

Parenting Tip

Teenage Rebellion

By Don Jacobsen

Question: Dr. Don, our 13-year old is beginning his teenage rebellion early. We talked to him about it a couple of nights ago and he let us know that as a teen he feels he is entitled to some freedom. So he has begun staying out past the curfew we gave him. He only does certain chores that he doesn't mind doing, and he often talks very disrespectfully to both his dad and me. Do we just let this behavior run its course or should we somehow deal with it?

Reply: Your son is right, of course. As a teenager he should be getting more freedom than he did when he was eight or eleven. But the part of the equation he hasn't figured out yet is that he thinks he can get freedom by rebellion. Fact is, freedom for a 13-year old is not an entitlement, freedom is more like a kind of pay check. The more you work to prove you deserve it, the more of it you get. Furthermore, the more rebellion he displays the more he is demonstrating that he is in fact not yet ready for self-management.

I would also like to re-frame your question a little. You talk about his "beginning his teenage rebellion early," as though you have determined that rebellion is a period he must pass through in order to move on to adulthood. Let me try to give you a different look at that process. It is the parents' job to set boundaries and establish rules; it is the child's job to test those limits. This is where it is reinforced that someone is in charge in the family, and it isn't him.

In the next half dozen years or so he will be making virtually all of the decisions about his life. So today is rehearsal for the real world. We give him additional freedoms so he can show that he is learning to use good judgment, make wise choices, exercise common sense, and ask for counsel when he needs it.

When he does something that is, well, childish, we reel in his rope just a little, explain why he now loses some of the privileges he had, that we're going to start over with a clean slate, and that we want him to have the freedoms back as quickly as he demonstrates that he can handle them. You know what? He'll actually be relieved.

Don Jacobsen is Administrator and Dean of Coaches for the Rosemond Leadership Parenting Institute. Don is a Certified Master Coach, author, educator, syndicated newspaper columnist, and clergyman; his third book, "Rare Kids; Well Done," was recently released. Visit his website at <http://rarekidswelldone.com/>.

Marriage Tip

No. 84

The Inner Lives of Husbands

By Shaunti Feldhahn

"I've been married 30 years, and I can't believe I never knew this before!" I've lost count of how many times a woman has said something like this after I've given a talk.

When I interviewed more than 1,500 men for a book on the inner lives of husbands, I realized just how many misconceptions women have about men - and how often those perceptions affect our relationships. Do you want to see your man with new eyes? Consider just a few of these findings.

Love is not enough

"Love is all you need," the popular song says. We women often agree - but men don't. In fact, in a nationwide survey, three out of four men said they would exchange feeling that their wives loved them if they could instead feel that their wives respected and trusted them. (Read that again, ladies. Ed.)

As foreign as this may seem to us women, respect feels like love to men.

Loving your man the way he needs requires that he feel your trust and admiration. Most of us do respect our men, but we may not realize that sometimes our words or actions convey exactly the opposite.

We wonder why he gets mad at simple things, such as teasing him about his hopelessness as an amateur plumber or suggesting that he ask for directions. He's mad because what he just heard was "You're stupid!" And if he thinks this is what you are saying throughout the day - even if you never meant to - it drastically affects how he feels about himself and about you.

God has given us many signposts for preventing these problems, and many of us have totally missed them.

Ephesians 5, for example, repeatedly urges husbands to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands.

We women excel at expressing love, but that's not what a man needs most.

Of course, you may not always feel like respecting him. But just as you want him to choose to love you even when you're not lovable, your man needs you to choose to demonstrate respect unconditionally.

That choice does tremendous things inside him. Throughout my survey, men often told me they couldn't become the strong, trustworthy, loving men they wanted to be without unconditional support and affirmation from their wives.

How do we do this?

As a start, we can try to become more aware of our unintentional disrespect and choose respectful attitudes, words and actions instead. For example, he needs you to respect his judgment; questioning him makes him feel inept. And at all costs, avoid belittling words. Tell him, "I'm proud of you!"

Shaunti Feldhahn is the author of **For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men.**

Spiritual Tip

101 Proofs for God: #18 The Fossil Record

By Jim Stephens

From the website:
www.101ProofsForGod.Com

Here's the real bottom line on the fossil record: There has never been any substantiation of the Theory of Evolution by Darwin. In fact, as more and more and better and better fossils are discovered, the evidence for evolution is getting worse and worse.[1]

Charles Darwin knew in 1859 when he proposed his theory, On The Origin Of Species, that there were a lot of gaps and "missing links" in the fossil record. He assumed that over time and with new discoveries that there would be more evidence discovered for evolution, but in fact the opposite has happened.

