

## Ep. 310 - Eugenics \_Works,\_ Says Richard Dawkins.mp3

**Hemant** [00:00:00] This is Hemant.

**Jessica** [00:00:00] And Jessica.

**Hemant** [00:00:01] And you're listening to the Friendly Atheist Podcast. Please go to [patreon.com/friendlyatheistpodcast](https://patreon.com/friendlyatheistpodcast). Hello.

**Jessica** [00:00:08] Hi.

**Hemant** [00:00:09] It's an early Wednesday episode because we have a bunch of random stuff going on, so we'll just get right into it.

**Jessica** [00:00:15] I got 25 minutes of notice before this episode.

**Hemant** [00:00:17] Excellent. I figured we would start with something somewhat optimistic. So I wanted to give you this story that just happened this week in Seattle--just outside of Seattle. There is Kennedy Catholic High School. Typical private Catholic school. I guess a week or two ago, they fired two teachers. They did nothing wrong, but it was discovered that I think both teachers are in same-sex relationships. Maybe one just got engaged, not with each other--.

**Jessica** [00:00:45] Not with each other.

**Hemant** [00:00:45] But with their separate partners. But they were both basically fired. Now, the school didn't say that. In a letter to parents, they said both teachers voluntarily resigned, which may or may not be the exact same issue. Like, they didn't voluntarily resign because they want to, but maybe because they were pressured to do it.

**Jessica** [00:01:05] Right.

**Hemant** [00:01:06] But in any case, these were two popular teachers who, other than being in--being gay and presumably with partners and they're not celibate, like, or not planning to because they're about to be married or something. They didn't do anything wrong. And here's the difference. We've talked about this every time this type of story happens. The school may be within its right to do all this. Legally speaking...

**Jessica** [00:01:29] Yeah, legally...morally/ethically--

**Hemant** [00:01:29] But because it's a private school--right. Ethically and morally, the Catholic Church is not a good place to be.

**Jessica** [00:01:35] Right.

**Hemant** [00:01:36] And so here's what was surprising to me. (This is why I thought this was somewhat good news.) The backlash to the school's decision from within the school--.

**Jessica** [00:01:47] Uh-oh.

**Hemant** [00:01:47] --has been overwhelming. There was a GoFundMe page started to help out the teachers since they no longer have a job. In a few days, I think, it's raised more than 33,000 dollars--.

**Jessica** [00:01:57] Wow.

**Hemant** [00:01:57] --for the two of them. Yesterday, Tuesday of this week, there were two separate protests. One was outside the Catholic diocese in Se--that includes Seattle.

**Jessica** [00:02:08] Yeah.

**Hemant** [00:02:08] The other was outside of the school itself. This is from an article about it: "Protesters circled the block where Seattle's archdiocese office stands. Pausing to chant, "reinstate, not hate" and "separate church and hate."

**Jessica** [00:02:25] Oh, that's good. That's a good one.

**Hemant** [00:02:26] Yeah. And yesterday morning, Cath--the Kennedy Catholic students made signs and staged a sit-in that clogged some of the school's hallways. At one o'clock, they walked outside (I'm paraphrasing here) they walked outside the school, spilled out onto the lawn, spok into a mic in front of a banner that said "Who Would Jesus Fire? #Lovelove. Now, will any of this change what the school is doing? Probably not.

**Jessica** [00:02:51] No, but it'll probably change some points of view of these students.

**Hemant** [00:02:54] Yeah. And if their parents were upset about this, because some parents are, like, saying exactly that.

**Jessica** [00:02:59] What?

**Hemant** [00:02:59] One mother, one very, very deluded mother said to the news, like, that she knew that the rules said you can't be in a same-sex relationship, but, quote, "she didn't expect the school to act on it," like, dude, have you met the Catholic Church? There's no depth to which they will not sink. Also, here's the other issue with this. Yes, they have a right to fire these teachers, but it's always interesting to see which sins the Catholic Church and these schools go after. If you're in a same sex relationship, yeah, they're totally going after you. If you're a woman who quietly gets an abortion early in your pregnancy and no one knows about it or at least finds out about it, they're not going to know about it. So they won't come after you. If you're a guy who pays for an abortion and they don't know about it, they don't care if you're divorced and remarried. That's a problem in the Catholic Church in some ways, but they don't consider that fireable offense.

**Jessica** [00:03:58] Right. Tattoos. Shellfish.

**Hemant** [00:03:58] Right?

**Jessica** [00:04:00] Mixed fibers. It's all--

**Hemant** [00:04:01] It's always only the sin of homosexuality that they ever seem to care about.

**Jessica** [00:04:06] I'm really, really curious about what, sort of, was the inciting event, because I wonder if it's one of those, like, secrets that everybody kind of knew both these teachers--

**Hemant** [00:04:14] I wonder if one of the teachers posted that, "hey, we're engaged" or something--

**Jessica** [00:04:19] But how would that rope the other one in?

**Hemant** [00:04:19] Maybe the other one in a similar story. I didn't get, I didn't find those details in a few different articles about it. Again, if they're gay, that alone, I haven't seen Catholic schools go after teachers. Maybe, maybe occasionally, but not really. They don't go after them for being gay--.

**Jessica** [00:04:38] It's only when they get engaged.

**Hemant** [00:04:39] It's when they get engaged and saying like, yeah, I'm about to get married. And that is a violation of the Catholic Church's rules. Being gay is not.

**Jessica** [00:04:47] Right.

**Hemant** [00:04:48] But acting on it in any way.

**Jessica** [00:04:49] I wonder if you had said, like, yeah, we're engaged and we're going to get married, but we're both celibate.

**Hemant** [00:04:55] I mean, then they could have gotten away with it. It's entirely possible.

**Jessica** [00:04:58] And I mean, like, how do you disprove that? Like, is someone going to, like, knock on their door and be like "Y'all bangin' right now?"

**Hemant** [00:05:02] They--the Catholic Church makes up its own rules. Again, this is the-- as long as they can't see it--

**Jessica** [00:05:07] Right.

**Hemant** [00:05:07] And as long as no one knows about it, they're fine. But when you're open about--

**Jessica** [00:05:12] Yeah. That's not--God, I [indistinguishable], well, good for those kids.

**Hemant** [00:05:16] Good for Catholic kids because they're better people than Catholic priests.

**Jessica** [00:05:21] Right. And I think this is what we are--one of the many reasons we're seeing such a mass exodus from the church is that, you know, abuse, stuff like that came out last week, well, that we discussed last week about them saying, whoever said, like, pedophilia never killed anybody but abortion did.

**Hemant** [00:05:40] Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:05:40] People see that and they're like, well, fuck this, actually. And this starts happening, and, like, you know, it's--

**Hemant** [00:05:44] The Catholic Church's whole argument about abuse is that it's an anomaly. This is not what normally happens in the church. There were just a whole bunch of bad eggs. But the homophobia and the way they treat LGBTQ issues and stuff. No, they're--we're very well vocal about the fact that, no, this is what we stand for.

**Jessica** [00:06:05] Right.

**Hemant** [00:06:05] And so it's like, well, you can't even give him the benefit of a doubt on this. It's like, no, that's part of the rulebook. If you're a Catholic, that's what you're saying. You support, whether or not you personally do--.

