

Parenting Tip

7 Things I Said Before I Had Kids That Are Total BS

by Kzoodad

I remember back when I first found out my wife was pregnant, I had plans for what type of parent I was going to be. I remembered the mistakes my parents and my friends with kids had made and I was going to do it better. Gone were the bad habits, and the tricks parents used to not really engage their kids. I was going to do it right, and I wasn't alone. My childless friends felt as I did. We knew how to do it better and we were going to.

Now four, almost five years later let me tell you, I was wrong. I was very, very, very wrong. It didn't take me four years to realize this, it just took me four years to have free time to write it down.

7. Before – My children will eat what I cook – I will teach my children to appreciate fine cuisine. They will have expansive pallets and enjoy trying new things as much as I do.

Now - Please eat. I don't care what. We have been sitting at this table for over an hour. Please eat something. I long ago gave up on making exciting new dishes. Now I make whatever the kids want if it will just make them eat. Hot Dogs and Pop-tarts for every meal? Fine. Just please eat.

6. Before – My children won't be lied to – I'm not going to lie to my children. I will be honest with them. I will tell them how things work and won't dumb things down for them. Knowledge is power, I want them to have it.

Now – I lie everyday. Why can't we go to McDonalds? It's closed. Can I have a snack? No it's almost dinner time (in 4 hours). Can I play with your iPhone? The battery is dead (or I want to play on it). Why? Because I said so. Sometimes a quick lie will save hours of arguments and explanations. Sometimes one lie will get me an hour of quiet, and it's worth it

5. Before – My children won't eat fast food – The food served to my kids will be organic and healthy. We will take the time to cook good foods and not my children become part of the raging obesity epidemic sweeping the nation.

Now- Unless you are planning on coming over here to cook, I don't want to hear it. Also read number 7

4. Before – My children won't destroy my things – I won't allow my children to act like the ruffians I see at playgrounds. My children will know better and will not break things. They will respect their own as well as other people's property.

Now – The kids break everything they touch. If they can get near it, they can break it. The only things I have left are what is on high shelves. For example my mom bought my kids a snow globe. The girls loved it. They also broke it in less than an hour from receiving it.

3. Before – My children will play outside. TV will be limited – My children will learn to play outside and the amount of time they spend with TV's video games and other such electronic devises will be very limited. Their imaginations will be their entertainment fostering a growing imagination and creativity.

Now – As we watch Frozen for the 1,000th time I have to admit I let this one get away from me. Sometimes if the kids are fighting and I turn on the TV I can get 5 minutes of quiet. FIVE interrupted minutes of quiet! When we travel the iPad is a must have item. But some good has come from this, my daughter uses a few learning apps that have been great for her. (she's reading at four!)

2. Before – My children will respect and listen to me - I will teach my children about listening to and respecting adults. My children will not talk back or scream not like those hooligans I saw at the store crying and acting out despite what their mother said. All because she didn't give them some trinket they wanted.

Now - The other day I gave a long speech about responsibility and listening. I talked about good behavior and not being naughty. I was talking to the cat and I think got farther than when I gave the same speech to the kids. When I am less than a foot away they claim they can't hear me. Excuses like that make me wonder if they are dumb, or just think I am.

1. Before – My children will keep my house clean. – From birth I will teach my children to put things away they will be responsible for their belongings. I am not a maid and won't clean up after them.

Now – Yeah I was dumb.

Marriage Tip

No. 91

Finding Your Soul Mate Is No Where In The Bible

By Mark Gungor

Surprising to many, there is absolutely no biblical evidence to substantiate "finding your soul mate." The Bible never tells us to find the one God has chosen. It teaches us how to live well with the person we have chosen. And there is a distance of infinitude between those two thoughts. It assumes that life, love, romance, and marriage are the result of a couple living by God's principles - that never fail. But this version, which places true love and marriage on the footing of human choice and responsibility, just isn't nearly as romantic or seductive.

Many people of faith bristle when I take this position and ask me, "But what about when Isaac prayed that God would bring the right woman to him at the well?"

