

ARE YOU A CONTRARIAN?

NUMBER 194

February 2025

Are you a contrarian?

As a child growing up, I understood the word contrary to mean someone who was acting up in a bad mood. I generally thought the word contrarian to have the same general meaning, but it does not.

Contrarian generally has a negative connotation, especially in the viewpoint of those you disagree with. It is not necessarily a negative viewpoint and may well be a refreshing new way to look at something.

Continued on page 2



Transformative Change Involves Adaptation to Love

To become like Jesus, one must learn to Love. (Refer to Scripture 1 Corinthians 13)

Love is heart-felt. It is neither a self-absorbing experience of physical pleasure nor being used as an instrument to provide physical pleasure.

Continued on page 3

OUR LISTENING GOD

"Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth." (Psalm 54:2 NIV)

The God who listens to us is a faithful friend. I am reminded of the following poem that both describes a trusted friend and my relationship with God.

"Oh, the comfort-the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and

sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away." (Friendship by Dinah Mulock)

"Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." (Psalm 5:3 NLT) I always trust that God will provide exactly the right thing according to his best timing. God always listens to my words but he is also responding to my heart. *"LORD, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God."* (Psalm 38:15 NIV)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

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CONTRARIAN from Oxford Languages

Noun: a person who opposes or rejects popular opinion, especially in stock exchange dealing.

adjective: **opposing or rejecting popular opinion; going against current practice.**

From Google AI Overview

A religious contrarian is someone who questions conventional wisdom and popular opinion and may express views that are different from most people. Contrarian thinking can be a way of thinking for oneself, rather than simply opposing the crowd.

A term you might be more familiar with is being a heretic.

HERETIC from DICTIONARY.COM

Noun: a professed believer who maintains religious opinions contrary to those accepted by their church or rejects doctrines prescribed by that church.

Anyone who does not conform to an established attitude, doctrine, or principle.

Synonyms: freethinker, skeptic, dissenter, backslider, Protestant, recreant, apostate

There is not a lot of difference in the definition of a contrarian and a heretic.

The Christian Array lesson 6.5 “1000 years of Churches of Christ” is attached. On page 2 pp 2 & 3, page 9 pp 233, and page 10 pp 4 members of the Churches of Christ are referred to as heretics.

When Jesus said “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who en-

ter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14 NASV). He said we should be contrarians in this world.

I feel it safe to say that if you believe in acapella music, baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of sins, weekly communion, and elders in charge of the local congregation, you are somewhere between a heretic and a contrarian in the “religious” world that has developed over the last 2000+ years. The good news is that no one will call you that today; the bad news is that so few today even care.

Whereas being a member of a Church of Christ today makes me sort of a contrarian, this article is to introduce a new series we will be presenting. It will be a regular article on a contrarian subject. There will be a variety of topics from science to history to religion. Most of them will not be religion. They will all include an offer of \$100 to the first person who can disprove the presented logic.

The first article at the end of this newsletter is “You Can Run Faster than the Speed of Light”. Hope you enjoy the logic.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., PE, NAE

A contrarian



Quite Interesting
@qikipedia

The first Polish language dictionary (published 1746) included definitions such as:

"Horse: Everyone knows what a horse is."

ARE YOU A CONTRARIAN? P. 2

Continued from page 1

“Love is patient”: Being always quietly ready to meet various needs of others in the Name of Jesus whenever there may be opportunity to provide encouragement, correction or spiritual comfort.

“Love is kind”: Kind smiles, kind words, kind attitude

“It is not rude”: Impolite, offensive, abrupt, demeaning, dismissive

“It does not boast”: declaring one’s own “virtues” above others in an attitude of pride.

“It is not self-seeking”: Putting one’s self at the center of attention, with expectation of recognition, deserving of preferred status

“is not easily angered”: but perseveres in doing good.

“It keeps no record of wrongs”: but remembers kindnesses.

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth.”

“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes [for repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness], always perseveres”.

Love seems to be both an intuitively spirit characteristic / manifestation (as an infant loves), and a product of spiritual maturity through increasing knowledge and collaboration with the Holy Spirit when one chooses to follow Jesus.