**Jessica** [00:06:16] Right.

**Hemant** [00:06:16] It's a problematic institution. So these parents were upset about what the church is doing, and you know how they can make a difference? Pull their damn kids out of those schools. Stop giving them money. I don't want to blame the students. They don't necessarily have a choice about it--.

**Jessica** [00:06:30] But no--

**Hemant** [00:06:31] --but the parents probably do. And some, most of these cases. Looks like a fairly--I don't know the community, but if it's, like, an affluent community, odds are the public schools are also pretty good, too.

**Jessica** [00:06:40] Right. Um. You don't have anything about the Boy Scouts filing bankruptcy, do you? Or do you?

**Hemant** [00:06:46] I don't. But just quickly touching on that, too. I saw people yelling, I mean, saying, like, well, you know, they were bigots for so long on one side, like they didn't let in gay people until so relatively recently. Then you had Christian Right activists who are like, well, you let in the gays, and what happens? The Boy Scouts goes bankrupt.

**Jessica** [00:07:04] Right.

**Hemant** [00:07:05] Except no, it has nothing to do with any of that. This has to do with sexual abuse cases from decades ago that are only now, like, oh, we got to pay up.

**Jessica** [00:07:15] Yeah, I was--

**Hemant** [00:07:15] We need to file for bankruptcy.

**Jessica** [00:07:16] Right. I was on one of my stupid Facebook--local Facebook--groups that I love to troll, and I just saw a really, deeply dumb argument from a really earnest person who was, like, well, and somebody said the Boy Scouts failed their mission. Their one job is to keep kids safe. Like beyond anything else, if you are in the Boy Scouts' care your kids should not be, like, being molested or put in harm's way. And another guy was, like, making that case of like, oh, it's just a few bad apples. And it's like, okay, even if it is, which, it's systemic, so it's not.

**Hemant** [00:07:53] Right. It's more than just--

**Jessica** [00:07:55] It's still the Boy Scouts' responsibility, it's still the Catholic Church's responsibility to have a vetting process, to have a training process, to have a system of punishments and, you know, accountability in place. So, yeah, that--that's what happens. You fucked up. You failed your literal one job. Bye. See you never.

**Hemant** [00:08:14] Yeah, I don't I don't feel bad for it. They've made so many mistakes. So it's, like, just when the Boy Scouts started on the road to doing some of the right stuff. Where they're, like, all right, we'll let in gay scouts. Okay, we'll allow gay scoutmasters. Okay, if you're trans, fine. We'll let you--okay, girls, fine. Because they support our values.

**Jessica** [00:08:36] Well, and also, whatever losing membership in such a big way that they had to kind of, like, stop narrowing that stream of people like that--

**Hemant** [00:08:43] And the funny part is when they started doing the right stuff, all the Christians and Mormons are like, what?

**Jessica** [00:08:48] Soo maaaad.

**Hemant** [00:08:49] You're allowing more people to join? Gay people? No, this violates our intolerance here.

**Jessica** [00:08:55] And it's too bad this is how it ended. I know people who had really positive experience in the scouts and felt that it taught really valuable skills.

**Hemant** [00:09:02] I was a Cub Scout. It was fine.

**Jessica** [00:09:04] I was a Daisy and a Brownie.

**Hemant** [00:09:06] Look at you.

**Jessica** [00:09:06] I wish we, like, did camping stuff. I think we just, like, I think just crafted.

**Hemant** [00:09:11] Yeah. I feel like I made Pinewood Derby cars and that was the end of my scouting career.

**Jessica** [00:09:15] Um, wanna hear a fast funny story? Mikey has--my husband, Mikey has--two brothers and they're--they're all the same age, and they were in a Pinewood Derby thing with their troop. And so they--say there's 20 kids?

**Hemant** [00:09:29] Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:09:29] Every single kid got a trophy except for Mikey and his one brother, and so on the way home, they st--.

**Hemant** [00:09:35] Man, that's bad.

**Jessica** [00:09:36] On the way home, their dad stopped at, like, a Walmart or, like, a weird trophy store, like, bought them consolation trophies. And he brings it up, like, twice a year. I really think it broke him in a big way.

**Hemant** [00:09:49] And that's why the Boy Scouts are going bankrupt.

**Jessica** [00:09:54] Exactly.

**Hemant** [00:09:55] This is also a really funny story. We've talked about Arkansas State Senator Jason Rapert, um Ray-pear, whatever, he's a Christian national and state senator. He's the guy who put a Ten Commandments monument outside the state courthouse.

**Jessica** [00:10:09] He's a literal monster.

**Hemant** [00:10:10] He--he says some horrible stuff. He's also the founder of what he calls the National Association of Christian Lawmakers. His attempt this past year to make other people just like him or at least support people just like him because he's very persecuted as a white Christian male--

**Jessica** [00:10:27] And he's just a state senator, right? He's not even, like--

**Hemant** [00:10:28] In the South. He's a state senator.

**Jessica** [00:10:30] I can not believe he is still--

**Hemant** [00:10:32] He's running to be lieutenant governor in 2022. Oh, and that will probably be under Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

**Jessica** [00:10:40] Oh, fuck. I forgot about her.

**Hemant** [00:10:41] Right.

**Jessica** [00:10:42] Ugh.

**Hemant** [00:10:43] So--

**Jessica** [00:10:43] I just can't believe how much time this guy takes up my life, considering he's a state senator from a state I've never been to.

**Hemant** [00:10:49] Right. So the National Association of Christian Lawmakers put out a poll on Twitter, which is always the most scientific way to do anything.

**Jessica** [00:10:58] Oh, I know! [laughs].

**Hemant** [00:10:58] And they have asked, do you believe America would be better off if more Christians served in elected office? You know where this is going.

**Jessica** [00:11:07] You know, I participated in this poll.

**Hemant** [00:11:08] Yes. Wouldn't we be better off with more Christians in elected office? And here's the thing. You know what they're trying to do.

**Jessica** [00:11:15] Oh, yeah.

**Hemant** [00:11:15] Who's gonna follow the Twitter account of the National Association of Christian Lawmakers? It's like three people like me and a whole bunch of Christians. So they assume all the Christians will respond. They'll be able to say, look. Ninety-nine percent of Americans wants Christians in public office--

**Jessica** [00:11:29] Extremely scientific--

**Hemant** [00:11:30] So, of course, people caught wind of this, a whole bunch of non-Christians and maybe progressive Christians decided to chime in and say, no, we would not be better off. And at one point that I captured, like, a couple days ago, this is with six days left on a seven day poll. It was ninety-six percent, said NO.

**Jessica** [00:11:55] Ninety-six?

**Hemant** [00:11:55] I don't know what it is now, because now they've caught on and they're like, hey, Christians get in on it.

**Jessica** [00:11:59] It was, like, ninety-eight the first time I saw it.

**Hemant** [00:12:01] Yeah. But basically the poll was skewed at one point. Enough, long enough, for everyone to take screen shots of the hilarity.

