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Kieryn:

I'm Kieryn.

Eve:

I'm Hannah. This is Kitchen Table Cult.

Kieryn:

Where two Quiverfull escapees talk about our experiences in the cultish underbelly of the religious right.

Kieryn:

Hey, Hannah.

Eve:

Hey, Kieryn.

Kieryn:

How are you?

Eve:

Good. Hey, actually, can I ask you a favor?

Kieryn:

Yeah.

Eve:

So my name Hannah is kind of weird and appropriation and we need to talk about how Christians appropriate Jewish culture and traditions and completely misunderstand everything. That's a whole thing we need to do at some point. But for now, so my name, the history of it is kind of weird. So it's not German, everybody thinks it's German. If the umlaut was a German umlaut it would be Hannah and it confuses all the German speakers I know very, very, very much. And the reason it's that way is because my parents decided to give me the Hebrew pronunciation but Anglicized. So that's English phonetics.

Kieryn:

Of course.

Eve:

Yeah, right. So the umlaut is American English phonetics which kind of doesn't make any sense. And we're not Jewish and I've always felt kind of weird about that and it's kind of a cool name in terms of it's really unique. But then I found out as I've been doing this memoir research and everything that my father didn't name me Hannah because he wanted to name me Hannah and appropriate Jewish culture and be weird, he named me Hannah because he expected I was going to be a boy up until the last minute and then he had to come up with a girl's name. And guess what he went for?

Kieryn:

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Hmm?

Eve:

He went for the name of a girl he had a crush on in his French class in college.

Kieryn:

That's not better.

Eve:

Nope.

Kieryn:

That's not better. That's not better.

Eve:

So the two reasons I have my name are, one, cultural appropriation to the Nth degree. And two...

Kieryn:

Some rando your dad had a crush on.

Eve:

What the fuck, dad?

Kieryn:

No, incorrect.

Eve:

Anyway, one of the reasons I loved Anne of Green Gables, Anne Shirley, as a child so much is because she always had other names that she was making people call her. She was like, "Call me Cordelia. Or spell my name with an E. I really just don't like my name." And I always resonated with that a lot but again the, "It's so unique, just get used to it." And I was like, "Okay, whatever, fine." But this year I kind of hit my limit with that and I've been trying on different names for a while and I finally found one that I think really works and that I like. So I'm going to be going by Eve now.

Kieryn:

Eve. That's a good name.

Eve:

So, hi listeners, thanks for joining me on this journey. I know this is kind of weird but I feel like this is an important thing. And naming yourself after coming out of fundamentalism is a really big and important thing that I have known other people to find a lot of meaning in. Obviously Kieryn, you-

Kieryn:

I know this well.

Eve:

You know this well. And there's a whole thing about it where the trans community is really wonderful with that and has established that as a normal thing to do which is cool and I know it's kind of weird that I'm doing this and not-

Kieryn:

It's really not weird though.

Eve:

Really? I don't know. I feel self-

Kieryn:

It's really not.

Eve:

I feel so self conscious about it sometimes. But-

Kieryn:

No, you have every right to have a name that represents who you are and I feel like Eve suits you.

Eve:

Yeah, so fuck the patriarchy. I am naming myself.

Kieryn:

Good job. Hi, Eve.

Eve:

Hi, Kieryn.

Kieryn:

What are we talking about today?

Eve:

The patriarchy, obviously. No.

Kieryn:

I mean when are we not talking about the patriarchy?

Eve:

Let's talk about fake news.

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Kieryn:

Sounds good.

Eve:

Let's talk about... what was the SNL bit? Feel facts, things that feel true and we're just going to believe that they are true?

Kieryn:

Yeah, that seems right. Like how climate change isn't real.

Eve:

Yeah, climate change is-

Kieryn:

That seems right, yeah.

Eve:

Oh yeah, no, that's totally fake. I mean, you just lived-

Kieryn:

I just lived through a week of not breathing, a week and a half of not breathing but-

Eve:

Right, but that's fake news. That's not real.

Kieryn:

It's totally fake, yeah. I mean, I saw... didn't you read the World Net Daily article that was like, "The California fires have gone down. They're like 50% less," written like this week after-

Eve:

Was that World Daily or was that World News?

Kieryn:

Oh World News maybe. I get them mixed up, they're in the same place in my head.

Eve:

I mean, for good reason. Some quality journalism there.

Kieryn:

It is World News. But they both have World in the title and they're the same.

Eve:

Yeah, so what WORLD Magazine... what is that? Why should people care? Why are we quoting that this was World Net Daily?

Kieryn:

Because they both have World in the title, they're both very conservative publications. WORLD Mag had way more prestige back when I was familiar with it than World Net Daily. World Net Daily is like short inflammatory pieces and WORLD Mag tries to be more even keeled.

Eve:

WORLD Mag thinks that they are like high brow. So WORLD Magazine is a Christian news publication that is... we've quoted some of their stuff before, and they have the most interesting, I'll give them that, ability to spin and legitimize conservative interpretations of world events.

Kieryn:

Yes. It's boggling going back and reading it, actually.

Eve:

Yeah. And they're really good at it to legitimize the fake news version of everything. Honestly, I think Sarah Huckabee Sanders does a fantastic job of that, she's very impressive. But she's not as polished as WORLD News is at doing that same thing.

Kieryn:

Yeah. No, WORLD News has put a lot of time into presenting things that aren't really true as truths and reframing everything.

