

“And in this corner we have Kirk Hastings prancing about as he prepares to battle a neanderthal!”

TOP TEN QUESTIONS FOR DARWINISTS

by Kirk Hastings (2011)

- 1) How can science tell us on the one hand that life originally evolved from non-life, but spontaneous generation is always impossible?
- 2) According to Darwinism, why do living things become more orderly and complex over time, but everything else in the universe eventually descends into disorder and chaos?
- 3) Why does science demonstrate that all animal species have strict limits as to how much they (or their DNA) can change into something else, yet Darwinists continue to insist that animals can in fact change over time into almost anything?
- 4) If, according to Darwinism, we are nothing but an arbitrary combination of matter, energy, and random processes with no intelligence, direction, or purpose behind it, and our brains are nothing more than a physical organ that randomly evolved from non-living matter, and our thoughts are nothing more than random electrical and/or chemical processes that came about by sheer chance, then how can anyone trust their own so-called "rational" thoughts to accurately tell them the real truth about anything?
- 5) Why did such a complex thing as higher individual rational consciousness ever bother to "evolve" anyway? Lower animals, plants, insects, bacteria and other microbes survive and reproduce quite well without it!
- 6) According to Darwinian evolution there is no Creator God (i.e., no ultimate authority in the universe). Then ultimately there is really nothing more than survival, self-interest, and self-centered personal opinion. There can be no such a thing as moral "right" or "wrong", and there can be no such thing as "justice" and/or "fairness" either,

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because things either just are, or they aren't. According to Darwinism, all moral standards must be, in the end, nothing more than philosophical junk. We should have the right to do anything we can (rape, murder, lying, stealing, bullying, etc.) in order to survive and reproduce. Why don't we?

7) If Darwinian evolution is true, then why did life ever evolve at all? Simple matter and energy have no need of it in order to continue to persist and function, and all living things only live a relatively short period of time, die, and then cease to exist. According to the rules of evolution, this is highly inefficient, and totally unnecessary to the continued existence of the universe. In the end, complexity only serves to complicate "survival". Then why does evolution seek this kind of complexity at all?

8) If life DID "evolve", then why did it ever evolve beyond weeds, ants and cockroaches, which are much better equipped for reproduction and survival than we are?

9) If the whole "point" of Darwinian evolution is increased complexity, reproduction and continued survival, then why do all living things slowly wear out, die, and disappear after a relatively short period of time? This makes evolution pointless, because it is seriously failing to achieve its goal.

10) If Darwinian evolution is true, and we are simply the result of random processes with no real reason or purpose, then why should we even be concerned about surviving, either as individuals or a race? Why shouldn't we all commit suicide as soon as possible, in order to get all the pain and suffering of this world over with quicker -- especially since we are only going to die eventually anyway?

Sent:

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 11:12 AM

Response:

I haven't exactly been paying attention to the conversation between Charley and yourself because honestly I haven't much interest in going over Intelligent Design vs. Evolution. In fact, beyond the email Charley forwarded on to me last night

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wherein your latest and his latest response was there for my perusal, I've been completely out of the loop on this discussion. The one thing I was able to glean without a doubt is both of you admitting you had reached an impasse and therefore should commit your time elsewhere. Much to my surprise, I discover this email in the main account which leads me to several conclusions.

Forgive me for saying so, mate, but it's rather cowardly of you to refuse coming onto the show to discuss your books, research, and beliefs and then to send us this. Why, you may ask, is this a yellow-belly sort of thing to do? Let's play out the events in our heads, shall we?

You forwarded this on because you believe these questions cannot be answered and because you just couldn't settle for not getting in the last word. IF we were to take these questions and discuss them on our show by ourselves, due to your continued refusal to present yourself, any answer we could give in response to these questions would then fall to you. With us absent you could throw together any sort of commentary you liked about how we misinterpreted what you were attempting to say with the question and had you been there you could have set us onto the truth. Far as I can tell this is more pathetic than masturbation because none of us are going to get anything in the end, but it's the safest and most craven thing for you.