Paul describes the personal nature of comprehending love: “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as

in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

The commentary of the Life Application Study Bible explains “in morally corrupt Corinth, love had become a mixed-up term with little meaning. Today people are still confused about love. Love is the greatest of all human qualities, and it is an attribute of God himself. (1John 4:8) Loves involves unselfish service to others; to show it gives evidence that you care. Faith is the foundation and content of God’s message; hope is the attitude and focus; love is the action. When faith and hope are in line, you are free to love completely because you understand how God loves.”

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio



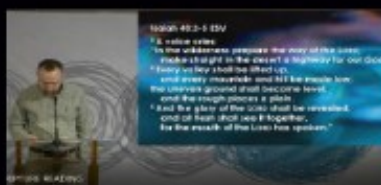


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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #150: DARWIN'S BARK SPIDER

As a mechanical design engineer, I have used many grades of steel and other non-steel metals. The most common is mild steel in the grade A-36 which has a yield strength of 36,000 p.s.i. (pounds per square inch). This means that if you take a bar 1.128" in dia. (will have a 1.000 sq. in. area) and pull it with a force of 36,000 lbs., it will begin to yield.

Some of the other materials I have frequently worked with are 4130 28-36 Roc "C" hardness (95-161,000 yield), Pipe API 5L – X52 MTR, 52,000 PSI min yield p.s.i., API 2H PLATES 50, 50,000 p.s.i., 17-4 Ph St. Stl. 110,000 p.s.i. min. yield, Naval Bronze 25,000 PSI Min Yield, 6AL-4V Titanium Grade 5 95,000 PSI Min Yield, and Aluminum Plate 5086 H116 28,000 PSI Min Yield. **The highest yield strength listed is 161,000 p.s.i.** There are some special (and very expensive) steels which are somewhat stronger.

The point to this is that the tensile strength of **Darwin's bark spider's web** is 230,000 p.s.i., higher than all but the most exotic of steels. This makes the silk twice as tough as any other spider silk known. Its silk is the toughest biological material ever studied.

The silk is shown in fig. 1 being a bundle of non-twisted fibers covered with 2 layers of lipid (fat). The silk bundle is 0.000,393 inches in diameter. Human hair is about 0.001 inches in diameter or about 3 times as thick as this silk. The fibers within the bundle are 0.000,005,315 inches in diameter or less than 1/300th of the size of a human hair. This is smaller than the smallest wavelength of light so you cannot even see them in a normal microscope.

With the silk bundle being 0.000,393 inches in diameter and the fibers within the bundle are 0.000,005,315 inches in diameter, it will take about 40,000 fibers to build a bundle. That means that the spider must have 40,000 individual fiber extruding nozzles plus two concentric nozzles for the layers of lipid (fat).

Darwin's bark spider is an orb-weaver spider that produces the largest known orb webs (circular web see fig. 2), ranging from 1-30 sq. ft., with bridge lines spanning up to 82 ft. (see fig. 3). The spider was dis-

covered in Madagascar in 2009.

Darwin's bark spiders release unusually large amounts of bridging silk into the air, which is then carried downwind, across the water body, establishing bridge lines. (see fig. 2). They then build an orb web hanging off the bridging line (see fig. 3), and use it to trap prey. The largest prey for them is dragon flies.

Can you imagine this spider inventing this extremely strong silk which is also so light as to

float in the air across rivers? Can you imagine this spider accidentally inventing the means to have something like 40,000 extrusion nozzles? Surely this is the work of an intelligent designer – God!!!!

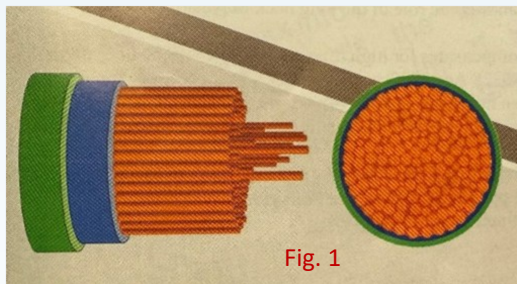


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Photos by Matjazgregoric, info from Creation.com and Wikipedia
Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.

"The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you."

Zone Leader: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones is a field-guide designed to help you navigate change. Resistance and conflict occur anytime change is introduced, and leaders must have the tools and resources necessary to avoid the pitfalls that hinder real success. No matter where you find yourself in the four zones, the tactics discussed in Zone Leader will enhance your ability to lead through each zone. "The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you. The more you put into developing your leadership, the greater your ability to deal with the challenges you face."