First of all, Isaac never prayed such a prayer; it was Abraham's servant who did. Abraham had sent his servant back to his homeland to find a relative for his son, Isaac, to marry. True, the servant did pray at the well that God would help him find the right girl, but he wasn't looking for some divine soul mate, he was looking for a relative of Abraham. In fact, when you read the story in Genesis, the servant does not begin to praise God until he learns that the girl is in fact, one of Abraham's relatives.

Now, if you are comfortable with one of your dad's employees searching for a cousin for you to marry, I guess it would be appropriate for you to pray that God will lead him to the "right one." But beyond that, the Bible is clear that marriage is your decision - not the result of divine edict. In point of fact, I can find only two places in the Bible where God ever told someone to marry a particular person.

One is when God spoke to Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Joseph wanted to abandon her when he learned she was pregnant, knowing he wasn't the father. But God revealed to him that her pregnancy was by the Holy Spirit - obviously, an unusual situation. But even in this case, Joseph had previously chosen Mary.

The only other time God told someone to marry a particular person is when God told the prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute. (And I will concede that if you are considering marriage to a prostitute, you probably should have a divine revelation before doing so.) But even then, God did not tell him which prostitute to marry. It was still up to Hosea!

Though it is not supported in Scripture, there is something about the soul mate blather that is a siren song to the human soul. We want to believe it - it is so...romantic. And with this longing deeply embedded in our psyche, we inadvertently impress these thoughts onto the Bible as we read it. Sad to say, but the sacred Scriptures, which have brought unspeakable comfort and a blessing to countless mortals, have also been used over and over to justify numerous untenable positions.

I'm suggesting that the problem is that we don't understand the dynamics of true love. We think we do. Our songs, movies, romantic novels, and TV shows all echo the belief that true love will always appear when we meet the right person, our destined soul mate. And this love will hit us hard out of the blue - an idea charged with mystery and romance. So the search for romantic love continues to occupy the minds of people, even those who are married! The result. High divorce rates and a plummeting marital happiness index.

The truth is a successful marriage is not the result of marrying the "right" person, feeling the "right" emotions, thinking the "right" thoughts, or even praying the "right" prayers. It's about doing the "right" things - period.

Why doesn't God have a special person just for you? Because He knows that His principles of love, acceptance, patience, and forgiveness work, and they work all the time, every time - no matter to whom you are married. That is why the apostle Paul never told us to find that "special someone," but rather to make sure we find someone who truly believes and lives by the principles of love, acceptance, patience, and forgiveness. He referred to such a person as a "believer."

Even though I don't think there is such a thing as a soul mate, I'm not saying the dating process shouldn't involve a hunt to find a special someone - someone compatible with you, someone with whom you have made a connection. If you are single, I think you should expect that, even strive to find a person with whom you can share feelings of deep affinity, friendship, sexual attraction, and compatibility.

That being said, I think finding someone to journey with in marriage is the slenderest part of life-long relational journey. A great marriage is mostly about two people committing to each other and then employing principles such as love, acceptance, patience, forgiveness, sacrifice, and unselfishness, to enrich that committed relationship.

Marriage is more about work than about divine luck, more about finding someone to love than about finding someone to meet your own laundry list of personal needs.

Spiritual Tip

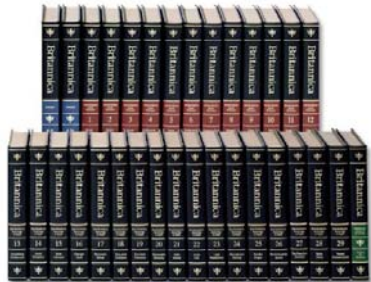
101 Proofs for God: #37 Information

By Jim Stephens

From the website:
www.101ProofsForGod.Com

"There is enough capacity in a single human cell to store the Encyclopedia Britannica, all 30 volumes of it, three or four times over." [1] This is a quote from Richard Dawkins.

I don't know about you but if I came across an encyclopedia that was three or four times the size of the Encyclopedia Britannica, you could never get me to believe that it came into existence without any intelligence behind it. But that's what Richard Dawkins, famous atheist, believes and evangelizes, and probably also makes a lot of money espousing.



