



DEBATING THE THEISTS

Chris Worfolk

ABOUT ME

- ✱ Rev Chris Worfolk
- ✱ Being from Leeds and all, I don't use the word "the" or the letter H, but I do use words like champion and reight
- ✱ I also always put the kettle on in times of crisis, even though I don't drink tea

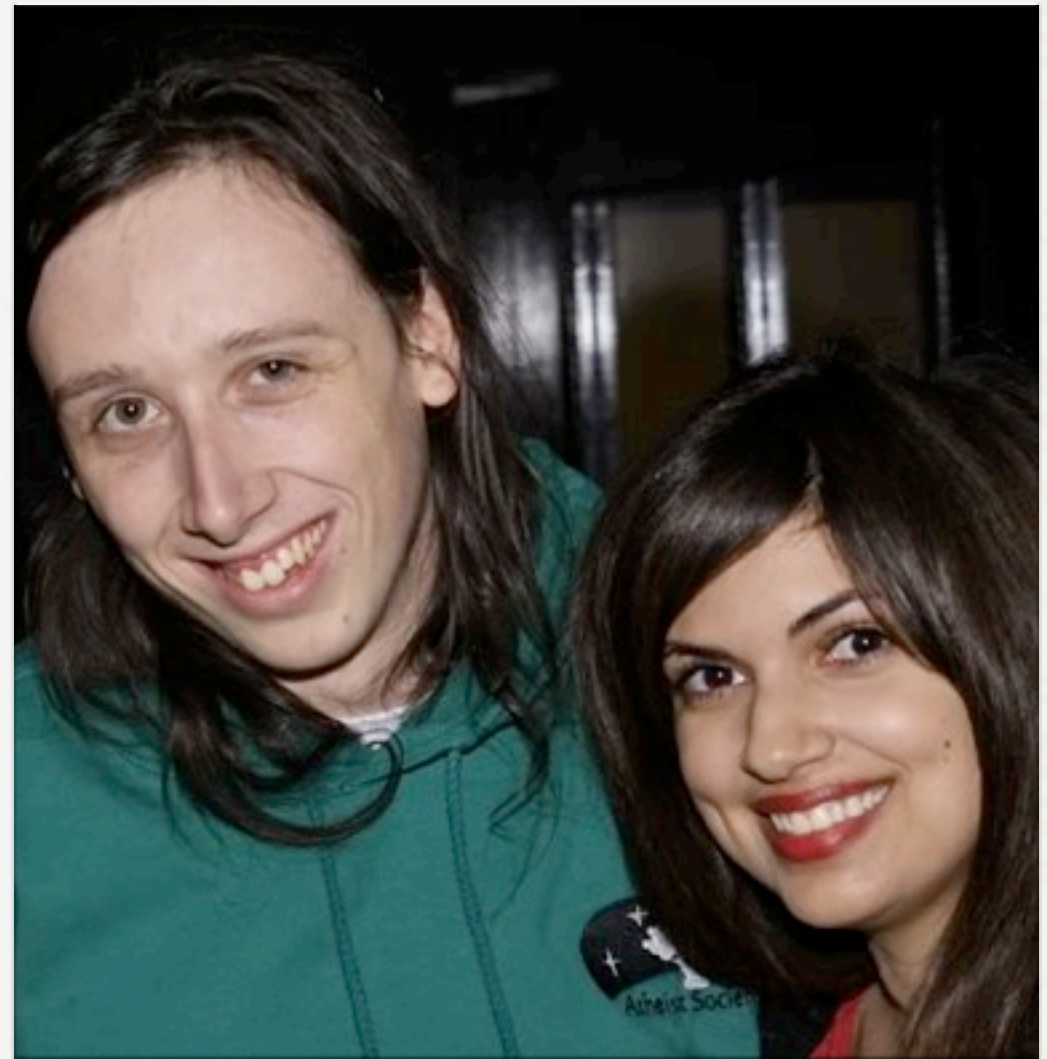


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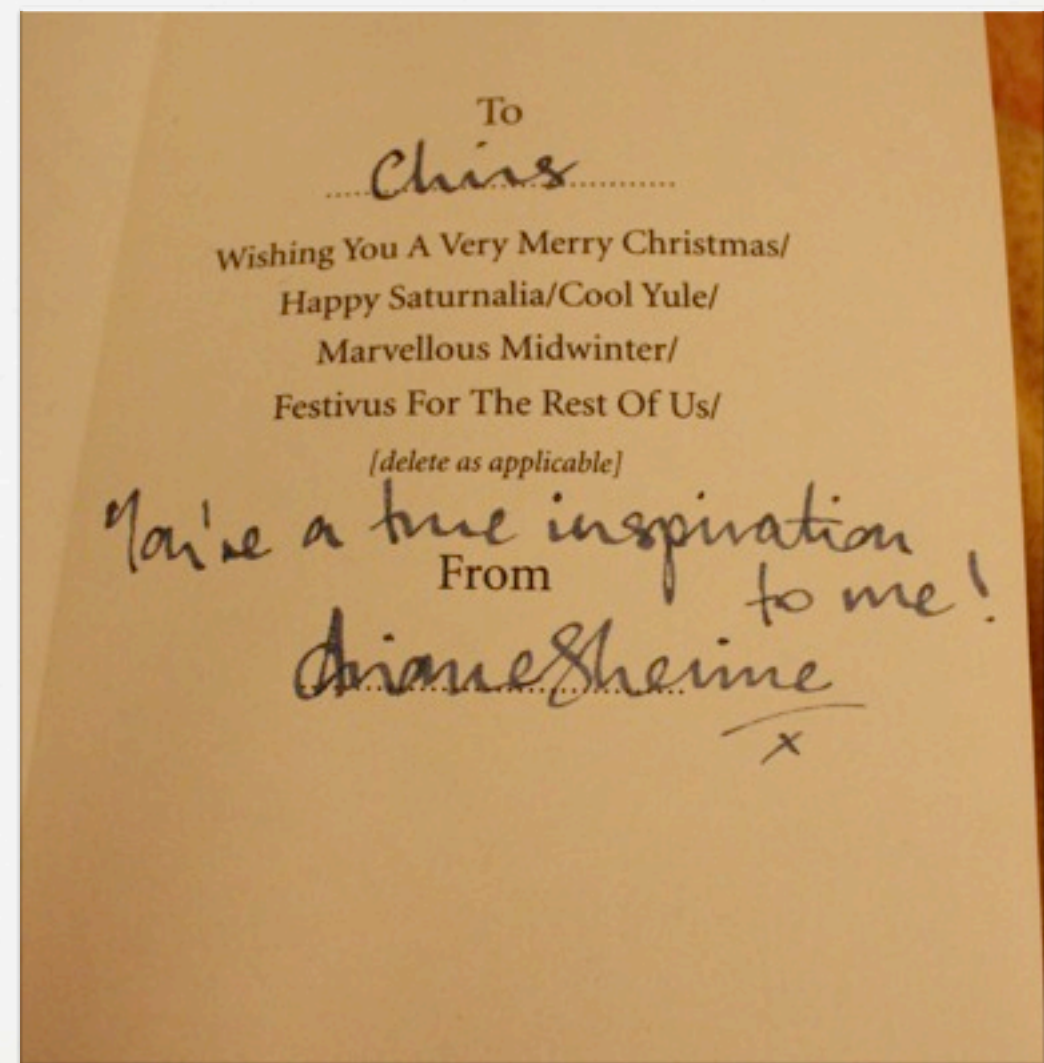
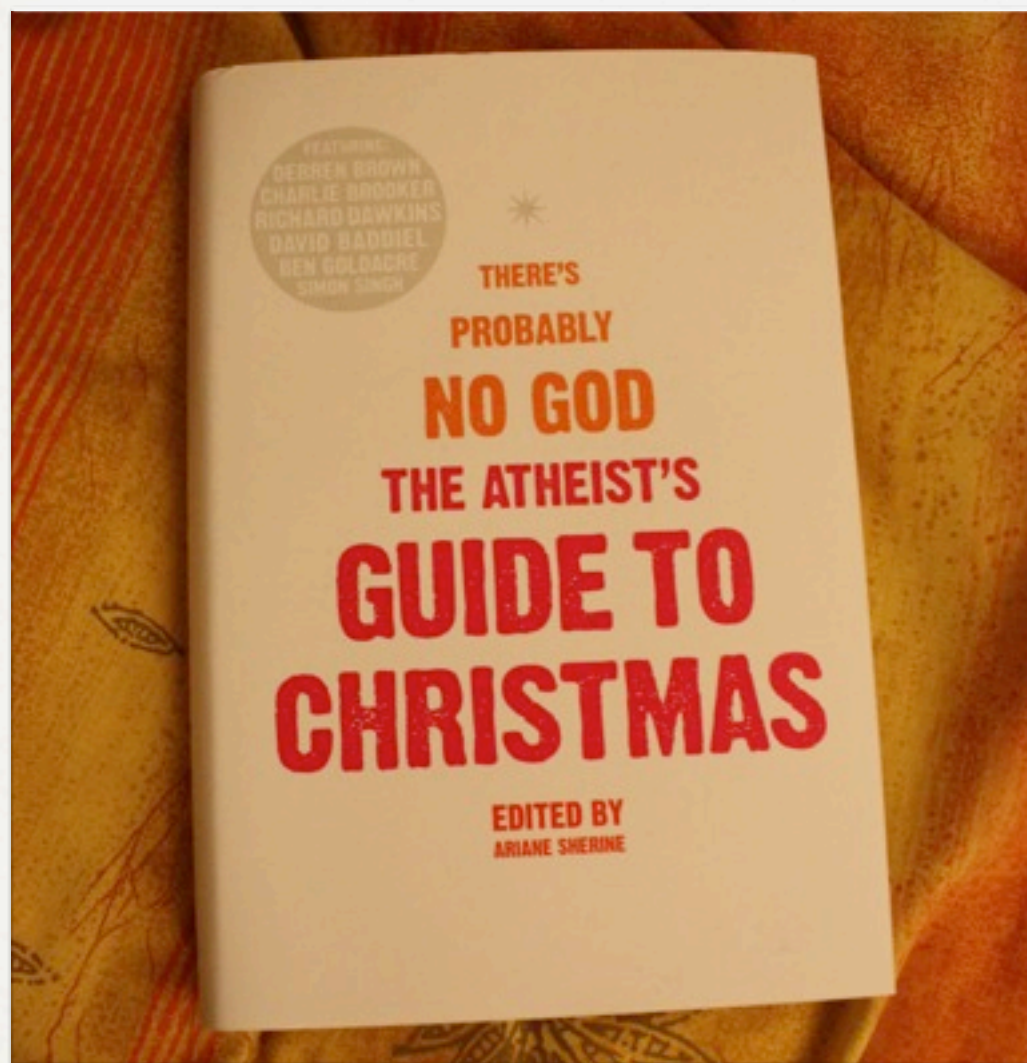


ATHEIST CV

- ✱ Leeds Atheist Society
- ✱ The AHS
- ✱ Leeds Skeptics
- ✱ Humanist Action Group
- ✱ HSoWY
- ✱ Chris Worfolk Foundation



ME AND ARIANE



ATHEIST SOCIETY

- ✿ Leeds Atheist Society was founded in 2006
- ✿ Runs a wide range of talks, courses, campaigns and charity work
- ✿ As well as lots of interfaith and debating



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- ✿ 33,000 students
- ✿ Leeds University Union is officially the best students union in the country according to the NUS rankings
- ✿ Though I have no idea how you rank them



