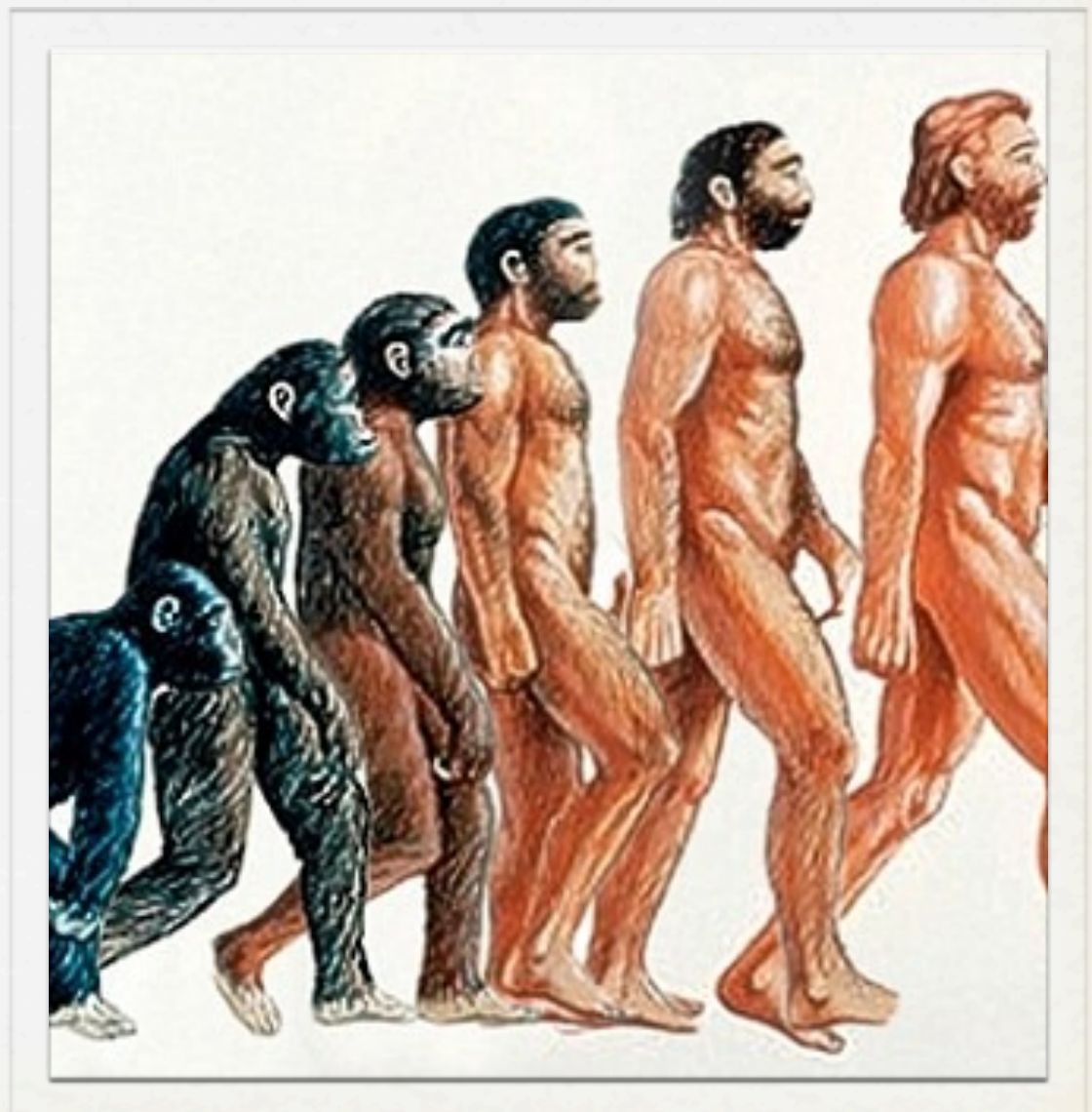
POCKET WATCH

✿ “If you were walking down a beach and you found a pocket watch, you would assume it had a designer.”



EVOLUTION

- ✿ “If evolution is real, why isn’t it happening now? Why can’t I see it right before my very eyes?!?”
- ✿ “My grandfather wasn’t a monkey!”