**Jessica** [00:12:07] Which is all we need.

**Hemant** [00:12:08] And so, since then, the--Jason or whoever is running this account--responds to the survey by blaming everybody--

**Jessica** [00:12:18] And specifically Satanists.

**Hemant** [00:12:20] Yeah, we're aware the Satanists and Atheists have decided to pile on this poll. Something. Something. Jesus. First of all, it's--you're welcome. But, like, as if no Christians could possibly be against a right wing Christian nationalist saying we need more people like us who do all the worst things in power. Then he went on--this was even funnier than blaming a Satanist for, like, their stupid Twitter poll. If you--they said--they linked back to the original poll, and they said if you look at the comments underneath the original post, they said view those comments to see what, quote, "religious persecution and anti-Christian bigotry looks like in America," unquote, which just kind of goes to show you when you're looking for examples of Christian persecution. It's, like, look at random comments on a Twitter thread. When you talk about any other group being persecuted--

**Jessica** [00:13:14] Right. [laughs].

**Hemant** [00:13:15] It's, like, we'll go to a hospital. Go see what the law says, because people like, you know, Rapert--

**Jessica** [00:13:21] Rapert.

**Hemant** [00:13:24] --decided to say, oh, let's just throw trans people in jail--whatever it is he does, it just hurts other people. That's what persecution is like. This guy's example of persecution is, like, oh, no Twitter thread. But.

**Jessica** [00:13:38] Right. You're slightly hurting my feelings. I hate it!

**Hemant** [00:13:40] By the way, while we're saying this current makeup of U.S. Congress is 90 percent Christian. We don't need any more. It's 90, close to 90. And by the way, the people that this guy wants in power are not just random people who call themselves Christian.

**Jessica** [00:13:58] No.

**Hemant** [00:13:59] It's people who are like, use the Bible as your guide to writing laws.

**Jessica** [00:14:03] Mm-hm.

**Hemant** [00:14:03] That's what he wants. That's what people are against. And the fact that he had to come up with a fake poll, because if you actually conduct a legit poll that says do people want more Christian nationalists in power. It's not going to go the way he wants it to go. So he had to come up with the fake Twitter poll and he's not even smart enough to figure that one out.

**Jessica** [00:14:21] Yeah, it's--it's pretty embarrassing. It's just not a good look overall. So we're recording on a Wednesday. Tonight is the...twelve...hundredth? Democrat debate?

**Hemant** [00:14:32] Yes. That is accurate.

**Jessica** [00:14:35] And I'm actually gonna watch this one, too. I watched a couple, but I'm very curious to see what this Mike Bloomberg situation is going to look like because I just feel like--

**Hemant** [00:14:43] There's so much ammo to use against him.

**Jessica** [00:14:45] And I feel like he's like they're all, you know, you know, obviously debating each other and have different opinions. And then Mike Bloomberg comes in and everyone is like, oh, fuck that guy!

**Hemant** [00:14:55] Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:14:56] Let's gang--I hope they gang up on him. However, Amy Klobuchar, who is doing pretty well, she's been--

**Hemant** [00:15:02] Yeah, surprisingly well--

**Jessica** [00:15:04] And she's another, um, another moderate candidate.

**Hemant** [00:15:07] Very moderate, as in, like, "Republicans will work with me," naive moderate, like Joe Biden.

**Jessica** [00:15:14] Yeah. Yes. She is an alternative to Joe Biden. She's a grown-up Pete Buttigieg.

**Hemant** [00:15:19] Yes.

**Jessica** [00:15:22] I'm not a--I'm really not "never-anybody" at this point, although fuck Bloomberg...fuck some other people. But, like, there's nobody I would not vote for quite

yet. But this was not a good look. She said, quote, "There are pro-life Democrats, and they are part of our party. And I think we need to build a big tent. I think we need to bring people in instead of shutting them out." So she...

**Hemant** [00:15:49] So she wants a tent broad enough to welcome anti-abortion.

**Jessica** [00:15:52] So I don't know what exactly that means to her.

**Hemant** [00:15:57] Right. So there's a way I could take that and make sense. It's the same comment--was it Bernie Sanders who was retweeting a Joe Rogan endorsement or something?

**Jessica** [00:16:08] Let's talk about Joe Rogan in a minute.

**Hemant** [00:16:08] Sure. And the argument I heard at that time with the Sanders thing is, like, you don't have to retweet him. He can do what he wants. Rogan. Like, why are you-- why is your campaign boosting this guy who has so many problems? And part of the reason and part of the defense was, well, you know, you want his voters. You don't want them to go to Trump, to which I say, fine, get his voters. Get them to vote for the Democrat. But you don't. That's very different from saying I'm going to tailor any legislative goals to whatever they want. Right. So if Amy Klobuchar, to me, is saying like, yeah, sure, I want anti-abortion people under the Democratic tent. Yeah, sure. We'll take your vote. We'll use you like Republicans use conservative Christians. Right. Like we'll take it. But what I want to know is how that impacts what she wants to do in office.

**Jessica** [00:17:00] Right. Because also at this point, it's not as if, you know, women's right to bodily autonomy, gay rights, things like that, are so set in stone that it's okay, if we have somebody with like hashtag problematic views. Right at this point, we are going to need to continue to fight for the next probably my entire fucking life.

**Hemant** [00:17:21] And to think that this is a thing that we ought to compromise about, like, no, you don't have to compromise on everything. There are some things you could take a firm stand on. That's why I don't like the moderates. It's like, on stuff that is important, they're not willing to take stands. It's like, no, we can work with Republicans. No. There are some issues you can logit say no, they can come to me. And by the way, here's where Klobuchar could say and get away with what she said. She could say, look, when Obama was in office, through the policies he enacted with the Democratic Congress, not nearly enough, but what she can do is reduce the number of abortions because there's less of a need for it, because you have more access to contraception, because whatever the reason is, because that's true. Abortion, the rates of abortion, I believe, went down under Obama--

**Jessica** [00:18:11] --I mean, and that consistently happens. You see it in Colorado. You see it everywhere.

**Hemant** [00:18:12] --and you could say, hey, look, if you want to lower the rates of abortion, that's something you would think there is common ground on, that policy wise, we could work together on that.

**Jessica** [00:18:22] Yeah, I mean--

**Hemant** [00:18:23] Right? Like, she could totally do that. But she didn't say that.

**Jessica** [00:18:27] Right, and--and if we want to say our goal is to reduce abortions--I know I sound like a broken record, but we know how to do that. We've seen the statistics. We've seen it happen in states like Colorado. We know how to reduce abortion. We also know what doesn't reduce abortion and what only reduces safe abortions and puts women in peril. So so if you want to frame it that way, fine. But don't frame it as a way to reduce abortion; frame it as a way to help women make their own choices and, and, and stand, you know, decide where they want their body to be at any given time. That's one thing, I will say, for Buttigieg, who, say what you will about him, he said, um... He received a question in the issue from an anti-abortion Democrat at a Fox News town hall last month. Thoughts, but whatever. And he said, quote, "I respect where you're coming from. I hope to earn your vote, but I'm not going to try to earn your vote by tricking you. I am pro-choice." That's how you answer that.

[00:19:29] Yeah. Again, let them come to you. If you want to reduce abortion. Guess what? Democrats will do that for you. Right. So what do you care about? If you care about hurting women, then Democrats need to be firm and say, no, we're not doing what the Christian Right wants. Because that hurts women. If your goal is reducing abortions, yes, sure. We're all--we're doing that anyway. It's not like, again, I take issue with the "we should redu"--do we want to keep abortions rare, or whatever, because that suggests there's something wrong with getting one .

