

Parenting Tip

Lessons in the Coke Aisle

By Don Jacobsen

A few days ago my wife and I walked into a Wal-Mart store to do some quick shopping. Just ahead of us was a little family...mom and three kids, I'd guess about 5, 7, and 10. The 10-year old, a boy, I'll call Jack.

Mom grabbed a shopping cart and set the course. As they passed a huge stack of soft drink cans in the aisle, Jack said wistfully, "I want a coke."

Mom replied pleasantly, "No."

"But Mom," Jack retorted, "I'm gonna dehydrate!"

Mom's response: "Let me know when you're done."

Discussion over. They proceeded down the aisle toward the cauliflower.

Did you catch the dynamics going on here? Let me dissect that brief piece of stellar parenting. Jack, 10, is thinking about Jack. His question wasn't, "Mom, can we stop and get something to drink? I'm thirsty and the other kids probably are, too." No, he saw something he wanted, something he apparently liked, and his first thought was to get some for himself. But of course he's ten.

Mom's response is classic in its simplicity: "No."

There is no apology, no equivocating, no attempt to justify her decision, no asking forgiveness that she doesn't feel inclined to stop what she's doing at that moment and fulfill his request. There is no explanation...no seeking permission from a 10-year old to make a parenting decision. Mom doesn't say, "We don't have the time for that right now." If she launches into a rationale for her decision she sets the stage for an argument. So it is short, uncluttered, decisive: No.

We expect push-back from a 10-year old and we are not disappointed. "I'm gonna dehydrate," he warns, as if to instill terror in her heart and create a paralyzing fear that the Childrens' Hydration Police will instantly appear and force mom to relent and buy him a coke. She is wise to his strategy and not in the least intimidated by his appeal.

"Let me know when you're done..." she replies. She calls his bluff. It is as though she says, "I am the mother and your phony plea does not move me. If you are seriously thirsty there is a water fountain at the front of the store by the restrooms. We'll meet you there after we check out."

Leadership parenting. Jack has re-discovered who's in charge. The other kids will pick it up, too. Wish I had it on film.

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Marriage Tip

No. 78

When You Give Attention, It Keeps Romance Alive

By Rick Warren

When you give your spouse your attention and focus, it's like you give them a piece of your life. Those focused moments of intimate sharing are time you'll never get back again. They are little pieces of your life. That's why the most loving act you can show your spouse is to pay attention to him or her. It's one of the most important ways you say, "I love you."

The truth is, you fell in love by paying attention. You started paying attention to someone, and that person started paying attention to you. It's that focused attention that'll keep the romance alive after you say your nuptials, have kids, raise a family, dig deeper into your career, and grow old together.

You show you care by staying aware. To keep growing, you need to figure out how to keep paying attention to each other. If you don't do that, your marriage will crumble.

One of the ways we let our attention fade in marriage is when we stop listening to one another. We assume we know what our spouses have said. We think we've heard them say it over and over and over. We start jumping over their words and thinking we know what they will say.

God gives us a great recipe in his Word for the kind of focused attention through listening that makes a marriage grow. James 1:19 says, "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (NIV). When you do the first two parts of that verse, the third one will be automatic. As you do this, you'll keep your marriage growing and going.

Why should you pay attention to your spouse? Consider these two important reasons:

You love the person. When you give your attention, you're showing love.

Sometimes God speaks through your spouse. In fact, next to the Bible, it's God's favorite way to speak to you.

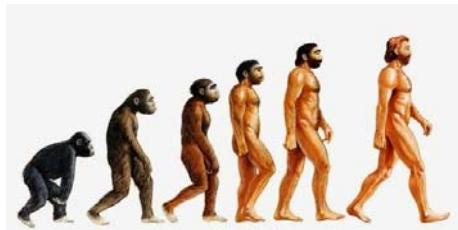
Spiritual Tip

101 Proofs for God: #64 Missing Links

By Jim Stephens

From the website:
www.101ProofsForGod.Com

I'm sure you have heard of the term "Missing Link" and understand that it refers to missing fossils in the fossil record that would show the transitional stages between certain species according to the Theory of Evolution. The theory predicts which species are the ancestors of other species and that there was a slow and gradual transition with intermediate generations.



Did you ever stop to think deeply about how many Missing Links there truly must be? Even just a rough guess? If you look at the imaginative drawings of evolutionists, you might suppose that there are just one or two Missing Links. But that could not be further from the truth. I intend to show you in this article that there would necessarily be billions of Missing Links if evolution were true.