"To get where you're going, you need more than just a destination; you need to know where you are now, and you need a map. To assist you on your journey, this thought-provoking book provides you with all three."

Sheila Heen, Harvard Law Professor and co-author of *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*.

"I wish this book could have been available when I was in both undergraduate and graduate studies. I was struck with how readability and depth worked in concert to clearly address leadership. The zones resonated with my thought processes and lay a logical format for understanding."

Gerry Taylor, Executive Vice President, Prosperity Bank



Bob directs the Sunset Academy of Leadership Training. He is a coach, consultant, and full-time speaker, conducting workshops in leadership development. He is dedicated to helping leaders implement positive, transformational change and creating a vision to prepare the next generation of leaders. He lives in Virginia Beach, VA and holds a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in adult leadership development from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.



ZONE LEADER
7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

ZONE LEADER: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

TURNER



ZONE LEADER

7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

Dr. Bob Turner

Author of
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Defined: Group that meets for worship in private homes.
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dslvdg@aol.com, 217-962-1764, 217-317-9654
Dr. Nancy Selvidge, homemaker, grandmother
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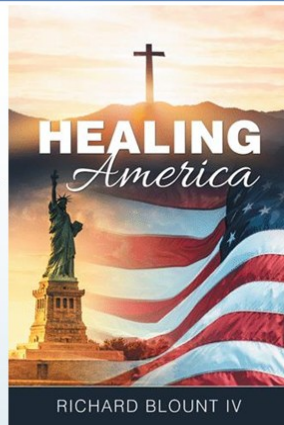
The SOAR program at Foster's Home for Children aims to provide young adults ages 18-22, who have aged out of foster care, a longer runway to successful independence. Our goal is to provide a base of support beneath them as they transition to life on their own.

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A timely new book by Richard Blount IV exploring the problems, causes, solutions, and benefits of being an American.

He provides an intentional approach for the country's healing process and aims at healthy relationships and spiritual maturity as the ultimate goal.

This book can be purchased for \$19.95 at: Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and Westbow Publishing



BULLETIN BLOOPERS! 😊

9. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
8. The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

From Ray Scott

A 13 lesson book written by a long time Church of Christ minister and servant of Jesus. Intended for Bible Class studies, this book can also be used for personal evangelism.

Most Bible class study books on this subject begin with Genesis 3. This study however, lays the foundation by beginning with a basic study-outline of Biblical History, which is sorely lacking among many Christians today. Then after laying this foundation, it seeks to present a "Synthesis of Scripture" by asserting that the theme of all the Bible is Jesus, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! The Eternal Purpose of God for Redemption is then presented with an in-depth study of Ephesians 1, and other New Testament passages which describe God's redemptive plan.

It is not until the fourth lesson that God's Eternal Purpose in Genesis 3 is presented. Then other Promises, Pictures, Prophecy, and Prep-



"AN EXCITING STUDY OF GOD'S POWER AND REVELATION IN HUMAN HISTORY"

aration, are fully described. This study includes a description of the Davidic Covenant, as well as a helpful approach to Old Testament Prophecy.

This guide is helpful for all Christians, but especially new Christians who need an understanding of God's eternal desire for all the world!

This book can be bought on Amazon for \$10.



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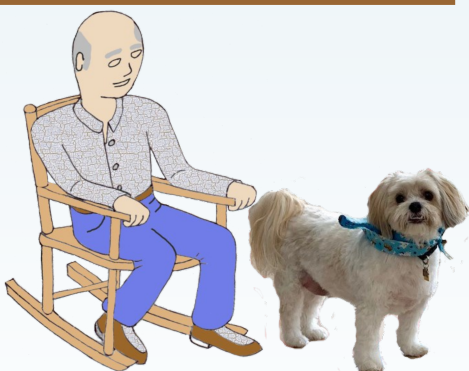
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**If we could only mark
people as Spam.**



*When is old enough to
know better supposed
to kick in?*
Barry & Ace

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online Virtual Worship Services for smaller congregations are ready for you to use. For more information contact baugh@occg.institute.

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CONTRARIAN #1 YOU CAN RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

The control panel on the treadmill graphic below indicates that the man is running at 10 mph, but he is not going any place.



How do you say that he is running at 10 mph, mph relative to what? In reality he is running on a moving belt, and the belt is rotating at 10 mph.