**Jessica** [00:19:57] Right.

**Hemant** [00:19:58] But that's not the conversation we're talking about.

**Jessica** [00:20:00] And--which is why I always take issue, like I took issue with what's his face, who ran as Hillary's V.P.? I can't rememb--.

**Hemant** [00:20:05] Tim Kaine?

**Jessica** [00:20:06] Tim Kaine. I thought it was like Mike, something, I knew it was a white guy name. And he had sort of the--are you sneaking a thin mint?

**Hemant** [00:20:14] [distant from the microphone] Hell, yeah.

**Jessica** [00:20:14] Mikey brought home Thin Mints from the other dads. I was very happy.

**Hemant** [00:20:18] And so am I.

**Jessica** [00:20:20] Eat right into that microphone. [laughs]

**Hemant** [00:20:23] [garbled by what one can only assume is a mouth full of Thin Mints] ASMR.

**Jessica** [00:20:26] But he would say things like "I'm-- I'm pro-choice, but I would never get an abortion." And I think as long as--as the rhetoric around it is "abortions are negative, but I think you should be able to do it" or, like, there's something inherently bad about an abortion. But whatever. Like, then really points of view aren't going to shift that much because we're still looking at it as, like, an unfortunate thing that some women have to deal with. And, like, that's not really what it is. It's just a fact. It's a medical procedure. It's a fact of life. Like, no, she's like, well, we're going to have to take your wisdom teeth out.

We're really trying to reduce the number of wisdom tooth extraction. Like, it's just a fuckin medical thing, and let's treat it as such and not apply moral judgment.

**Hemant** [00:21:12] Right. But my wisdom tooth is sacred. How dare you? That's where all my wisdom is. Can we keep on this Joe Rogan trail?

**Hemant** [00:21:21] Ooh, yes. Where are we going with this?

**Jessica** [00:21:23] So recent--I don't--I must have talked about Joe Rogan recently. I don't know why. Because I got an influx of e-mails and tweets about how Joe Rogan is ,like, [with simulated vocal fry] "a really good guy." I just need to give him a chance.

**Hemant** [00:21:34] Oh, yes.

**Jessica** [00:21:35] Which--did you know? I think Jesse Thorn tweeted this--If you tell somebody have a podcast, they have a legal obligation to tell you about Joe Rogan.

**Hemant** [00:21:42] [laughter in voice] Oh, really? That's the rule?

**Jessica** [00:21:44] It's a law.

**Hemant** [00:21:44] [laughs]

**Jessica** [00:21:44] I don't make the rules. Um. [pause] So right now. [shorter pause as if gathering thoughts] So there's a lawsuit that's happening that, that people are suing transwomen from participating in women's sports. And that's the thing that people are like @-ing me about. It's like, oh, he once is, like, if you're trans, you have to disclose it. So what? And like what I say to that and what I will continue to say is trans women are women. And so, like, miss me with that bullshit. And that's sort of it. And yeah, it is transphobic. Like, you don't get to--i--it's transphobic. Shut up. I have another trans story.

**Hemant** [00:22:19] Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:22:21] So we talked about this guy. His name's Nicholas Meriwether. Hashtag WhitePeopleNames. He's a religious philosophy professor at Ohio's Shawnee State University. He got fired because he kept referring to one of his trans students by the wrong pronoun.

**Hemant** [00:22:40] And, like, purposely so.

**Jessica** [00:22:41] Like pur--being a dick about it, like not...whatever. And so he sued his employer. Um. He--

**Hemant** [00:22:46] I believe the story said, like, he calls all of his students, like, Mr. this or Mrs. That--or Miss That.

**Jessica** [00:22:55] Yeah.

**Hemant** [00:22:55] And he purposely kept calling this student by the wrong name.

**Jessica** [00:22:58] Right. Which is just him being a dick. Right?

**Hemant** [00:23:01] Right.

**Jessica** [00:23:02] So always a good, good sign: he got help from--he sued the university with the help from the Alliance Defending Freedom, which is an anti-LGBTQ lobbying group. He said that "they infringed upon his freedom of speech and religion by asking him to stop referring to female transgender students as men. So this has gone up to--um--this is the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio Western Division. You know. That one.

**Hemant** [00:23:31] Yes, of course.

**Jessica** [00:23:34] So on February 12th, Judge Susan J...[deh-LOTT']...D-L-O-T-T--[deh-LOTT'], I guess?--said that Meriweather, quote, "failed to state a claim for violation of his rights under the United States Constitution, that his use of male titles and pronouns to address Doe"--who is th-the student they were referring to--"was not protected under the First Amendment. She accepted an earlier opinion by Judge Karen Litkovitz, who wrote, quote, "by referring to Doe in male terms by using Doe's last name only, Plaintiff was not only sharing,--was not sharing ideas or inviting discussion but was directing his personal beliefs toward Doe, who objected to his speech, and other members of a captive audience who were not free to leave his class or decline to participate in class." So, being an asshole, his objection to free speech: that's fine and cool.

**Hemant** [00:24:21] Finally.

**Jessica** [00:24:21] Yeah, yeah.

**Hemant** [00:24:22] This--

**Jessica** [00:24:23] Big win.

**Hemant** [00:24:25] This was a--not surprising story, but kind of amusing nonetheless. In Florida, there's a theme park called the Holy Land Experience.

**Jessica** [00:24:34] In Florida?

**Hemant** [00:24:35] In Florida. I actually--I was in Florida last year, and I remember driving from one place to another and passing this? Like, I saw it on the side of the road--

**Jessica** [00:24:43] [gasps] And did you go?

**Hemant** [00:24:44] And I'm, like, oh, my God, it's that thing. Because I've written about them. I'm, like, I've never seen it in the flesh, but it's right there. And it's, like, yeah, you can experience what life was like in Jesus' times or whatever. They just announced this week, through a letter to the governor--because they got to announce if they're making any changes--something something business--but they said we're gonna fire 118 people who mostly work on our entertainment side--so, they do the stage shows and stuff you see at theme parks--they're getting rid of the actors and everyone associated with those sideshows. All 118 people, because, as part of a restructuring,--.

**Jessica** [00:25:20] [sassily]Mm-hmmmm.

**Hemant** [00:25:20] --meaning they're getting rid of everything that (theoretically) makes that park fun. Which means they're leaving behind educational stuff like Biblical artifacts, a model--model of ancient Jerusalem. And you know, those things kids can't wait to see--

**Jessica** [00:25:40] That sounds so boring.

**Hemant** [00:25:41] I knowww. That--yeah, this place wasn't doing well, and the funny part is, in 2014, they had, like, contributions or grants to the amount of, like, 2.5 million dollars, but by 2015 it was dropping to 2.2 million. 2016 they only had 384,000, and it picked up after that, but that's also when Ken Ham's Ark Encounter opened. So if you're looking for your, like, "I want to see Christian bullshit fed to me in a more entertaining way," you just go to Kentucky now.

**Jessica** [00:26:12] Mmm hm-mm!

**Hemant** [00:26:12] And so this place now has--

**Jessica** [00:26:13] They split their market.

**Hemant** [00:26:14] Yeah. And so it looks like the Holy Land Experience is either on the verge of shutting down or very close. Like, they're just very close to doing it.