Now, from the looks of things we're going to have you on the show with that other co-host with whom I'm sure I'm supposed to remember his name. That show will not be discussing Intelligent Design vs. Evolution as the topic will be why, taking the premise that a god/gods do exist, your god is the true one which should be followed. I propose we have a show separate wherein you can bring up all of these things which you feel are irrefutable. I'm sure with half a brain tied behind your back you should be able to soundly defeat us. After all, neither of us have written a book nor have we spent as much time researching these matters as you have.

So here's the deal, either accept the offer to come onto the show or stop pestering us. You see, I have no respect for someone who spends their time writing books about what they believe, but when the opportunity comes to discuss it openly with an alternative viewpoint the writer/believer decides to hide in the shadows. This tells me even they can see the flaws in what they're proposing and don't want it to be demonstrated in front of a group. And, lest you believe this response is an invitation to get into a further email discussion, I could give two shits about discussing these issues privately. If you respond to this with anything more than your acceptance or refusal to come onto our show I'll simply flag you as spam and you'll have to go back to clinging to the coattails of the

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Evidence 4 Faith guys. You'll find I have far less patience for cowards than Charley does.

Either accept the invitation and we'll work out a date and time or refuse and simply come on the show with the Evidence 4 Faith guys. Since I have no interest in any other option, there isn't any alternative path here.

Leighton.

Sent:

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 12:28 PM

Response:

Leighton,

I'm sorry you got the impressions that you did from my sending you the "Top Ten Questions". You are certainly entitled to believe what you want about me. But I can tell you that I didn't send the questions to you in order to "get the last word in", or that I am necessarily "refusing" to do a podcast with you and Chuck. Dr. Mike is busy with his medical practice right now, and can't do the podcast debate with you guys and Keith. So Keith asked me to do it with him. When you said you wanted to do a podcast with me, I thought it didn't matter whether it was me alone, or me with Keith. I didn't think it made a difference one way or the other. Apparently it does? I haven't totally discounted the possibility of doing a podcast with you guys on my own at some point, but there are a couple of things which cause me to hesitate.

The main hesitation I have to doing a "live" podcast debate with you guys on my own is I am a writer, not a public speaker. I have not been trained in public debating and/or public speaking. I am also do not have a particularly outgoing personality. You guys have been doing podcasts for a long time now (I assume?), and are no doubt pretty good at it. I only very recently started doing the "Evidence For Faith" radio show, and have no previous background in radio either. This would put me at a great disadvantage on your podcast, especially since it would be the two of you against me alone. I don't necessarily feel that I can adequately articulate what I believe and why I believe it right off the top of my head because I am also not good at rote memorization of highly technical and very specific information. Because of that I might not make a very good showing on a live recording. But that does not prove that what I believe is total bunk, and cannot be adequately defended. It just means that I personally might not be very good at doing it on a live recording. If that makes me a "yellow-belly", then so be it. You'll just have to think that.

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And, let's face it, I am also at another real disadvantage in debating live with you guys, considering your debating "style": my personal moral beliefs forbid me from using bad language, obscenity, and "put-down" humor when debating with other people. You guys have no such constraints. That really stacks the deck in your favor with a live debate, doesn't it?

I have absolutely no problem if you want to use my "Ten Questions" on a podcast of your own, and respond to them as you see fit. That wouldn't bother me. I sent them to you to show you how I'm thinking about this stuff, and maybe to make you think too. You are perfectly free to either use them or chuck them as you see fit. And I personally have no plans to discuss on the "Evidence For Faith" radio show however you might or might not respond to these questions.

Also, it is only your assumption that I believe the "Ten Questions" are irrefutable. I'm not saying that they are. I'm sure you can probably come up with some response to them. From my e-mails with Chuck, I'm sure he will come up with some response to them, as he's quite intelligent. I don't know that I'll necessarily agree with his responses, but I am certainly aware of the fact that there aren't too many questions in life which are completely "irrefutable" (if any). Even debating our own existence is not completely irrefutable!

Actually, I wouldn't mind a bit if either you or Chuck responded to those questions via e-mail. I'm curious as to what your answers would be. I can't say that I've ever heard an evolutionist respond to those particular questions before. That's why I wrote them.