"To illustrate further, the amount of information that could be stored in a pinhead's volume of DNA is staggering. It is the equivalent information content of a pile of paperback books 500 times as tall as the distance from the earth to the moon, each with a different but specific content." [2]



Let me say that in a different way for you. The distance between the earth and the moon varies, but the average is 238,900 miles (384,400 km). Imagine a stack of paperback books, all different, that is 11,945,000 miles high. Now shrink down all that information until you can put it on a pinhead. That is the reality of the world around us. That's how much information exists all around us in every square millimeter of the plants, animals, and people we see. Almost incomprehensible!



Atheists do not believe there was any superior intelligence behind all that information. It all comes from accidental mutations and natural selection (which I have already written about as processes that LOSE information). The more scientists discover about DNA and microbiology, the harder atheists have to work to keep believing in nothing as the source of life.

"...But in all the reading I've done in the life-sciences literature, I've never found a mutation that added information. ...All point mutations that have been studied on the molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not to increase it." [3]

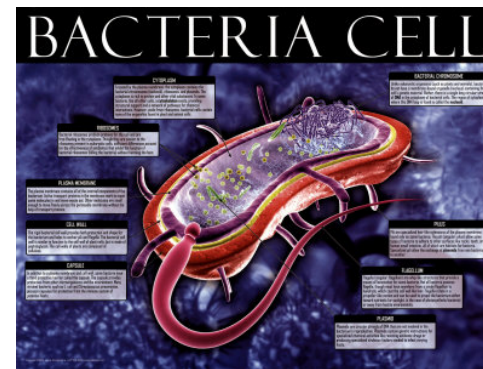
(NOTE: Let me say that in layman's terms. The very type of mutation that evolutionists depend on happening billions of times to produce all current life forms has NEVER EVER been observed even once in the history of science.)

Life cannot exist without order and information. Every living being starts out with a single cell

which contains all the information needed to eventually build the complete organism. When scientists tried to determine the smallest amount of information necessary to still end up with a potentially living organism, they came up with 256 genes. But they profess this theoretical organism might not be able to survive on its own.

"More recently, Eugene Koonin and others tried to calculate the bare minimum requirement for a living cell, and came up with a result of 256 genes. But they were doubtful whether such a hypothetical bug could survive, because such an organism could barely repair DNA damage, could no longer fine-tune the ability of its remaining genes, would lack the ability to digest complex compounds, and would need a comprehensive supply of organic nutrients in its environment." [4]

"Is it really credible that random processes could have constructed a reality, the smallest element of which – a functional protein or gene – is complex beyond our own creative capacities, a reality which is the antithesis of chance, which excels in every sense anything produced by the intelligence of man? Alongside the level of ingenuity and complexity exhibited by the molecular machinery of life, even our most advanced artifacts appear clumsy..." [5]



Encyclopedic amounts of information are required for the most basic form of life to exist. It could not be assembled step by step and then suddenly come to life. The information had to already be there at the beginning of life.

Imagine the most complex system you can think of, say a supercomputer, a skyscraper, a spaceship, whatever. The amount of information to build those systems is not enough to build the first living cell.

Life is no accident.

There has to be God.

[1] Famous atheist Richard Dawkins, **The Blind Watchmaker**, p. 115. (New York: W. W. Norton 1986)

[2] Jonathan Sarfati, **Refuting Evolution**. p. 121 (Green Forest, AR, Master Books, 1999). Original information from W. Gitt, "Dazzling Design in Miniature", *Creation Ex Nihilo*, 20(1): 6, December 1997-February 1998.

[3] L. Spetner, **Not by Chance** (Brooklyn, NY: The Judaica Press, Inc.) p. 131-143.

[4] Jonathan Sarfati, **Refuting Evolution**. p. 123 (Green Forest, AR, Master Books, 1999). Original information from W. Wells, "Taking Life To Bits", *New Scientist*, 155 (2095): 30-33, 1997.

[5] M. Denton, **Evolution: A Theory in Crisis** (Chevy Chase, MD: Adler and Adler Publishers, Inc. 1986), p. 328.

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