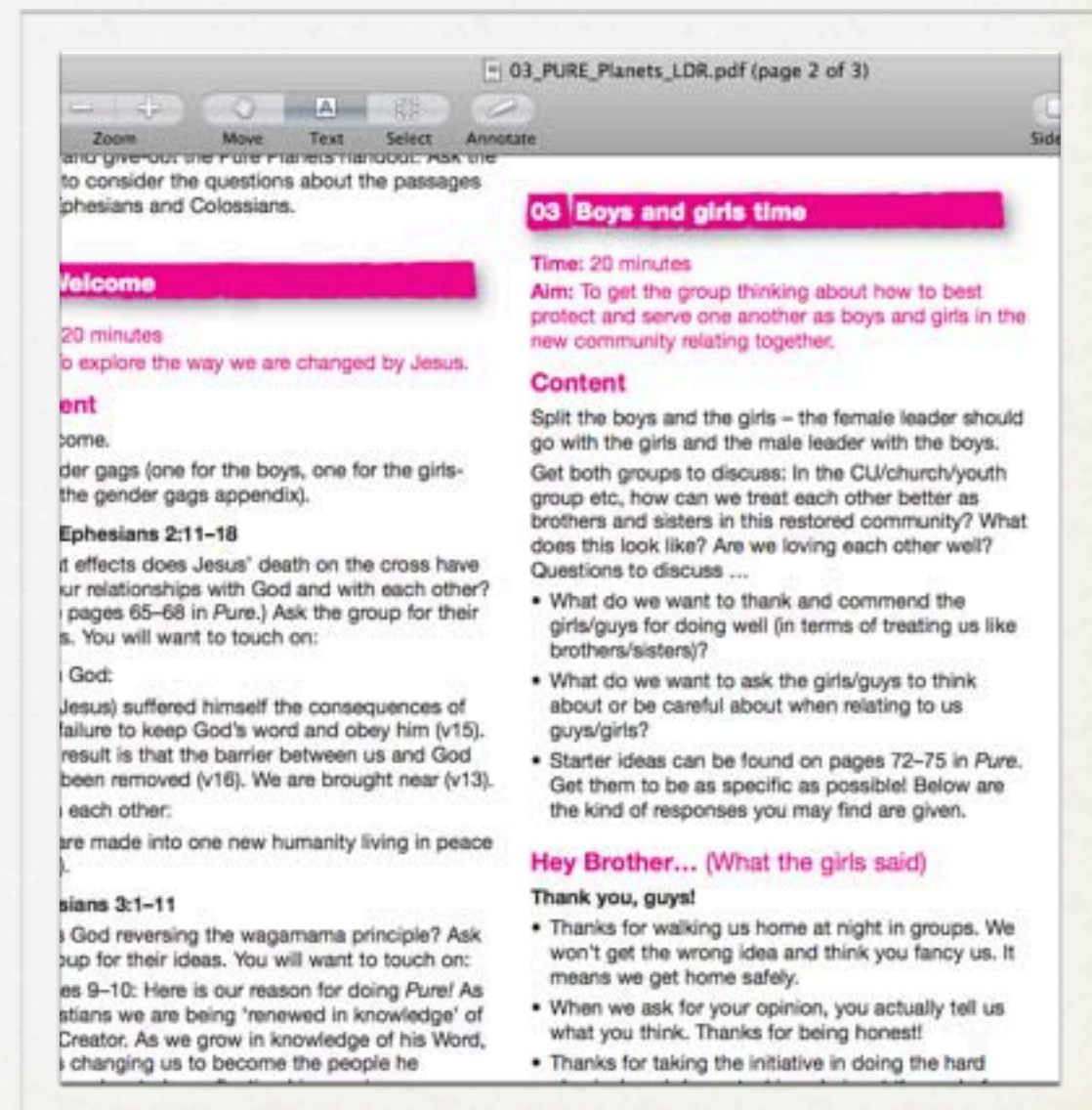
CHRISTIAN UNION

- ✿ Over 300 members
- ✿ They run events on pretty much every day of the week
- ✿ Mission Week 2009 spending was over £3,000
- ✿ Supported by five huge evangelical churches



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!