This is very important to understand. All velocities that you have are velocities relative to something. The man is shown running at 10 mph, relative to the belt on the treadmill. If he gets off the treadmill and makes the same running motions, he will be running relative to the ground.

This discusses two different reference systems, the belt of the treadmill, and the Earth.

MULTIPLE FRAMES OF REFERENCE

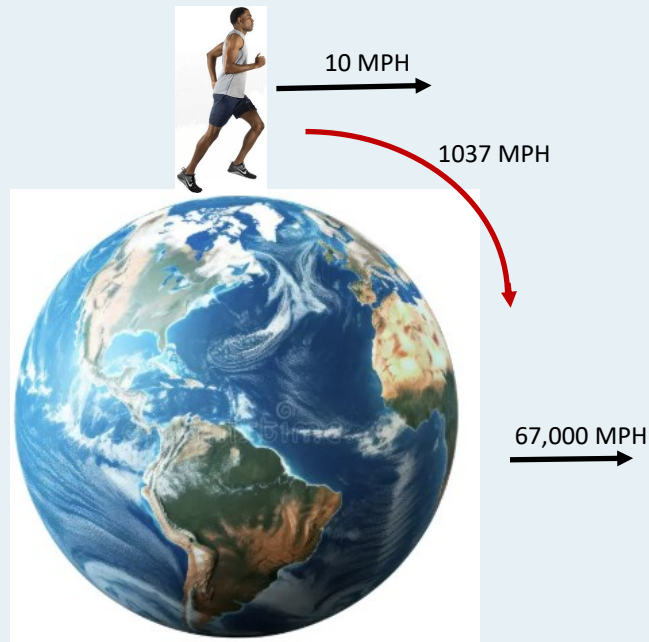
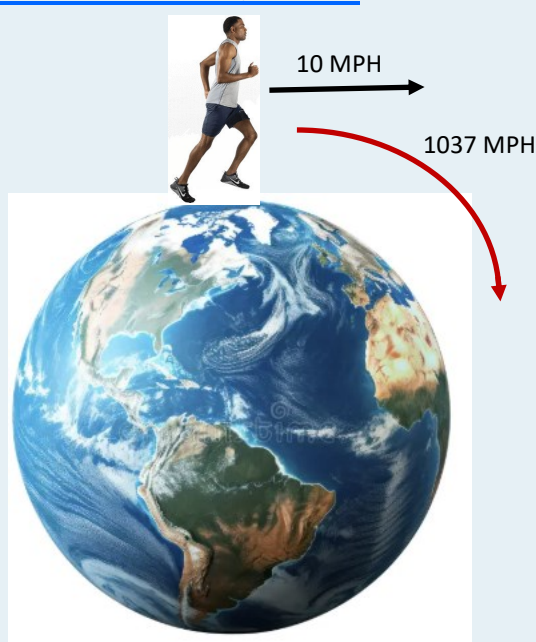


The second graphic is showing the two X,Y,Z reference systems for the treadmill belt and then Earth. The top of the treadmill is moving in the direction of the red arrow.

It is important to know that he is in both of these reference systems at the same time. Likewise he is in many other reference systems at the same time.

CONTRARIAN #1: YOU CAN RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

RUNNING AT THE EQUATOR:

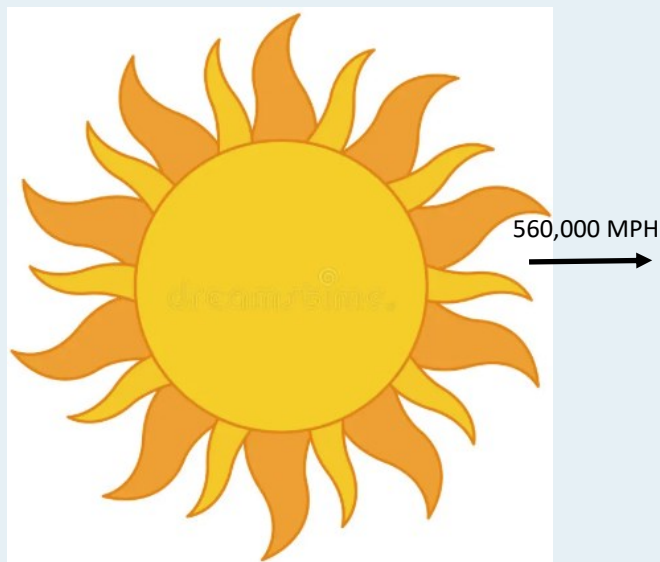


Imagine you are running on the Earth at the equator. The Earth is about 7926.41 miles in diameter so the equator is about 24,901 miles around. It is rotating at 1 revolution per day, which is about 24,901 miles per day. This is $24,901/24 = 1037$ mph, at the surface as is shown on the figure above. This means that you are actually moving at 1047 mph.