And I guess I misunderstood some other things too: I didn't think I was "hiding in the shadows" concerning what I believe by writing books, articles, and e-mails, and not being a public debater. I thought the very fact that I was conducting a back-and-forth e-mail discussion about these things with Chuck was an example of being "open" about what I believe. But I guess you don't believe that either. I've already thanked Chuck for taking the considerable time necessary to respond to my long e-mails. I do appreciate him taking the time from his busy schedule as a doctor to do so. He certainly didn't have to do that.

But obviously you aren't interested in any such thing. Thus I won't send anything else to you, as you've made it perfectly clear you don't want anything from me.

Sorry, mate, for bothering you!

Kirk

Sent:

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 2:04 PM

“And in this corner we have Kirk Hastings prancing about as he prepares to battle a neanderthal!”

Response:

Kirk,

First off, I thought only those within my family were good at playing the martyr, but apparently this is something which can span the globe.

Taking from Charley's cue:

Paragraph 1: I couldn't really care less if you bring someone along while you present your ideas concerning Intelligent Design or if you came yourself. The fact of the matter is when you contacted us you wanted to present your material on Evolution and when you were asked to come onto the show you declined. Taking that into account, your appearance with Keith, apparently I should attempt to remember his name, has absolutely nothing to do with your claims concerning Intelligent Design. We set the topic from the get go so there would be plenty of time for preparations on Mike's, Keith's, and now your side of things. IF you would like a completely separate show for you to demonstrate your Intelligent Design evidence that can be arranged and you can bring on whoever you want.

Paragraph 2: Let's see, I am a 3D modeling and animation instructor, a scuba divemaster, and an electrical engineer. Charley is a practicing physician and a father. As far as I can tell none of us have the upper hand in this arena as none of us have been trained orators. In fact, if any could be considered to have the upper hand it would be you because you have researched all of this information over and over again while writing your novels. Yet you still feel inadequate, somewhat of a mystery to me concerning the amount of time you have spent on this single subject, so bring on someone with you who is familiar with the material and can pick up the slack when you find yourself floundering.

Paragraph 3: Our debating "style"? I must thank you for that considering the amount of laughter this paragraph has afforded me. I guess it turns out we weren't polite enough when we went on the Evidence 4 Faith show. That in mind, you should apologize to Mike and Keith on our behalf for the "bad language, obscenity, and "put-down" humor" used "when debating with other people". We must have been terrible representatives of the atheist community due to our uncontrollable natures. This reminds me of a christian show I was told to listen to recently. Due to my rampant laziness I didn't get around to it until yesterday. At minute 2:05 the words of one of the hosts proclaimed there would be too much of an advantage and the other host declared he should tie half his brain around his head when entering a debate with their opponents. Then at minute 21:10, while discussing a letter sent in by an atheist, these two hosts sat around and mocked

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what was sent in to them without considering it or even answering what was proposed. The only difference between these two hosts and ourselves is they attempt to put a pretty bow on their mockery whereas we make no attempts to mask anything and actually attempt to answer the questions posed. You have no leg to stand on with this argument as you are just as guilty of "put-down" humor and if you were really concerned with your oration skills you wouldn't be jumping in with Keith to do the show with us.

Paragraph 4: The only way I would have interest in discussing this list of questions on the show is if you were there, by yourself or a companion of your choosing, however, as you feel these are profound questions I'll make you a deal. If you accept coming onto the show we will discuss these questions at that time. If you refuse, for whatever reason, I will post everything on the main page of the site. If you truly did send this list with the intent to, "show you how I'm thinking about this stuff, and maybe to make you think too.", then you're hoping to change minds. Posting things on the site would give everyone who goes there the opportunity to determine the quality of and their responses to these questions.

Paragraph 5: Granted you may not believe these questions irrefutable, but you believe they are powerful enough to change minds otherwise you never would have sent them. No point in picking at straws here.