**Jessica** [00:26:25] R.I.P.

**Hemant** [00:26:26] Yeah. Too bad I guess, but I wasn't the--one thing that was kind of--this is not news entirely. They've been losing money for years and they actually take advantage of a tax break in Florida that allows them to function as a nonprofit, which they're totally not, but whatever. So anyway.

**Jessica** [00:26:46] You know...I guess, uh--

**Hemant** [00:26:48] Sometimes the right things do happen.

**Jessica** [00:26:50] Right. I got a text from a friend of mine who's a documentarian. Have you heard of We Believe in Dinosaurs?

**Hemant** [00:26:57] Yes, we inter--I interviewed them. This is without you--.

**Jessica** [00:26:59] Oh, did you?

**Hemant** [00:26:59] Yeah. I interviewed them when they were making the film, before it had been released. It's a documentary about Ark Encounter, and they actually interview a critic of Ark Encounter. They talk to someone who works for Ark Encounter and makes some of the animatronics and the models.

**Hemant** [00:27:16] So like, this is a true believer. And they interviewed someone else as well. I can't remember. But basically they're saying, let's look at Ark Encounter from the perspectives of someone who's on the inside, someone who's fighting it from the outside. And even though they are secular in nature, I'm sure personally they're not fans of what the ark is promoting their documentary filmmakers. They want to capture the truth. But this week, PBS aired that documentary. So now it's available to everybody, not just film festivals or whatever. And Ken Ham, like, was furious. He's like, this is--they're--they're

taking stuff out of context. I forgot what he said. He's like, this is an unfair, biased film. It's not. Dude, they got one of your employees.

**Hemant** [00:28:00] It's--he's captured in full. He's not taken out of context,.

**Jessica** [00:28:03] Genuinely, if we told people on the Right and Christians they could no longer use the phrase "it was taken out of context," they would burst into flames at this point. Maybe we can watch that, discuss it on a bonus episode--

**Hemant** [00:28:14] We could do that. That--I've heard--that's a good film. I haven't been able to see the whole thing, but now that it's out...now, now it'll be available. But if you haven't had a chance, maybe PBS, anyone who has, like, I don't know if DVR, like, any of the streaming things, that's somewhere I'm sure.

**Jessica** [00:28:27] As a DVR?

**Hemant** [00:28:27] I don't know how stuff works.

**Jessica** [00:28:31] [laughs, but not in a mean way]

**Hemant** [00:28:31] Let's talk about Dawkins because he said--

**Jessica** [00:28:33] [distant from the microphone] I forgot about that.

**Hemant** [00:28:34] Yes, he exists. He did stupid stuff. All right. I'll give him the benefit of the doubt and frame this story that way. So.

**Jessica** [00:28:41] [farther away] Uh huh.

**Hemant** [00:28:42] And if you have e-mail, send them to Jessica.

**Jessica** [00:28:45] [indignantly] I--! [scoffs].

**Hemant** [00:28:45] So here's what--here's the backstory. If you're not aware of what happened this week. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the U.K., hired this guy, like an adviser to his office. Name is Andrew Sabisky. And when people did their digging on this guy, who is now part of, like, the UK Parliament administration for the Prime Minister, he has advocated eugenics. Like if we have people breed in certain ways, we could prevent a, quote, "permanent underclass." It's--he's like their Stephen Miller, like he has a whole history of saying the worst thing--

**Jessica** [00:29:18] Boris Johnson hired somebody who is an ass clown.

**Hemant** [00:29:20] YES.

**Jessica** [00:29:21] I can not believe it.

**Hemant** [00:29:22] And people were calling for this guy to be fired before he even really got started, because basically you have a racist in office. And you know what? In the U.K., this guy was--I believe he resigned before he could get fired. Yeah. But before that happened, when this was just coming out, like, oh, shit, this twenty seven year old has this long history of--.

**Jessica** [00:29:44] THIS TWENTY-SE-- [breaks off in disbelief].

**Hemant** [00:29:45] Yeah. Racist at twenty-seven. Who would have guessed? Who knew that a young white guy would be--have problematic views? But anyway--

**Jessica** [00:29:52] Not me.

**Hemant** [00:29:53] Dawkins--

**Jessica** [00:29:54] I've been on Reddit. Know all white guys are great.

**Hemant** [00:29:56] Yes. Richard Dawkins decided to weigh in without mentioning Sabisky or mentioning what that context was. Doesn't matter.

**Jessica** [00:30:03] [hissing the words disbelievingly] Oh my God, this is so bat--

**Hemant** [00:30:03] I'm going to paraphrase what he said before I say what he said. He basically said in theory, Eugenics would work. You can selectively breed people to acquire certain characteristics. But, he added, but it hasn't worked in practice.

**Jessica** [00:30:21] If the best way to frame that is--includes the phrase "breeding people"--

**Hemant** [00:30:24] He did not say that. That is me.

**Jessica** [00:30:26] [deadpan anger] Then you fucked up. Royally.

**Hemant** [00:30:27] Yeah. Here's what he actually said, quote, "It's one thing to deplore Eugenics on ideological, political, moral grounds. It's quite another to conclude that it wouldn't work in practice. Of course it would. It works for cows, horses, pigs, dogs and roses. Why on earth wouldn't it work for humans? Facts ignore ideology." So. Couple of things about that. Like, first of all, no one's saying it can't work. Yes, it does work, in practice, in the sense that you can breed people if you want to get rid of certain traits, because every time they've tried to do that, like when the Nazis did it, they, like, basically sterilized people, got i--

**Jessica** [00:31:06] Yeah. It comes as a form of forced sterilization, which is--I'm gonna go out on a limb and say--

**Hemant** [00:31:09] Which is--

**Both** [00:31:09] Not okay.

**Hemant** [00:31:13] And by the way, it doesn't work for cows, horses, pigs, dogs, houses--

**Jessica** [00:31:17] It doesn't.

**Hemant** [00:31:17] --because when you breed, like, dogs to acquire certain characteristics--.

**Jessica** [00:31:22] [sassily] Mm hmm.

**Hemant** [00:31:23] Sometimes those dogs don't turn out okay.

**Jessica** [00:31:24] Yeah. dalmatians have a history of deafness. Golden retrievers have fucked hips. I met a guy at the dog park who apparently had a golden retriever from a breeder. Which, like, hashtag judging you. (Sorry I keep hashtagging. That's been a thing lately. It's annoying. I'm sorry. [Transcription Editor's note: never, ever stop. There are plenty of atheist podcasts without intelligent women's comedic commentary. Lean the fuck in. More vocal fry. More hashtagging. All the swearing.]) (I do low-key judge people with purebred dogs. Sorry. Email me.) This guy has this dumb, uh, dalmatian...he has a golden retriever, and he was like, yeah, the vet said she has the hips of an eight-year old dog. She's 18 months old. His dog, like this dog is going to have a short and painful life.

**Hemant** [00:32:01] And part of the argument that people were making against what Dawkins is saying is you can selectively breed for certain traits, but we don't necessarily know what the consequences of that are. You're breeding for one trait. Well, what's going to happen elsewhere?

