



David Roemer <david@dkroemer.com>

Re: We want your opinion

Graham Oppy <graham.oppy@monash.edu>
To: David Roemer <david@dkroemer.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2017 at 9:23 PM

Homo sapiens evolved from animals. But homo sapiens are not human beings because human beings have free will and the conscious knowledge.

Hi David!

I agree that homo sapiens evolved from animals. I disagree that homo sapiens are not human beings. Your survey is designed in a way that does not allow me to register my opinion.

Whether my view is coherent is completely beside the point. Given that the available answers are "Agree", "Disagree", and "Don't Know", there is no way that I can convey my opinion via the survey.

You could easily fix this: you could break the conjunctive question apart. If you did that, you would make it possible for people like me to convey what we think through the survey.

Cheers,

Graham

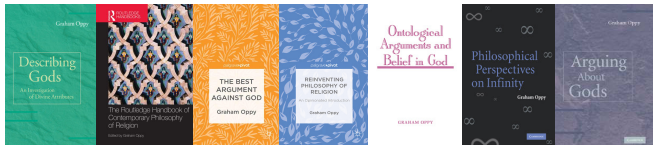
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Dear Graham,

You did not answer the fourth question which asks about this statement: "Homo sapiens evolved from animals. But homo sapiens are not human beings because human beings have free will and the conscious knowledge." (I initially wrote, "the conscious knowledge of human beings as opposed to the sense knowledge of animals." I shortened it, but my copy editor failed to delete "the.")

Your comment and failure to answer indicates you are suffering from cognitive dissonance. You believe human beings descended from animals. This conflicts with the scientific fact that they did not. You make yourself feel better by not answering the question and by misreading the question or not understanding it.

Proof that human beings did not evolve from animals can be found in the most popular biology textbook in the U.S.:

And certain properties of the human brain distinguish our species from all other animals. The human brain is, after all, the only known collection of matter that tries to understand itself. To most biologists, the brain and the mind are one and the same; understand how the brain is organized and how it works, and we'll understand such mindful functions as abstract thought and feelings. Some philosophers are less comfortable with this mechanistic view of mind, finding Descartes' concept of a mind-body duality more attractive. (Biology, Neil Campbell and Jane Reece, 4th edition, p.776)

This quote is quite ignorant because the authors only know two solutions to the mind-body problem (dualism and materialism). There is no evidence for dualism and it conflicts with the doctrines of Original Sin and the Second Coming. However, the mention of the mind-body problem means that they are not saying human beings evolved from animals.

You might be interested to know that you are slightly involved in a freedom of speech and religion lawsuit (1st Amendment) I might file against the New York State Unified Court System. What happened is that I offered to give a lecture/lesson about God's existence to faculty and students at Columbia U. I got a letter from the General Counsel threatening me with legal action, and I filed an ethics complaint against her with the Attorney Ethics Committee.

The General Counsel, I believe, violated the academic freedom of the Columbia community because my lecture/lesson is of value. Proof of this claim is that the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy asked me to document my criticism of their entry on the "cosmological argument." In my correspondence with the SEP, I gave them my review of a book about the arguments for Gods existence:

https://www.amazon.com/God-Crossroads-Worldviews-Different-Existence-ebook/dp/B01EV6K9DG/ref=sr_1_1_twi_kin_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484502291&sr=1-1&keywords=paul+chung#customerReviews

Your book is mentioned in my review. You can see all of my correspondence with Columbia and the SEP at <http://www.newevangelist.me>. I've attached the email I recently sent to the President of Columbia U.

By the way, if you know someone who would like to analyze the results of my survey, I can give them a position on my team at Survey Monkey. I sent out about 7,000 emails, mostly to academics, and got so far 220 responses.

Very truly yours,

Dear Graham,

Thank you for the clarification. The purpose of the survey was not to give people an opportunity to express their opinions. I consider it a scientific fact that homo sapiens are not human beings. If you admit to this, I am willing to discuss the metaphysical theory that human beings are homo sapiens.

I believe I can prove that human beings are not homo sapiens if you accept an expanded definition of the word proof. Suppose, I tell you that I can prove England is an island and show you all the maps. You respond by saying it is only highly probable that England is an island. I can't tell you friends and family that you are ignorant, stupid, dishonest, or irrational. But suppose I offer to give you free tickets to England, and you say something about England not being an island. I can then tell everyone you are ignorant, etc. In other words, there is a sense in which I can prove England is an island.