Paragraph 6: Not going to happen. If you want my responses to these questions you have one of two choices: come onto the show and discuss them personally with me or decline and, since you've given permission, I'll post for our fan base. At that point I'll probably chime in to responses here and there, but there certainly won't be any responses from me through email. That's about as pointless as it can get. Why muck about in the shadows when the quickest way to find an answer is to shed as much light on a thing from as many different light sources as possible?

Paragraph 7: Yep, writing books, articles, and emails is hiding in the shadows. Each of these things is done within the comfort and safety of one's home wherein you surround yourself with your own thoughts and those who have like-minded assumptions. You are buffered from criticism by the walls you have set up around you. Much different from putting everything you have on the table week after week and inviting as many as you can possibly find to contradict, challenge, and agree/degrade your research and ideas. Refusing to put yourself and your ideas in center ring, as far as I am concerned, is a lack of confidence in the "truth" behind your words as much as it is a lack of confidence in yourself. A "back-and-forth e-mail discussion about these things" is spineless due to the fact that such a debate will not see the light nor will it have the opportunity to be scrutinized by any except the two involved which is less useful than a monkey fucking a

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football. A one-to-one transfer of information has a much more minuscule chance of changing minds than a one-to-many. With a one-to-many transfer you actually have a chance to change minds so, yes, I see your methods of hiding from scrutiny as cowardly.

Paragraph 8&9: As soon as your done playing "pity-party" you'll accept the fact that the only interest I have in perusing your information is if it will become a topic of public scrutiny. Anything else is beyond a waste of time.

Conclusion: As stated, you can accept the offer to come onto the show to discuss these things, with another of your choosing if you like, or you can refuse and I'll simply post this to the website.

Leighton.

Sent:

Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 3:49 PM

Response:

Leighton, I have to say you make a compelling case for having Kirk come on the show based on how nice we are. You really went out of your way here to be kind to Kirk. I mean, who wouldn't want to come be interviewed by us based upon the gentle, welcoming, and extremely non-combative nature of your email?

Chuck

Sent from my iPhone

Sent:

Wed, Jan 26, 2011 at 10:30 AM

Response:

Give us a kiss!

My Dearest Leighton,

Geez, mate, why don't you just throw caution to the freakin' wind, and tell me how you REALLY feel?

Paragraph 1: As Chuck mentioned in his e-mail, I don't recall ever actually refusing to come on your podcast. Did I? When did I do that? Either I'm more intellectually conflicted than I thought, or I'm suffering from early alzheimer's, 'cause I really don't remember doing that. As far as I know, I am going to be on the podcast with Keith (Keith -- Keith -- remember, Keith) and you guys. Duh, don't that demonstrate that I have at least some guts?

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You don't care about very much, do you?

Paragraph 3: I already conceded that you guys behaved yourselves very well on the last podcast with us. So did Keith. I'm not sure why you did, but you did. Keep it up! And I don't doubt that you listened to a Christian radio show where the hosts were obnoxious and high-and-mighty self-absorbed. There's all kinds of jerks in the world, both "Christian" and non-christian. As far as I'm concerned, that doesn't dilute the Christian message one bit. Christianity is Jesus Christ, not all the idiots in the world who may call themselves followers of His and act like imbeciles (and there are a lot of them).

Paragraph 4: As I said before, use my "Ten Questions" on your website or your podcast any way you like, or don't use them. I don't care. (See, I'm learning something from you already!)

Paragraph 6: No problem not writing e-mails (this one, of course, excluded). Incidentally, I got you to answer the last one, didn't I?

Paragraph 7: You have a really interesting way of looking at things. Obviously you are not a writer, and have little or no love for them. Do you read at all? (How about comic books?) Geez, you really think that everything other than personally duking it out on Main Street at High Noon is "spineless", "cowardly", and "hiding in the shadows", don't you? I think you're in the wrong field. Instead of being an electrical engineer you should have been a boxer. Or maybe a hit man for the Mob.

Paragraph 8-9: I guess it was a mistake being honest with you about how I felt about doing the debate. According to you, that's a sign of weakness, isn't it? Wanna have a duel at 20 paces instead? (I'll pick the weapons, and you don't get one.)