**Jessica** [00:32:16] Right.

**Hemant** [00:32:16] We don't know the mapping of everything.

**Jessica** [00:32:18] Right, so--

**Hemant** [00:32:18] No, it doesn't even work in practice.

**Jessica** [00:32:22] Yeah,--

**Hemant** [00:32:22] ..if you wanted it to...

**Jessica** [00:32:24] My--one of my favorite, like, fun facts that also demonstrates how little I slash we-as-a-society understand about genetics and breeding selective traits is--have you heard of the guy who was breeding foxes to try to domesticate them?

**Hemant** [00:32:40] No. Go on.

**Jessica** [00:32:40] So is this throughout the 90s, I think. But this guy said he wanted to see how he could domesticate foxes, make a fox into a suitable pet. And so you do that by taking--right?--taking the friendliest foxes of a couple different litters and breeding them and keep breeding, like, the nicest ones until you got something more domesticated. Do you know what happened as the foxes got more domesticated? Their ears started flopping over. Like, foxes' ears stand up, and the more tame they got, so to speak, their ears flopped over. And that is just one thing that--like, those two things somehow are tied.

**Hemant** [00:33:13] Yeah. We didn't know how.

**Jessica** [00:33:14] We didn't know how. And we didn't know why. So if that is just one thing that we see in one species breeding, one trait, there is absolutely no telling if like, if we tried to breed people with X trait. What the fuck else is gonna happen with them?

**Hemant** [00:33:26] Right. So there are--.

**Jessica** [00:33:27] Also, breeding people is not okay! I'm sorry--

**Hemant** [00:33:30] Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:33:30] [disbelievingly] I had to come back to that.

**Hemant** [00:33:30] And usually when we talk about eugenics, like, in modern terms, we're saying, oh, we could breed people so that you never have kids with certain traits like deafness or Down's Syndrome. But the parents of kids with deafness and Down's Syndrome would be very happy to tell you their kids are just fine. They're different. They're fine. Like, this is not something you need to get rid of.

**Jessica** [00:33:53] Yeah, my deaf friends aren't broken.

**Hemant** [00:33:55] Right. And so--so when you say eugenics, quote, works, that word, "works," is doing a lot of heavy lifting there.

**Jessica** [00:34:02] Yeah. Yup.

**Hemant** [00:34:02] And again, Dawkins then followed up--of course he did, because he had to--hours and hours later.

**Jessica** [00:34:08] Right.

**Hemant** [00:34:09] [quoting Dawkins angrily] For those determined to miss the point," (because it's your fault) "I deplore the idea of a eugenic policy. I simply said deploring it doesn't mean it wouldn't work. Just as we breed--

**Jessica** [00:34:19] But--

**Hemant** [00:34:20] "Just as we breed cows to yield more milk, we could breed humans to run faster or jump higher--"

**Jessica** [00:34:25] [angrily] To what end, though?

**Hemant** [00:34:26] --"but heaven forbid that we should do it." And again, what are the consequences of that? It doesn't just mean they're going to jump higher. And. Yes. To what end? That matters.

**Jessica** [00:34:36] You know, they--the--

**Hemant** [00:34:36] This is like when he said, "I'm just making a point about logic. Therefore, getting raped by a stranger is getting wor--is worse than getting date raped." It's like, okay, I get what you're trying to say about logic, that X is worse than Y--

**Jessica** [00:34:50] But you can say nothing.

**Hemant** [00:34:51] But I think you can also say nothing.

**Jessica** [00:34:54] It's like when--

**Hemant** [00:34:54] And also, THAT'S the example you jump to? That date rape is not as bad as some other type of rape? When did you become the arbiter of what the levels of rape are? Why?

**Jessica** [00:35:04] Yeah. Maybe a year ago, Neil deGrasse Tyson tweeted something that was equally stupid, but there was--in the wake of a major shooting tragedy in the United States. So like, you know, one of the last--five years [indistinguishable as Hemant joins in].

**Hemant** [00:35:19] Like, way, more people die from other causes, or something.

**Jessica** [00:35:21] Yeah, more people died from cancer or car accidents or whatever than gunshots. It's, like, you're not--.

**Hemant** [00:35:28] You're not helping. It's the it's the Big Lebowski thing: you're not wrong; you're just an asshole.

**Hemant** [00:35:36] [laughs hard, like someone who has never seen The Big Lebowski] Yes. Yeah.

**Jessica** [00:35:37] Oh, my God. And the thing that sucks and I--I--

**Hemant** [00:35:40] And by the way, Dawkins has since followed up on a separate thread saying cannibalism doesn't have to be the worst. Something like that. I'm paraphrasing again.

**Jessica** [00:35:50] And I think, again, giving him, like, the most benefit of the doubt: is he just trying to challenge what our mores are?

**Hemant** [00:35:57] Yes.

**Jessica** [00:35:58] And make us reexamine, like--?

**Hemant** [00:36:00] I think he's--I think he thinks he's raising everyone's consciousness about a controversial topic because no topic should be off limits.

**Jessica** [00:36:07] Yeah. I mean--

**Hemant** [00:36:09] But also, his job is communication. That's what he's forever been known as.

**Jessica** [00:36:12] Right.

**Hemant** [00:36:13] As the guy who knows how to communicate science. I've read his science books, forget the atheism stuff. I've read his science books--

**Jessica** [00:36:19] The Greatest Show on Earth is really good.

**Hemant** [00:36:21] Yes, they are fantastic. And he has the time to elaborate. And even then, he'll make mistakes in terms of, like, "God, you explained it in the worst way" and whatever, but also...whatever. I like his science books. He has a history of being really ignorant about how Twitter works and how he communicates--.

**Jessica** [00:36:42] Yes.

**Hemant** [00:36:42] How he thinks he sounds on Twitter and how it comes across on Twitter.

**Jessica** [00:36:47] And honestly--he is--it's very much like, how I feel about Joe Biden right now. He contributed some really great and important things. And I--I'm grateful for the good work that he has done. But he's no longer adding to the conversation. He's just tarnishing his own legacy, which was not sterling. Don't get me wrong, I don't think he's perfect. But, like, he needs to figure out what--what can he do that's contributing actual good instead of just stirring the pot? Because to me, it's like, so the eugenics thing and the cannibalism thing, it's like, you know, oh, let's reexamine why, oh, is in--is incest really that bad? I mean--.

**Hemant** [00:37:26] I've heard that, from atheists.

**Jessica** [00:37:28] But honestly--and my answer is, I don't know, but, like, is it really important that we address this?

**Hemant** [00:37:34] [laughing, using Jessica's usual wording] This is the hill that you want to die on?

**Jessica** [00:37:36] Yeah, like that's--is cannibalism the worst thing? No, probably not. But like, I'm not looking forward--like--

**Hemant** [00:37:40] Right.

**Jessica** [00:37:40] Like, I am ver--I have had conversations with my best friend about, like, if we land on a desert, and I die, and your only food source is me, by all means.

**Hemant** [00:37:50] [laughs]

**Jessica** [00:37:50] Go ahead. But also, I'm not, like, encouraging us to get into that situation. Like, why is this--? There're so many conversations that we should be having that are about real issues that affect real people, about trans rights and gay rights and women. How women face the world in a way that's different from men, how people of color face--those are the things that we should be raising the consciousness of, not--not, but are?--eugenics is okay.