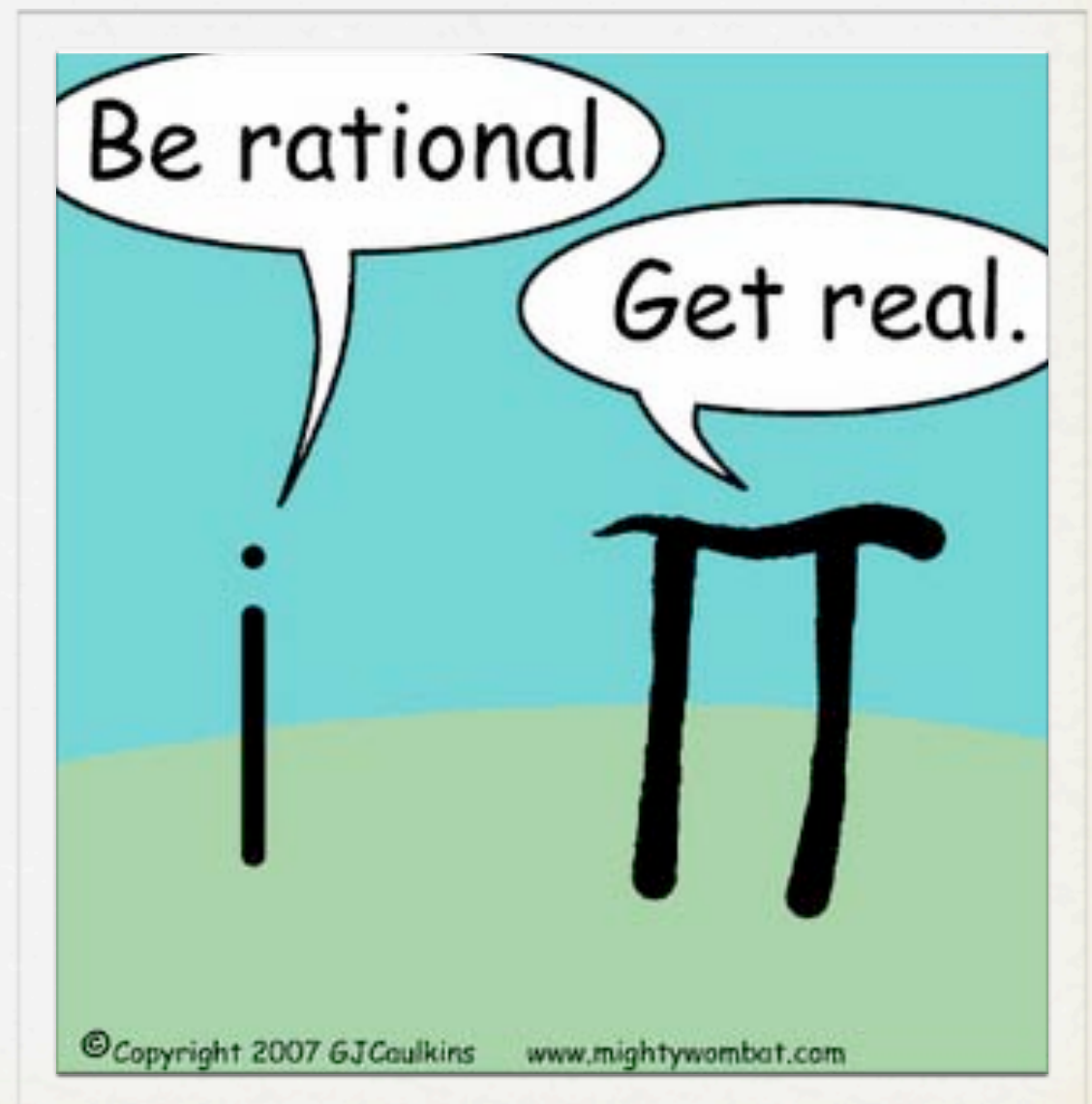
THE TALK

- ✿ This talk will cover a lot of the common arguments you may encounter when talking to religious people
- ✿ It's designed to provide an overview for people who haven't already wasted their degree talking to the CU



DON'T 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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xmeltrut's Profile

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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





True freedom Trust

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Interested in joining a support group?
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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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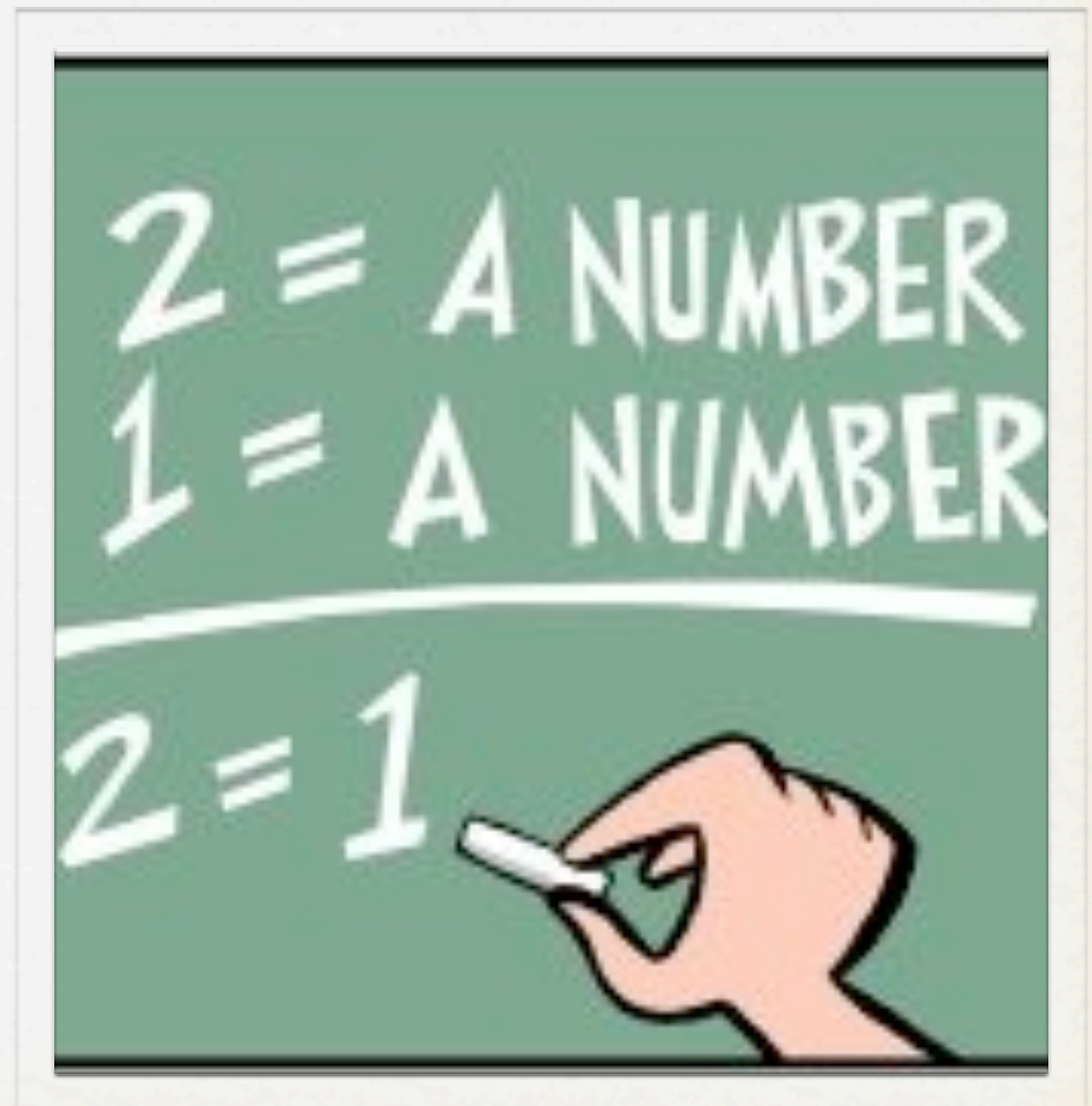
BAD ARGUMENTS

- ✱ 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



LOGICAL FALLACIES

- ✿ A fallacy is a misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning
- ✿ Basically it refers to when religious people draw conclusions that they shouldn't