Geez, I'm really in a lot worse shape than I thought. According to you, I'm a spineless, cowardly little martyr sitting here all alone in my dark little hiding place in the shadows writing pointless books and being totally dishonest with myself and believing in all kinds of myths and legends while drooling all over myself and kicking the cat around. I gotta make an appointment with my shrink as soon as possible.

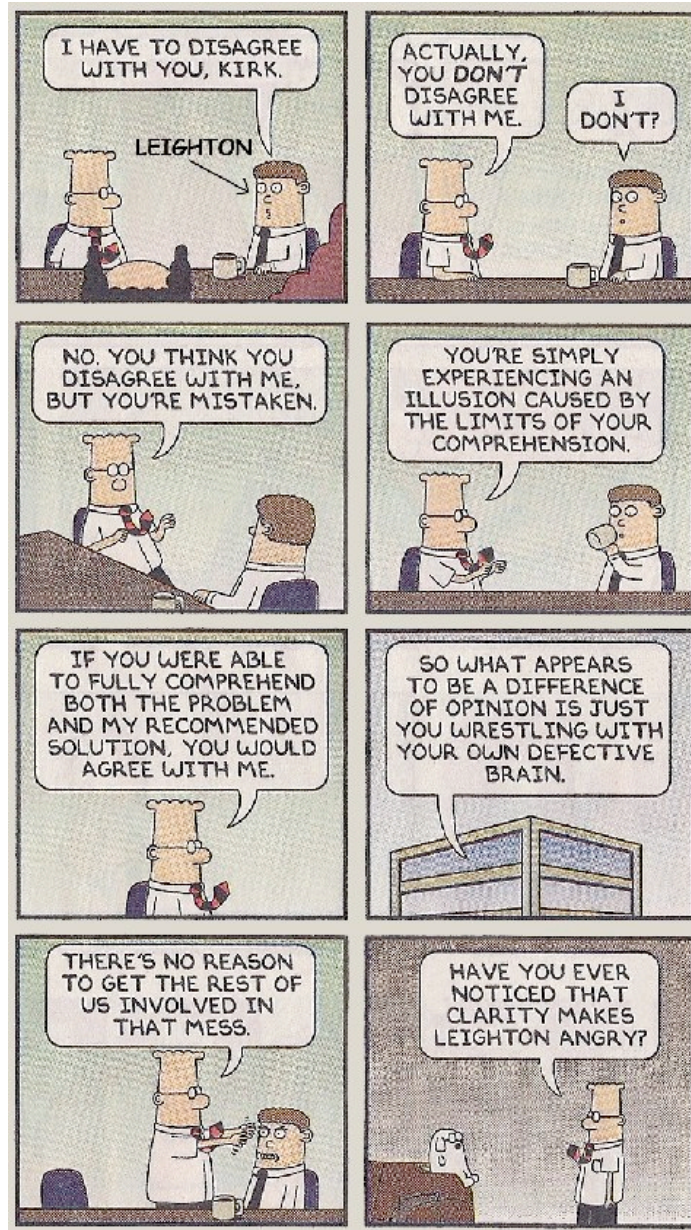
Excuse me, but I need a drink. Don't think it hasn't been fun talking to you, 'cause it hasn't!

Actually I have enjoyed it a little -- it feels so good when I stop!

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Kirk

P.S.: Being an animation instructor, you may get a kick out of this. Or maybe not. (I don't care!) ...



Sent:

Wed, Jan 26, 2011 at 11:58 AM

Response:

My Magnanimous Kirk,

“And in this corner we have Kirk Hastings prancing about as he prepares to battle a neanderthal!”

Calling it as I see it is about all I ever do.

Paragraph 1: Actually, you did refuse to come onto the show **to discuss your writings concerning Intelligent Design vs. Evolution**. Unless I was informed incorrectly, when you began to contact us you were invited to come onto the show to discuss your books. You declined. Coming onto the show to discuss a vague religious topic with your partner having an MA in Christian Apologetics doesn't exactly raise your guts much higher than that of a guppy. I might actually be impressed if you would stop circling this appearance on our show and admit the only time you'll go public and discuss the words within your own writings is when that public is Christian and will swallow whole what you're saying. Very limited chance of criticism among the audiences you choose to surround yourself with.