Take a look at this Wikipedia page of Missing Links which they call Transitional Fossils. Many of the so-called missing links are mere drawings. A drawing is not a missing link and it is not scientific. They base these drawings mostly on their imaginations because all they have are a few bones and no complete skeletons. The page of so-called missing links are almost all incomplete, inconclusive, speculative, or controversial. That is not good science.



- Large heel
- Ankle adapted for walking
- Stiff midfoot for propulsion
- Adducted big toe in line with other digits
- Small heel
- Ankle adapted for climbing
- Flexible midfoot (midtarsal break)
- Grasping big toe

Evolution is supposed to take place by slow gradual mutations over many generations and Natural Selection acts on the results to weed out the new species or feature that is "fittest". I contend there would have to be millions upon millions of fossils we don't have and therefore these are Missing Links.

Let's take a simple example of "evolving" from a monkey foot to a man's foot. Using a slow and gradual transition, exactly how many intermediate foot shapes are needed to get from an ape foot to a human foot? The exact number is certainly higher than 10 or 20, don't you think? Note that the shape of the feet are different. The toes are different (especially the big toe). The mid-foot is different. The heels are different. And the ankle has changed a lot because a human walks upright. For each small change in the foot according to evolution theory there was a living being with that type of foot who produced descendants. Probably, in fact, there had to be more than one generation for each small change. Didn't there have to be a male and a female at each stage. It was living being with a transitional foot, right? It could have been fossilized like any ape or human that was. None have been found. Therefore, they are all Missing Links.

Just considering the foot alone, there have to be many generations of Missing Links. Now think about other parts of the ape body transitioning to the human body. The pelvis had to go through many, many changes to walk upright. This is also true for the neck. There are major changes to the skull, the chest, the arms, the hands, the spine, and just about every other part. For an ape ancestor body to be modified into that of a

human, there are going to be thousands upon thousands of changes. Therefore, there are thousands upon thousands of generations of Missing Links, not just one or two individuals. Both male and female transitional bodies must have existed.

Here's another important point to consider. According to evolution, mutation produces many variations of a given species and then Natural Selection weeds out the fittest one to survive. Think about how many variations mutated but did not advance as the "chosen" one and died out. Random mutation by definition must have produced hundreds if not thousands of "transitions" that lived and died but were not on the direct line from ape to becoming human. These beings lived and died but they were not part of the "fittest" which eventually resulted in humans. But where are their fossils? They are missing.

So far I have talked about Missing Links just between apes and humans. But evolution supposedly explains the transition from every species to every other species. There are something like 800,000 species in existence. They all evolved from something else, so we have to conclude that there are hundreds or thousands of Missing Links for every one of those other species of plants, insects, birds, fish, amphibians, mammals, etc. Otherwise evolution is not true.

How many Missing Links are there? I originally said billions. Can you see where I got that estimate?

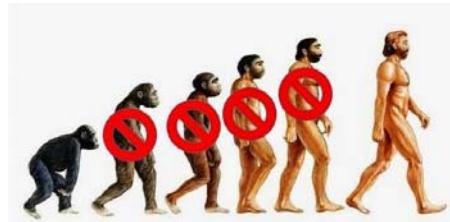
Darwin thought the problem of Missing Links would be solved once they discovered more and better fossils. But his problem has only gotten worse. Of all the known fossils today, 99.9% of them have been discovered since Darwin. In other words, we have 1,000 times more fossils today than at Darwin's time. The more fossils that are discovered and the better preserved they are, the less Darwin's theory is supported. Missing Links have not been found. Claims of Missing Links exist but in a tiny, tiny fraction of the number compared to predictions.

Another problem concerning Missing Links is that most supposed Missing Links have been

proved to be forgeries. Unscrupulous scientists wanting fame and fortune have trumpeted their "discoveries" of the Missing Link to prove evolution. As an example, the Nebraska Man was "reconstructed" from a single tooth. In the end it was discovered to be the tooth of an extinct pig. The Piltdown Man was falsified by combining a human skull and an apelike jaw.

Here's another argument that should be considered. Suppose someone claims some bones are a Missing Link. How can you prove the bones are from a being that produced descendants or exactly who those descendants were? One person cannot procreate anything. It takes at least a male and a female and probably at least a tribe of people to get child bearers of the right ages.

If you take out the faked Missing Links and then the controversial ones between apes and humans, all you really have left are apes and humans with nothing in between but someone's imagination.



There must be God.

(This article is a summary of the longer article on the website, www.101ProofsForGod.com.)

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