**Hemant** [00:38:17] I think for me. Here's the big difference. In his books. He seems to go out of his way to say, what's the least charitable interpretation of what I'm saying? So if he's explaining evolution, what are people going to take out of context or misinterpret? And how can I address that, right here, right now, so that I can try to explain it in the best possible way? And he's really fucking good at that. On Twitter. That side of him never comes out, where he's like, well, if I say eugenics works...

**Jessica** [00:38:46] Right.

**Hemant** [00:38:47] What will people think? And how can I make sure they're not going to say that? Like, he doesn't attempt that side of the conversation. He thinks, nope, I said it, it's logical, if you get it.

**Jessica** [00:39:00] Well, and--

**Hemant** [00:39:00] If you're smart enough, then you know what I was saying

**Jessica** [00:39:03] It's like he refuses, like so many, generally, men of privilege, refuses to even say, listen, you're right. I shouldn't have said that. Like, this is--.

**Hemant** [00:39:15] Or at least I shouldn't have said it that way.

**Jessica** [00:39:18] Or, or just like, like he does, that if you had given me, like, the benefit of the doubt in every way you can make--because I do understand what he is trying to say. I just think that, A, he's wrong, and B, it's inappropriate. And why would he do that?

**Hemant** [00:39:35] There's a whole bunch of atheists who love rehashing these right wing talking points that are very--that sound like something we would see on, like, Fox News.

**Jessica** [00:39:45] When you say right wing talking points, do you mean--?

**Hemant** [00:39:47] Not pro-Trump talking points, but, like, let's talk about cancel culture. Let's talk about, you know, college campuses are really the worst place for everybody.

**Jessica** [00:39:57] Here's what I want to say about that,--.

**Hemant** [00:39:57] Like, they love bringing that stuff up. Why are you--

**Jessica** [00:40:02] Here's what I want to say:--

**Hemant** [00:40:02] --just adding to the Tucker Carlson mindset here?

**Jessica** [00:40:05] Oop! [background musical sound]

**Hemant** [00:40:05] Oh, I see how it is.

**Jessica** [00:40:07] Why did my alarm go off?

**Hemant** [00:40:09] [laughs]

**Jessica** [00:40:09] My 2:30 p.m. on a Wednesday alarm?

**Hemant** [00:40:10] I know. But yeah, they love bringing those issues up, because to them, that's the most important controversies we can be discussing.

**Jessica** [00:40:18] Here's what I want to say about that. As atheists, we do pride ourselves on--on approaching things with logic and thinking things through and not letting bogeymen scare us and really, really being thoughtful about our--our choices in life, which is good. And I think is by and large, true, most of the time. But also that can then blind us to our own personal biases. So, when--if I as a straight white person or you as a man, you experience a world in a certain way, and every opinion you have, and I think you'd admit it and I can admit it, every opinion I have isn't logicked into. We all have our weird biases that we pick up just through our, just through our own experiences. If you live in the city, you probably have a different opinion of people who live in rural, you know, rural countryside areas. If you're an American, you have an opinion about X people. We all are

shaped by our own experiences and our own personalities and our own identities. So the problem comes then when people who--straight white men who--are atheists, who very firmly do believe that every opinion they hold is the only right and logical opinion because they found it and they're logical. And therefore, that's the right answer. It almost seems like there's like an objective truth that they believe in. And that's not reality, and the faster that we can all acknowledge what our biases are and account for them, the faster we'll do better as a people and be more as accepting--[ring tone] Is that me?

**Hemant** [00:42:03] That's you, too.

**Jessica** [00:42:05] No, it's not me.

**Hemant** [00:42:06] Oh, son of a--.

**Jessica** [00:42:06] Ha HA!

**Hemant** [00:42:08] Go on.

**Jessica** [00:42:09] So I guess the point is, do not confuse--don't do us versus them. "Christians believe X because they've been indoctrinated. And I believe this because logic." You've been indoctrinated. I'm sorry to tell you. You've been indoctrinated by what--experience in the world as the person you are. And that's okay. That's not necessarily a bad thing. I bag on straight white guys all the time, A, because they run everything and are continuously fucking shit up. But they have operated for such a long time as the default, so--when you, when you say some, to a guy, maybe that point of view isn't right or fair or inclusive of other people's experiences, it-it blows their mind and it makes them angry. So I don't know how I got to bagging on white guys again.

**Hemant** [00:43:02] That's your default for every sort of--.

**Jessica** [00:43:04] It really is. It just kind of backslides there. Um. Anyway, just, like, you being smart, you being logical, doesn't mean you are inherently a truth teller and not susceptible to biases, I guess, is the end of my story. That works.

**Hemant** [00:43:22] I'm going to close out with a couple of really quick stories. There was a--a sign, like a political sign in the front yard somewhere, but it said "God bows down to President Donald--"

**Jessica** [00:43:33] Is this real?

**Hemant** [00:43:34] I'll get to that. "God bows down to President Donald J. Trump declares, quote, 'He is perfect.' Trump 2020." And it went around. I saw it on social media--Twitter, Facebook, everywhere. It is satire.

**Jessica** [00:43:46] It is?

**Hemant** [00:43:46] That guy who made it? Yeah, the guy who made it is mocking Christians.

**Jessica** [00:43:51] [chanting] Poe's Law. Poe's Law.

**Hemant** [00:43:51] Love--yes. It's such a good example of Poe's Law. Because the guy is just like, no, Christians are like part of--the Conservative Christians who work for Trump--they're part of a cult now. They don't care about Christianity. They care about Trump.

**Jessica** [00:44:04] Poe's Law, if you don't know, is what is satire gets to a point where it's indistinguishable--indistinguishable from the real thing it's mocking. Is that?

**Hemant** [00:44:13] That's pretty much it. Yep.

**Jessica** [00:44:15] Yeah.

**Hemant** [00:44:15] And this sign, that--a lot of people are like, yup, that's totally how they think. So that's real. Yep.

**Jessica** [00:44:21] I'm curious, what--did you see any reaction from like actual Trump supporters? Were there any among, you know, Trump supp--.

**Hemant** [00:44:27] I have any--.

**Jessica** [00:44:27] --supporters ranks, who were like, "Oooh, y--".

**Hemant** [00:44:29] I want that sign.

**Jessica** [00:44:31] --who were, "even that's bad for me."

**Hemant** [00:44:31] I have definitely not seen that because they, they don't know any depths, either. But it was funny how many anti-Trump people I saw tweeting this picture, like, look at how crazy these Conservative Christians are. And it's like, I--I know this sign is not real, but also, like, you couldn't tell the difference because of how far they've gone.

**Jessica** [00:44:52] Because guess what? No matter how smart you are, no matter what party you support, you are--you can be fooled.

**Hemant** [00:44:58] Yes.

**Jessica** [00:44:59] And--yeah.

**Hemant** [00:44:59] And I got one last story for you. This is a random story. It's not a news story, but it--it made me mad.

**Jessica** [00:45:06] [laughs].

**Hemant** [00:45:06] We've talked about "Girl Defined," that Christian ministry of two sisters, but basically one of the sisters--.

**Jessica** [00:45:11] Wait, no, I don't know what that is.

**Hemant** [00:45:12] It's--it's a young evangelical ministry with two women who recently got married, I think. But they're basically like we have advice for young teen girls because we used to be young teen girls, and their advice is always, like, yay, Jesus! Okay,--

**Jessica** [00:45:27] Are these the ones that sit and do YouTube, like, videos, like, facing the camera and saying, like--?