Oh, I care about plenty. Especially if there's some long legs attached to it. Har har.

Paragraph 3: That's true, you did concede to our behaving ourselves, and then you attempted to use our gruff nature on our own show as an excuse for not coming on to discuss your ideas on Intelligent Design. Sooner or later you may have to pick a side here. Are we gruff sons of bitches who curse every other word during an interview or are we well-behaved individuals there for an actual discussion? "And I don't doubt that you listened to a Christian radio show where the hosts were obnoxious and high-and-mighty self-absorbed. There's all kinds of jerks in the world, both "Christian" and non-christian..." Quite the fitting description you've given here especially considering it was Keith and yourself I was referring to. Here I would have thought mentioning the examples and the times they occurred would have put the lightbulb above your head. I guess I can't be so nebulous when pointing out things.

Paragraph 4: I'll post everything today since there are no objections.

Paragraph 6: This may not make any sense to you, but you have the exact personality as my brother Sean. I responded to clarify things due to your inability to grasp the concepts. You have no fear, after this our contact will only be among the civilizing airwaves.

Paragraph 7: Excuse me while I wet myself with laughter. At the age of 19 I wrote and published my first book. I've written ten others, four of which I believe have descent substance, but my writing is more of an entertainment than anything else. Concerning actually cracking a book open, my preferred readings range between the 17th to early 20th century writers with one of my personal favorites being "Lady Chatterley's Lover" due to the situation the heroine was put into and

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the story of rejuvenation which unfolded. It is the perfect metaphor for those of us who are simply accepting what life hands us until that spark enters our life pushing us beyond what we believed we would never have again. Now, if you would like more classic literature I could bring up the Bronte Sisters for which I prefer Charlotte's "Jane Eyre" due to her absolute stubbornness in creating a magnificently plain heroine. Currently I'm reading "An Improbable Journey: The Life and Times of Eugene Jelesnik" and "The Christian Delusion". Ah, but you much prefer the grunting neanderthal side of me. I have been many things including an underground fighter on three different continents with the first of these underground fight clubs started by myself. In fact, at times I fought for a little extra cash to extend my travels, but I far prefer the simple down and dirty, random brawl. If you have anyone in need of a hitman I have ways of eliminating a body which would make your head spin.

Paragraph 7(Continued): You are far mistaken. I do not see all writers as cowards sitting within the dark confines of their home madly banging away at the keys due to their safety from outside scrutiny, just some of them. Those who put their ideas out there and refuse to step forward and face opposition, those are the spineless ones of which I speak. You are among the latter of these. I've heard you discuss your Intelligent Design "evidence" on the E4F show, but as soon as you're invited to discuss them on ours you quickly throw up a smokescreen about how gruff and crude we were knowing full well how polite we can be during a debate. However, you were quite willing to engage Charley in a "quiet" email discussion. Your behavior is why I consider you pusillanimous. You pretend to throw your cock and balls out there for everyone to hear them clack together in the wind, but at the first uncomfortable breeze you curl up into yourself much like shrinkage. You throw up a smokescreen as you retreat about how you are not intellectual or articulate enough to properly display your "facts", that you aren't an orator. Bollocks. If you have hard facts on your side there is no need to be intellectual, articulate, or an orator. All you need is the balls to state them because facts speak for themselves. Sell your excuses elsewhere. Far as I'm concerned you're little more than another theist who hides themselves beneath the rose-colored God glasses at the first sight of a contradiction or evidence which conflicts with your perfectly laid religion.

Paragraph 8-9: Honesty isn't a weakness. Excuses and cowardice are though. As I don't back down from a challenge I would offer you a suggestion; make sure whatever weapon you choose puts me down before I reach you.

I would suggest kicking puppies. They squeal more and you don't have to worry about the claws wrapping around your calf. You are right though, I have enjoyed myself immensely. It's too bad I have to behave myself during interviews/ debates. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a post to put up at Irreligiosophy.

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Leighton.

Sent:

Wed, Jan 26, 2011 at 2:56 PM