Darwin said in his On The Origin of Species:

"Lastly, looking not to any one time, but to all time, if my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking closely together all the species of the same group, must assuredly have existed..." [2]

In order for higher species to have evolved from lower species, there must necessarily be many numerous intermediate stages of transformation. If you think about it, there should be more of the intermediate entities fossilized than just the first species and the last one. Astoundingly, there is not even one of the proposed links in the fossil record. Zip. Zero. Nada.

Author Luther Sunderland interviewed five respected museum officials, recognized authorities in their individual fields of study, including representatives from the American Museum, the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and the British Museum of Natural History. None of the five officials were able to offer a single example of a transitional series of fossilized organisms that document the transformation of one kind of plant or animal into another.

The British Museum of Natural History boasts the largest collection of fossils in the world. Sunderland interviewed Dr. Colin Patterson, Senior Paleontologist at the British Museum and editor of a prestigious scientific journal.

Patterson is a well-known expert having an intimate knowledge of the fossil record. He was unable to give a single example of Macro-Evolutionary transition (i.e. one species evolving into another). In fact, Patterson wrote a book for the British Museum of Natural History entitled, Evolution. When asked why he had not included a single photograph of a transitional fossil in his book, Patterson responded: "...I fully agree with your comments on the lack of direct illustration of evolutionary transitions in my book. If I knew of any, fossil or living, I would certainly have included them..." [3]

If evolution were true, there should be millions of fossils of the intermediate links between species along every branch of the "Tree of Life". But there are none. I repeat, there are none. Please note that Evolutionists need to find a lot more than just one "missing link". They need to find millions. But there aren't any to be had.

Scientists keep finding better and better preserved fossils. The most recent discoveries in Chengjiang, China, are the most outstanding fossils ever found, but still no missing links. Since Darwin's time, paleontologists have uncovered about 99.9% of our current fossil record, but still no missing links.

Australian scientist and medical doctor Michael Denton wrote Evolution: A Theory In Crisis. This is from pages 160-162.

"Since Darwin's time the search for missing links in the fossil record has continued on an ever-increasing scale. So vast has been the expansion of paleontological activity over the past one hundred years that probably 99.9% of all paleontological work has been carried out since 1860."

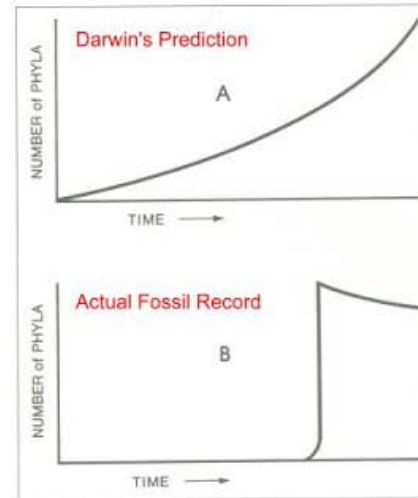
"Despite the tremendous increase in geological activity in every corner of the globe and despite the discovery of many strange and hitherto unknown forms, the infinitude of connecting links has still not been discovered

and the fossil record is about as discontinuous as it was when Darwin was writing the Origin. The intermediates have remained as elusive as ever and their absence remains, a century later, one of the most striking characteristics of the fossil record." [4] [5]

A second enormous problem with the fossil record for the Theory of Evolution is that the vast majority of species appear at about the same time period in history, called the Cambrian Explosion.

Darwin predicted that slowly and gradually over time the higher forms evolved from the lower forms. But the fossil record indicates that almost all life forms "suddenly" appeared during the Cambrian Age which is about 2% of the time line of the life of the earth.

Here is a chart of the actual fossil record for the appearance of species. [6]



Do some research on your own. I suggest you look up "problems with the fossil record" or "Darwin and the fossil record."

Isn't it about time to junk the Theory of Evolution? Darwin said it himself, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." [7]

His theory has totally broken down.

There must be a God.

[1] The Theory of Evolution can take many forms. I am referring specifically in this case to the theory that humans evolved from single celled organisms and also that higher order animals "evolved" from lower level species by some process of mutation and natural selection.

[2] Darwin, The Origin of Species, Chapter Six: Absence or Rarity of Transitional Varieties.

[3] [Colin Patterson, personal communication. Luther Sunderland, Darwin's Enigma: Fossils and Other Problems, 4th edition, 1988, 88-90.]

[4] Quote from the following website:

<http://www.allaboutthejourney.org/problems-with-the-fossil-record.htm>

[5] DVD: Darwin's Dilemma: The Mystery of the Cambrian Fossil Record, Illustra Media, 2009 for information about Chinese discoveries.

[6] Icons of Evolution: Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution Is Wrong, by Jonathan Wells, Regnery Publishing, 2000, Figure 3-5, page 43.

[7] Charles Darwin, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life, 1859, p. 158.

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