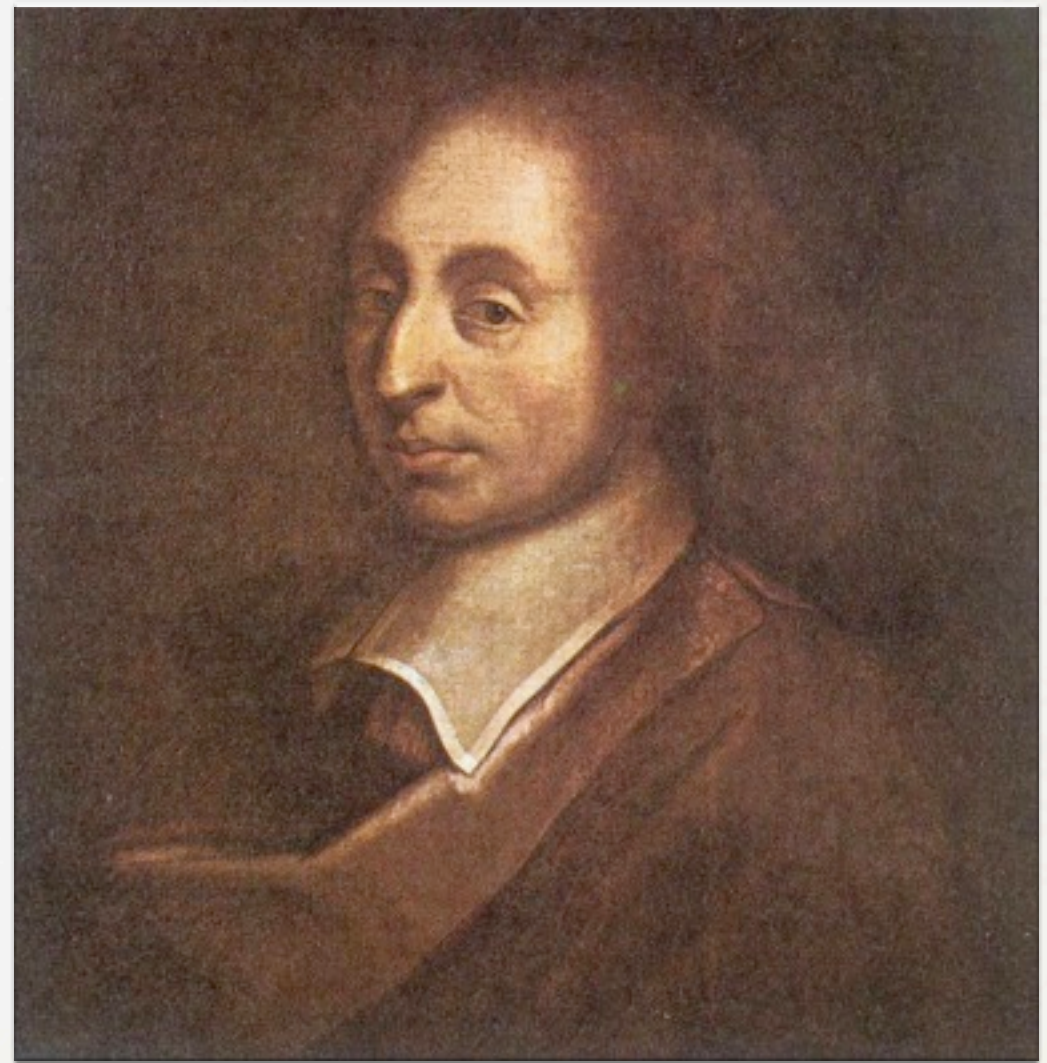
GENERIC ARGUMENTS

- ✱ It's always good to have a few generic arguments on hand.
- ✱ It works for generic quotes too - a bit of Hitchens or Sagan will help you out of most spots.



PASCAL'S WAGER

- ✱ Pascal said it is better to believe than not believe
- ✱ Because if you don't believe and you're wrong you're going to have red hot poker in your ass forever
- ✱ And forever is a long time



COSMOLOGICAL

- ✿ “Something must have caused the universe, what else could it have been except god?”
- ✿ Or the Great Green Arkleseizure?



TELEOLOGICAL

- ✿ “The universe is so complex that it must have been created.”
- ✿ After all, nothing complex ever “evolved” or anything



THE CONSTANTS

- ✿ A much more common version of the teleological argument to encounter these days is the argument from the fine tuning of the constants