EVOLUTION

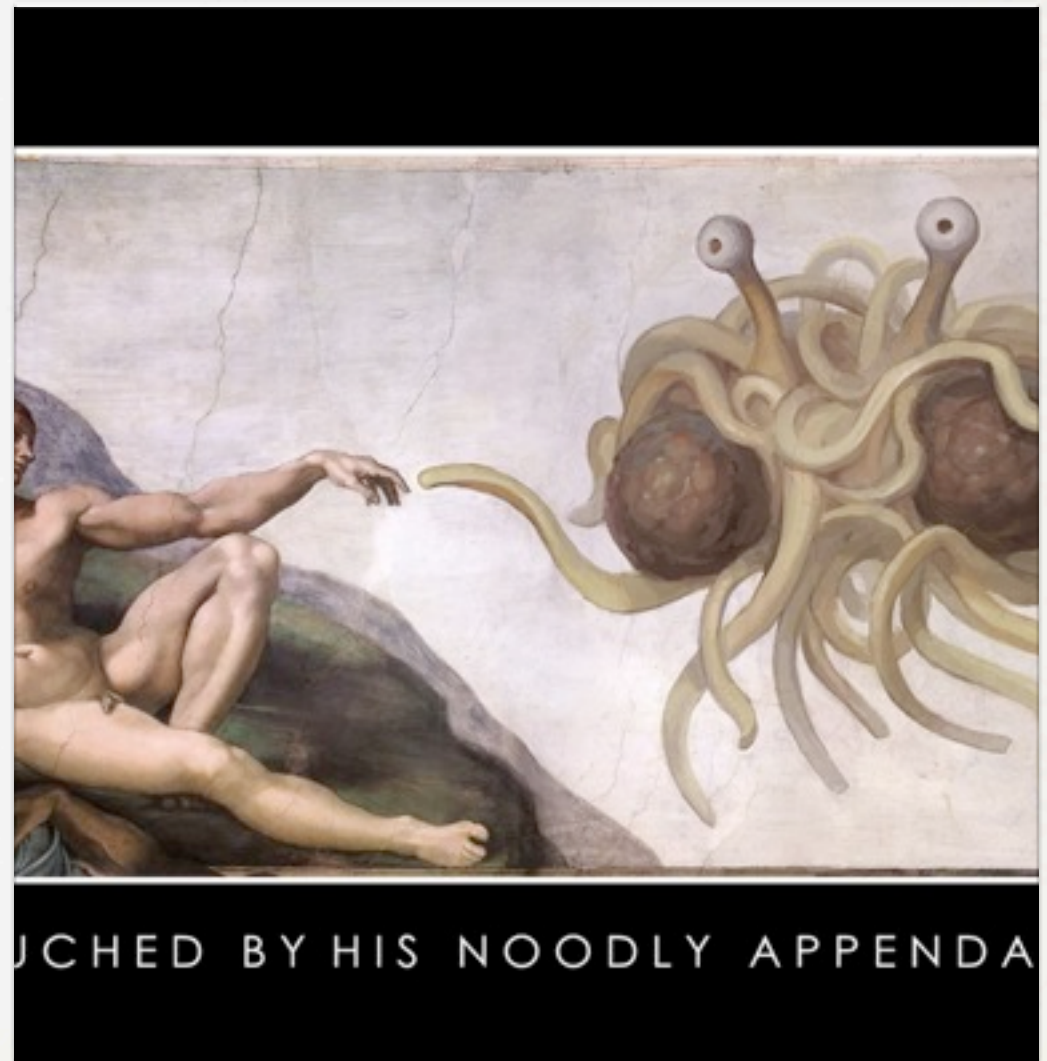
- ✿ “If evolution is real, why can’t you bring me a half chicken half pig?”
- ✿ “Also, why are there all these huge gaps in the fossil record?”





INTELLIGENT DESIGN

- ✱ The only thing intelligent about it, is the fact they've managed to convince us all to call it that
- ✱ Luckily, you're not allowed to teach it as a science in state schools in England









— TEACH THE CONTROVERSY —

Teach kids all the theories about sex!

ISLAM AND SCIENCE

- ✱ Islamic apologetics often try and explain how the Qur'an predicted much scientific knowledge that has since been discovered
- ✱ And by since, I mean previously...



NUMBER 5

- ✱ Richard Jeni
- ✱ “You’re basically killing each other to see who’s got the better imaginary friend.”



NUMBER 4

- ✱ Doug McLeod
- ✱ “I still say a church with a steeple with a lightening rod on top shows a lack of confidence.”



NUMBER 3

- ✿ Emo Philips
- ✿ “When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a bicycle. But then I realised that the Lord didn’t work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me.”



NUMBER 2

- ✱ Superintendent Chalmers
- ✱ “Prayer has no place in a public school. Just like facts have no place within organised religion.”



NUMBER 1

❖ The late, great, George Carlin...