ORBITING THE SUN

But the earth is orbiting about the Sun at 67,000 mph, so if you choose our solar system as our your reference system, you are moving at a speed of $10+1037+67,000 = 68,047$ mph. Also, our solar system is moving in our galaxy at about 560,000 mph relative to the Constellation Cygnus.

Our galaxy is moving in space at about 1,230,000 mph in the direction of Galaxy Crater or Leo, giving us a combined velocity of 1,858,047 mph.



The treadmill, Earth and Sun are specific things where you can identify a central location for your reference system.

The center of our Galaxy and the center of the universe are theoretical points, and nothing may well be there, wherever it is.

CONTRARIAN #1: YOU CAN RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

This is approximately 1/4% of the speed of light, and we don't have a clue as to how fast Galaxy Crater or Leo is moving.

This means you are running:

10 mph relative to the Earth in a frame of reference which is rotating with the Earth.

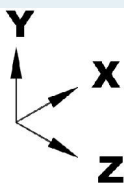
1047 mph in a frame of reference on the earth which is fixed in the Sun instead of rotating with the Earth.

68,047 mph in the frame of reference of (centered on) the Sun

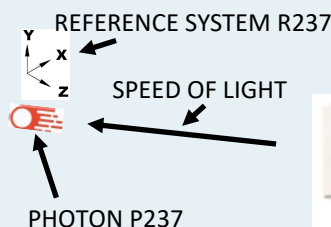
560,000 mph relative to the Constellation Cygnus.

1,858,047 mph in the direction of Galaxy Crater or Leo.

You are moving at all these speeds at the same time. It just depends on your frame of reference. A frame of reference is a massless identification of a location. Anything, no matter how big or small, can be a frame of reference.



10 MPH →



RUN TO THE LAMP:

Now turn a lamp on, walk 20 feet away from it. Run toward the lamp as is shown in the graphic below. As you run at it notice that light shines past you.

The light shining past you is made of millions of Photons. We are only concerned with one of the Photons passing you, Photon P237.

For the purpose of this discussion, our frame of reference will be Photon P237. We shall call our frame of reference R237. A Photon is a unit of light. The point to this is that a Photon is a real thing, it is moving at the speed of light, and it can be our reference system.

A concept to make sure you understand is that compared to our new reference system R237, Photon P237 has no velocity. The reference system is locked into the center of Photon P237 and moves with Photon P237.

CONTRARIAN #1: YOU CAN RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

Again, as the X, Y, and Z coordinates of the reference system go through the center of the Photon P237, it can't move relative to R237. They are locked together and move together. Don't go further until you understand this statement.

Now imagine the your reference system is not the earth, solar system, galaxy, or universe, but R237. From the point of view of reference system R237, the Photon has no velocity, but you do. From the Photon, you appear to be moving past it - at the speed of light.

You are not only moving in reference system R237 at the speed of light, but you are running also relative to the lamp which emitted Photon P237. So if Photon P237 is moving at the speed of light relative to the lamp you are running toward the lamp at 10 mph, **you are in fact running at 10 mph faster than the speed of light in that valid frame of reference.**

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

It is presently conventional wisdom that if you approach the speed of light your mass begins

to increase. If you achieve the speed of light your mass becomes infinite.

One thing you will notice which will be a completely surprise to conventional science wisdom, you didn't get any heavier, much less suddenly gain an infinite mass. You do not simultaneously have different masses or weights because you exist in different frames of reference.

It may be a little hard to adjust your mind to various reference systems and the fact that anything can be one of your reference system. It is actually very simple to understand in comparison to the confusion which some scientist are trying to provoke upon us in the name of the theory of relativity.

Simply put, you can run faster than the speed of light.

This article has the standard offer to pay \$100 to the first person who can refute this logic, and has had it since 2009.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. NAE

**THIS ARTICLE HAS THE STANDARD
OFFER OF \$100 TO THE FIRST PERSON
WHO CAN REFUTE THIS LOGIC.**