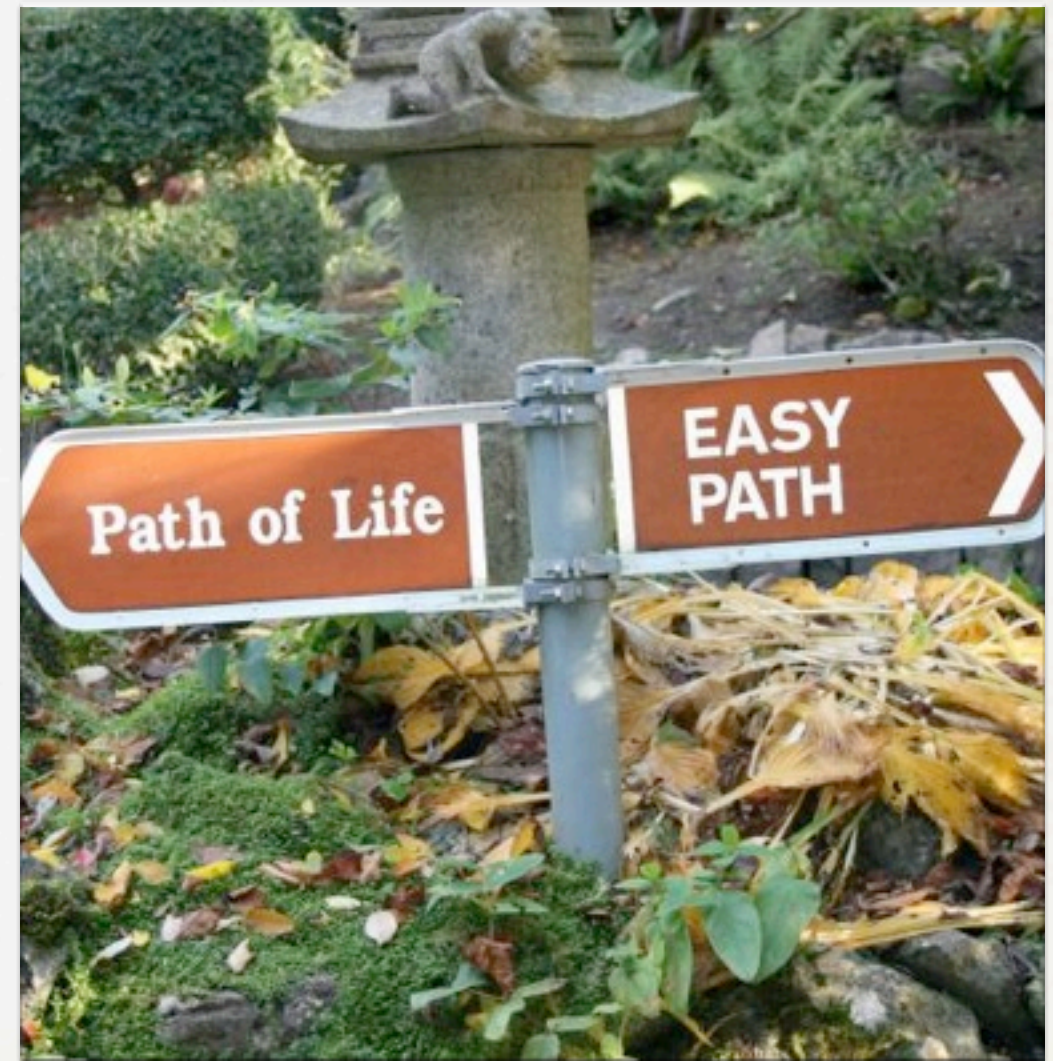
ONTOLOGICAL

- ✿ “God is the most perfect being and a being that exists is more perfect than one that doesn’t - so god must exist”
- ✿ Because “more perfect” is a legitimate saying



FREE WILL

- ✿ The argument from free will claims that the idea of free will is incompatible with the idea of an omniscient god
- ✿ Basically, if god knows what we will do already, how is it a free choice?



GOD EXISTS

- ✱ Lets start with the big claim that all religious people make - that there actually is a god
- ✱ Of course, ask them to define god and they'll stare at you blankly.



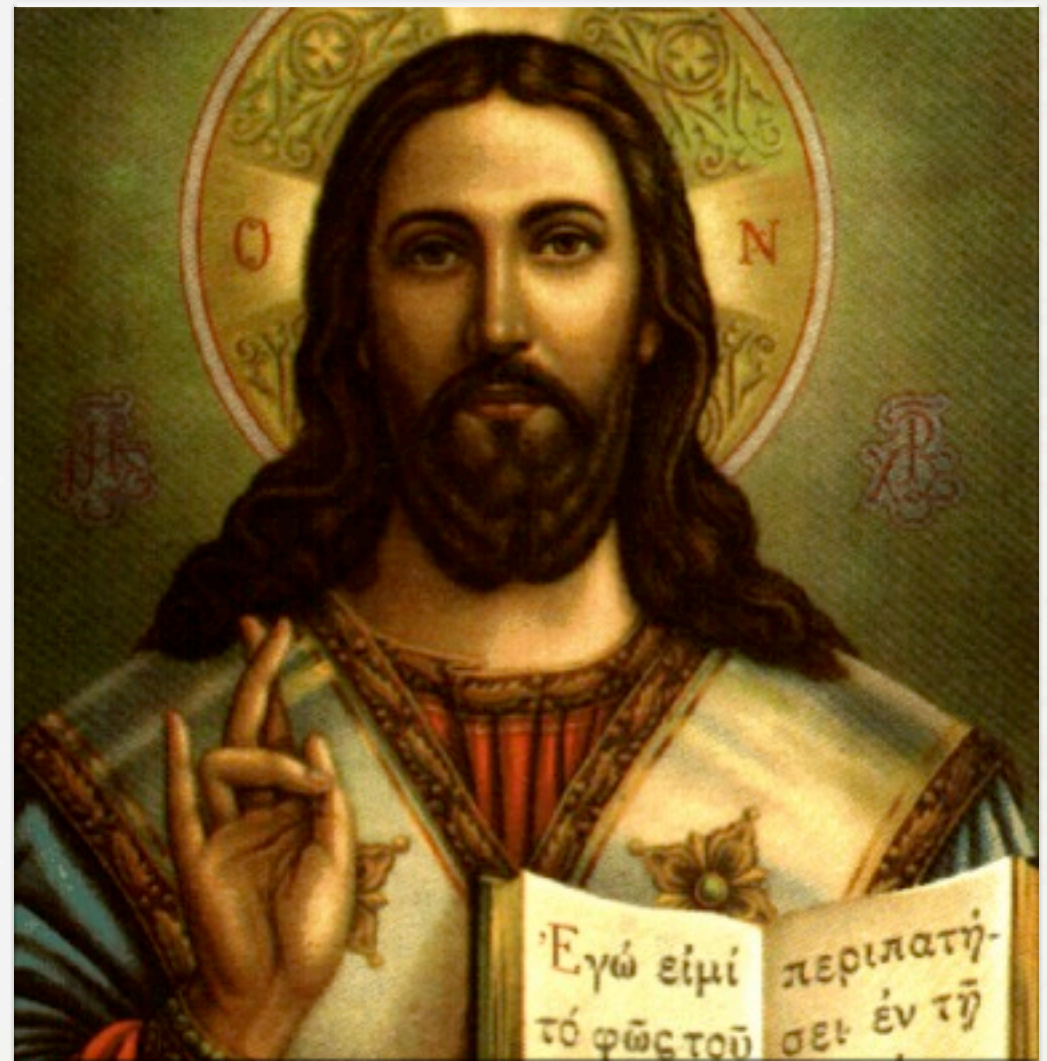
JESUS EXISTED

- ✿ “There is more evidence for Jesus than there is for Caesar.”
- ✿ But then again, does Jesus have a salad or casino named after him?