**Hemant** [00:45:28] Well, that's everybody, but yes.

**Jessica** [00:45:32] Yeah, yeah, but like biblical girls dress like this.

**Hemant** [00:45:35] More or less, yes.

**Jessica** [00:45:36] Like, top five things that--

**Hemant** [00:45:36] --good Biblical girls do--

**Jessica** [00:45:39] --that God-fearing men don't want in a wife, like that kind of thing?

**Hemant** [00:45:42] Yes, that sort of thng.

**Jessica** [00:45:42] So one of the things, this was, I don't know if they made a video about this, maybe they did. But I saw it on a post on their website.

[00:45:48] They basically trashed young girls who say, like, I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, you know, doggone it--

**Jessica** [00:45:56] Gosh darn it, people like me.

**Hemant** [00:45:57] Yeah, I'm awesome. I'm amazing. I'm the best. I can do anything. And then they go on to say, "These practices seem like a good idea. Isn't self-love important? Don't we need to build ourselves up to more in a world filled with so much negativity?"

**Jessica** [00:46:12] I feel like you're gonna turn quick.

**Hemant** [00:46:12] "Isn't--isn't this a positive combative solution?" I don't think so."

**Jessica** [00:46:19] [descending notes to indicate sarcastic sadness] Wuh wuh wuhhhh.

**Hemant** [00:46:20] "I think these solutions to self-worth and confidence will only do more harm than good in the long run."

**Jessica** [00:46:26] [feigning surprise] Oh! Uh-oh.

**Hemant** [00:46:26] "Because if you think you're good enough, you know what you're also saying?"

**Jessica** [00:46:31] What?

**Hemant** [00:46:31] "Jesus isn't necessary."

**Jessica** [00:46:34] [incredulously] Wait, what?

**Hemant** [00:46:35] Yeah. They're basically saying, no, you don't have to be enough. You will never be or have enough. You are a sinner in desperate need of a savior." Like those people who tell women, like, oh, you're single, like, oh, you can't be happy--.

**Jessica** [00:46:50] You're flawed.

**Hemant** [00:46:51] You're flawed. You need a man in your life like, no, I was I was doing just fine by myself until you came along.

**Jessica** [00:46:59] Wow. Wow, wow, wow. That's good and fine.

**Hemant** [00:47:00] And they went on to say, "Nowhere in scripture do we ever see God commanding us to love ourselves more." Like, Jesus. These friends are gonna be downers every time they're with you.

**Jessica** [00:47:11] I mean, nowhere in the Bible does Jesus say, like, make sure you get enough potassium or, like, vitamin D levels are linked to, like, bad moods?

**Hemant** [00:47:20] [laughs]

**Jessica** [00:47:20] Like, there's a lot of stuff that's not in the Bible.

**Hemant** [00:47:22] Then why do we need a banana? It's sinful.

**Jessica** [00:47:25] You've always been saying that. It's what you've said all your life.

**Hemant** [00:47:28] Yes.

**Jessica** [00:47:28] Hey, Hemant, when you eat a banana, do you peel it from the top or the bottom?

**Hemant** [00:47:31] I'm not weird. I peel it from the top.

**Jessica** [00:47:32] Okay. I have friends who are, like, big on "you peel it from the bottom, because it's better." I think those friends are stupid and--

**Hemant** [00:47:38] [laugh] This is why you don't have friends.

**Jessica** [00:47:43] I have one more--do we have time for, like one more--? Do we have time for the quickest thing about how cool churchgoing people are? A man in Tennessee, his name's Percy Thompson, he's 34 years old. He punched his wife until she was left unconscious.

**Hemant** [00:47:54] [angrily] Why?

**Jessica** [00:47:54] This was six days after a domestic violence charges dropped.

**Hemant** [00:47:58] Oh? Oh, all right.

**Jessica** [00:47:59] So he's fine.

**Hemant** [00:48:00] What happened now?

**Jessica** [00:48:02] The victim's mother. I'm not laughing at the victim, but just the world. The victim's mother said Thompson began yelling at his wife over what she wore to church. So...

**Hemant** [00:48:16] The hell did she wear to church? Doesn't matter, NO.

**Jessica** [00:48:18] Doesn't matter. Doesn't matter. Doesn't matter. Doesn't matter, But don't--

**Hemant** [00:48:21] But he beat her because of what she wore to church?

**Jessica** [00:48:22] In front of her children. So...

**Hemant** [00:48:23] In front of her children. Good, God-fearing man, right there.

**Jessica** [00:48:28] Yeah, that's pretty good. Yeah. He "allegedly pushed her down the steps in front of the home, in front of the children, and repeatedly punched her in the face. After the victim was unconscious, Thompson parked his car and left the scene."

**Hemant** [00:48:41] I hope he's arrested, found.

**Jessica** [00:48:44] Um, he has been arrested.

**Hemant** [00:48:45] Oh, good. See? Something.

**Jessica** [00:48:47] I think. Yeah, he was, yeah, yeah, I didn't include this, but he--he was actually arrested for attempted murder, like, they took it seriously.

**Hemant** [00:48:51] Oh. Okay. My God.

**Jessica** [00:48:54] Yeah. No, not great.

**Hemant** [00:48:55] What is wrong with the world?

**Jessica** [00:48:56] A couple, uh, housekeeping notes, um. Right now, as we record this. You can find my interview with Guy Branum on our Patreon page.

**Hemant** [00:49:08] Only. Yeah. If you're a Patreon donor, you have access to that podcast.

**Jessica** [00:49:11] Hey guys, it's \$1 a month. You get this interview plus a bun. This interview will ultimately be on the main feed. But I think there's about five or so episodes that only exist on Patreon. Another one's coming up. I recorded an episode of the bonus, uh, bonus podcast with my friend Matt, and we talked about the movie Hook, and A, it was fun. B, we recorded an entire episode. The computer got fucked up and lost it. So we started a new one at approximately 12:30 a.m. so it is slap-happy. It's silly. We were in high school together, so we discussed that. We discuss the, I don't know, gender politics. It was a lot of fun, a lot of fun. So that's gonna be coming in. That's only got me on the feed. And then an upcoming interview will be up soon with Pervaiz Cina, who is a friend of mine, an actor. You can go to our store, [friendlyatheistpodcast.com](http://friendlyatheistpodcast.com). Click on the store button. There's T-shirts, there's tank tops. There's--we added a water bottle, I think somebody

requested. Coffee mugs, things like that. Baby onesies, if that's your--so go there, check it out.

**Jessica** [00:50:16] Let us know if there's something you'd like to see. You can always email us at [friendlyatheistpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:friendlyatheistpodcast@gmail.com). You'll start seeing transcriptions of these podcasts this week, I think. And, um, you can follow me on Twitter [@blueburie](https://twitter.com/blueburie). B-L-U-E-B-U-R-I-E.

**Hemant** [00:50:33] I'm [@hemantmehta](https://twitter.com/hemantmehta).

**Jessica** [00:50:34] Hemant's [@hemantmehta](https://twitter.com/hemantmehta). And we will talk to you next week.

**Hemant** [00:50:37] Bye.