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

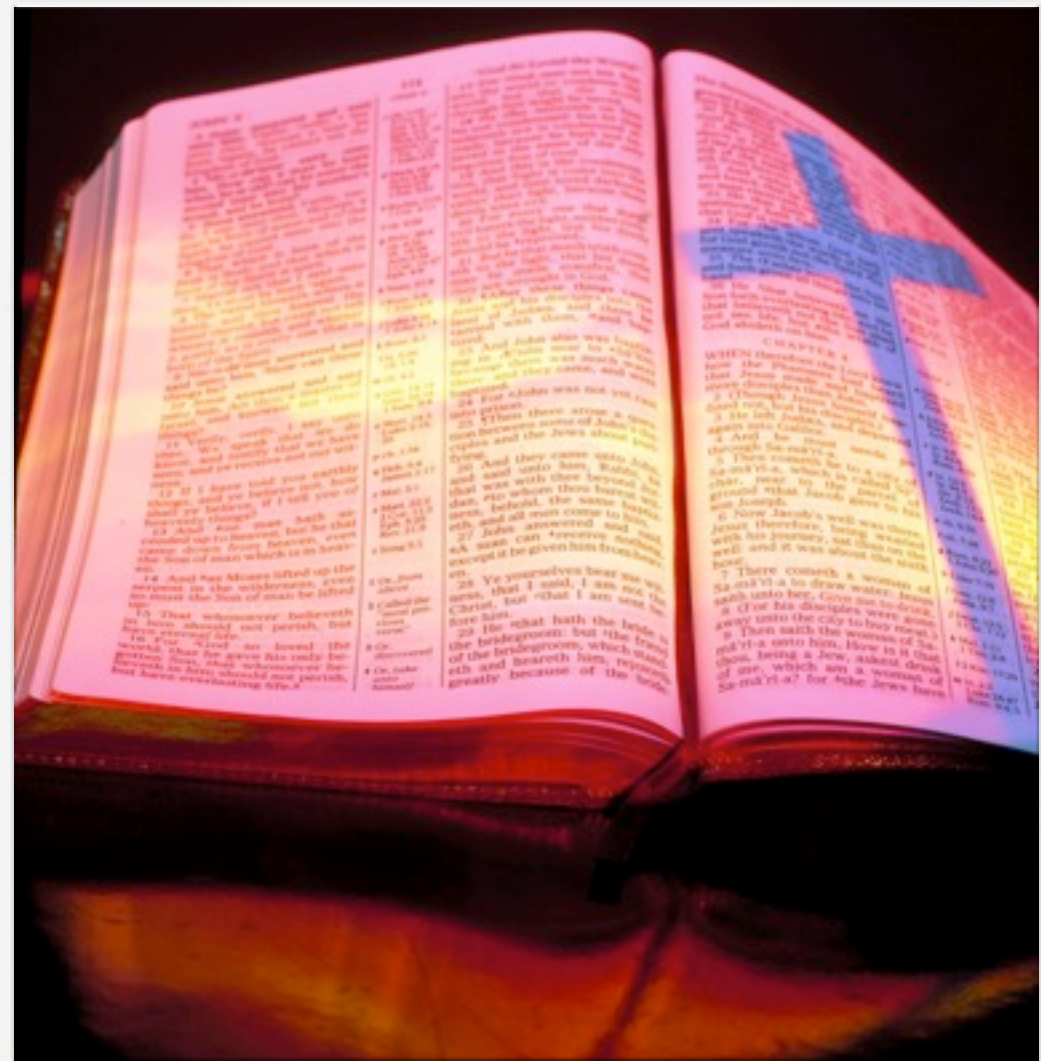


JESUS IS UNIQUE

- * 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.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ✿ “Yes, it’s true, there is a lot of bad stuff in the Old Testament, all that genocide and such...”
- ✿ “...but the New Testament is purely a positive source of morality”



MARK 11:12-13

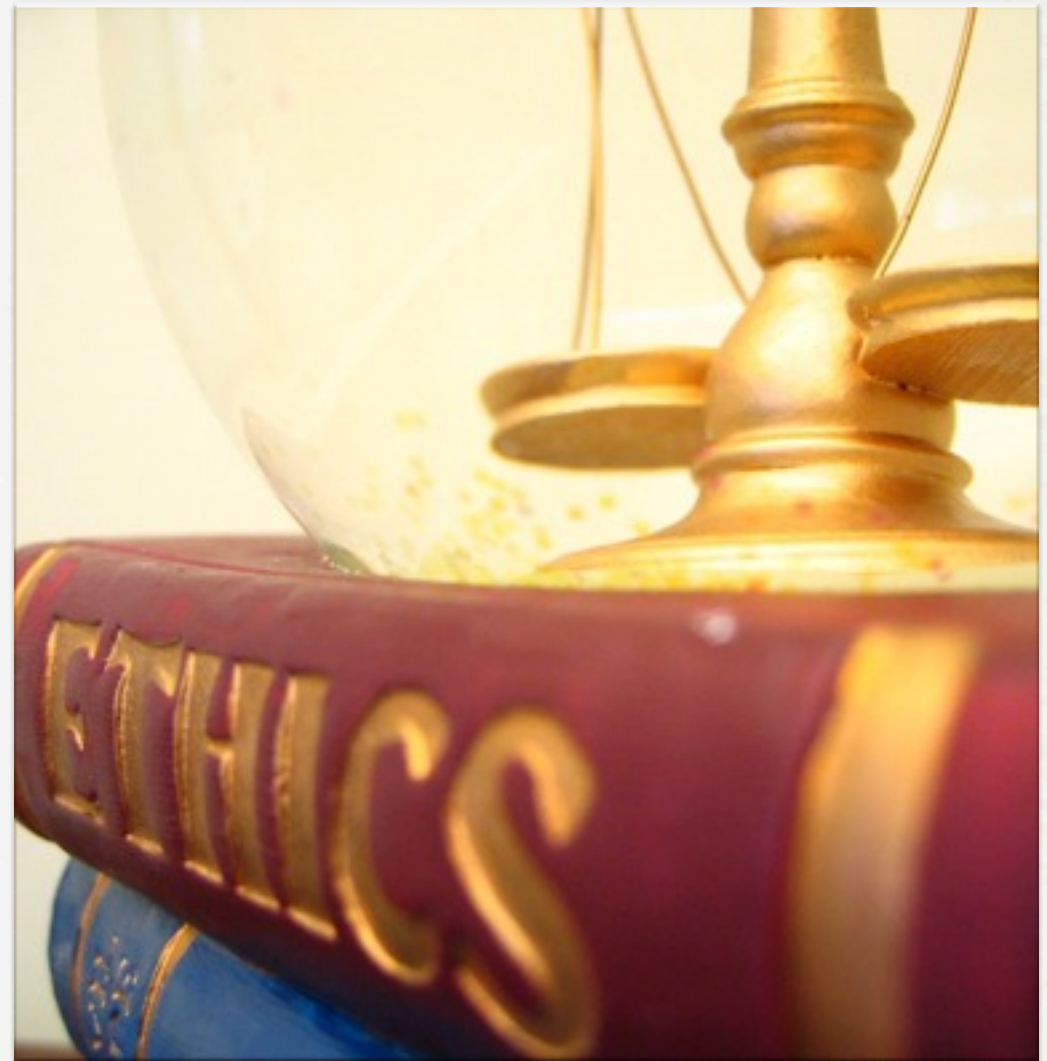
- ✱ The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." 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

- ✿ “Where do we get our morals from if not the Bible?”
- ✿ “And why do you atheists not go round simply killing and murdering everybody?”



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



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.

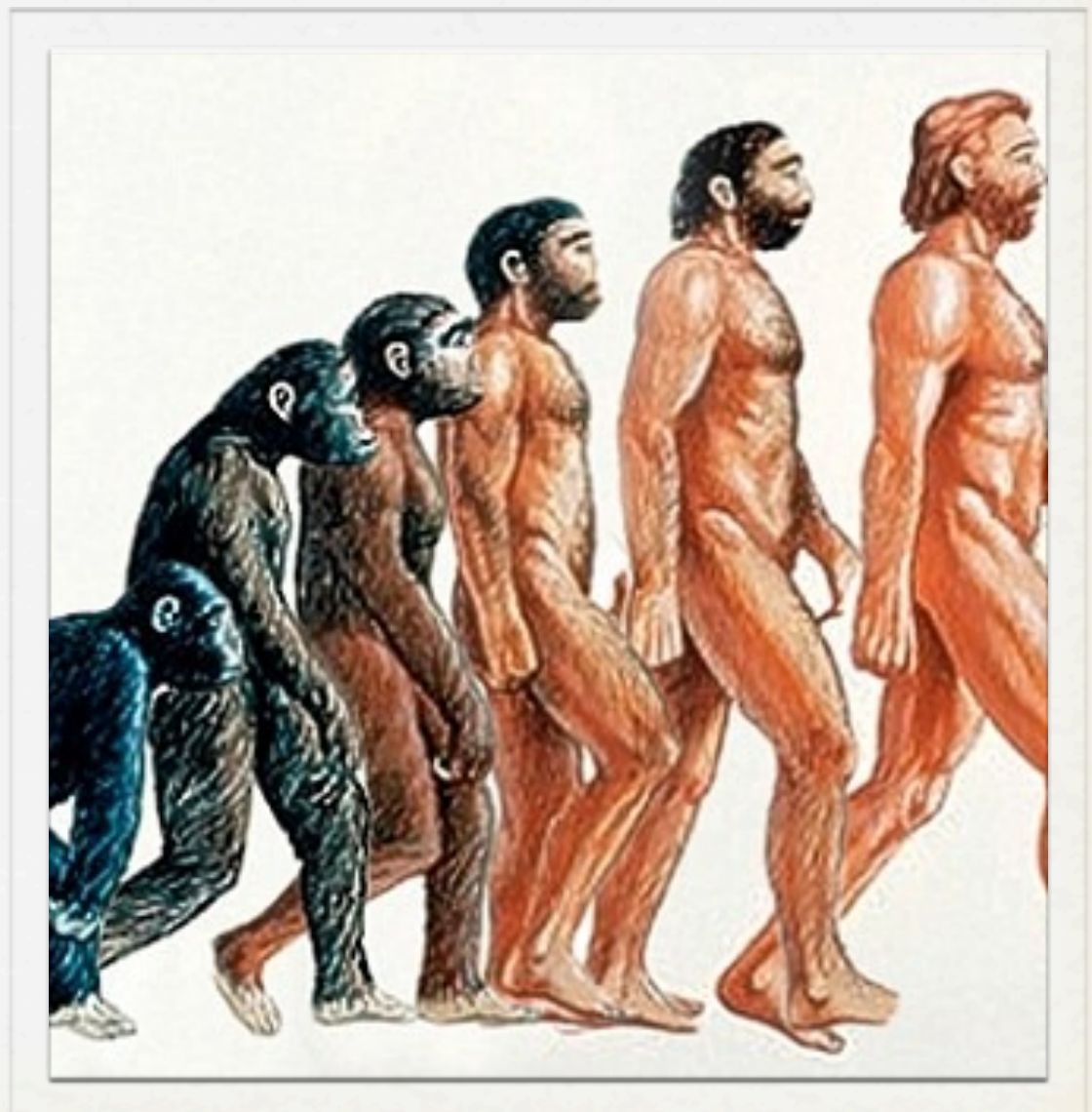
HITLER'S WRITINGS

✱ "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."

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



UCHED BY HIS NOODLY APPENDA







— 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
- ✱ But I've yet to find any that isn't nonsense



RICHARD DAWKINS

- ✿ “Professor Richard Dawkins, your god of atheism, is a very angry mean man who says insulting things to us...”
- ✿ “...therefore all atheists are evil angry people”
- ✿ “Also the God Delusion was rubbish”



CONCLUSION

- ✱ Chances are that you are never going to change their minds
- ✱ But it is important that we are here, to show people there is an alternative
- ✱ And hopefully they will make the decision themselves