Eve:

So, climate change, there's a report that was released on Black Friday that is-

Kieryn:

Which was definitely not to like bury it in a news cycle when no one's paying attention.

Eve:

Right. There's a really good piece from the Atlantic on that that we'll link to in the notes for this episode. But basically we are all going to die from climate change and soon. And it's entirely our fault because we ignored it for so long. And today, Kieryn and I want to talk to you about how the propaganda machine for the religious right works to de legitimize these scientific findings and how it will continue... like I think we will continue to see them push back with the same logic and arguments on this report that's just been released.

Kieryn:

Yeah. So I guess it would be probably good to start with what did we learn about global warming when we were growing up.

Eve:

Right. Well-

Kieryn:

Or what were we talk about it.

Eve:

I hate to be that person. But you have to go back to the theology first.

Kieryn:

Well exactly, that's the point.

Eve:

It always goes back to the theology. One, they believe that God is completely and totally sovereign and this includes being able to perform miracles and heal people and also being able to perform miracles and heal the planet.

Kieryn:

Or destroy the planet.

Eve:

Or destroy the planet.

Kieryn:

As the case may be.

Eve:

Yeah. So let's talk about creation and the flood.

Kieryn:

Yeah. So the obviously literally seven days of creation and that was how it was and that's why the world is this way and that's why humans are like this and evolution didn't happen.

Eve:

And any science data that goes against that literal seven day creation is God falsifying the data to test our faith.

Kieryn:

Right. And also atheist scientists who don't believe in God and can't accept that the planet was divinely created so they're looking for something else to explain it.

Eve:

It's fascinating how self aware they are with this stuff where it's like, well, obviously, people are going to be looking at evidence and only arranging it in ways that it echoes the conclusions that they want to draw.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

They're like, "We do this so obviously the other side is doing this too."

Kieryn:

Yeah. It is like that though. It's like, "Well, you're protesting so loudly at this thing that you are literally doing right now all the time."

Eve:

Yeah. So they don't trust the scientists, they don't trust the data because they are falsifying data, they are drawing very strange conclusions because they're looking for them. I mean, it's so easy to manipulate data.

Kieryn:

Well, and they're always making sure that the way that they're interpreting the data matches exactly how they interpret the bible.

Eve:

Right. And they're only seeing their own reflection when they make those kinds of accusations. Okay, so we grew up... I mean, did you do JYL science?

Kieryn:

I don't think so. But I did Apologia and Answers in Genesis.

Eve:

Okay. So what did they teach in terms of the flood?

Kieryn:

The way I learned about the flood and the way that it made sense to me was... well, made sense to me, the way that I was taught between my parents and books and I don't remember which book said what. But it was like God was angry at the world for being so sinful and so he told Noah to build this ark and they brought two of every kind of animal and then it literally rained for 40 days and 40 nights. And they floated on this weird rectangle thing that shouldn't really have floated the way it did.

Eve:

Yeah, if you want to see the life sized replica of the ark, some guy in Kentucky has built it.

Kieryn:

Yes [crosstalk 00:12:11], isn't it like the Answers in Genesis Museum or something?

Eve:

I don't know if it was connected to it.

Kieryn:

And it's like the Creation Museum. I don't know if they're the same. Yeah.

Eve:

Those places still exist. Yeah, you can see a life sized model of the ark.

Kieryn:

Yeah. And so the way that Ken Ham teaches it, because there used to be more oxygen in the earth and there were dinosaurs and things were bigger and whatever. And so the way that Ken Ham, I'm remembering this now, explains the flood and what happened and why there aren't dinosaurs and why there's oil is that because of the flood, the atmosphere changed and so that brought the oxygen level down. And also because it happened so quickly, the dinosaurs got smooshed really fast and then turned into oil-

Eve:

Well because of all the water-

Kieryn:

All the water.

Eve:

There were landslides and all the dinosaurs who had just died got buried immediately and super fast and that's why we have oil deposits in the earth.

Kieryn:

Right. And then things like the Loch Ness monster can exist because they were water dinosaurs but land dinosaurs can't exist. And the bird dinosaurs also can't because of the oxygen change.

Eve:

Right. And because God did this with the flood and all that happened, clearly it's God's plan for us to use the oil deposits all up because that was how God sovereignly planned for modern America to thrive.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah, because God was totally thinking of enabling our use of planet killing [crosstalk 00:14:01] traps.

Eve:

Okay. So as you can hear, we've talked about this educational neglect stuff before. Kieryn and I are not super good at science in terms of like we haven't had the training to talk about this stuff like we could

have. We're both interested in this, we're both fairly intelligent people. And we've been too busy trying to survive since leaving the cult to actually study up on this. So there's people who are more qualified to talk about this.

Kieryn:

People who are actual scientists.

Eve:

Yeah. And like my brother is a biologist and he studies water and he can talk about this. There's a whole bunch of people who grew up in our world who have gone into the hard sciences to talk about this stuff and to basically counteract what we were raised with. So we can put you in touch with people who are experts in this field if you want to learn more. But we're talking about the big picture and the rhetoric here today and if I ever have time for a third round of college, I might go into science because it would be really interesting.

Kieryn:

Yeah. I'm like I kind of really want to take biology class at Laney.

Eve:

This whole biblical inerrancy thing is kind of the backbone for all this. We have to look at evidence that reinforces what the bible says so that we can reinforce that the bible is true and if that's the case then... they go into all this detail with literally the earth stood still during that one battle that the Israelites fought against... when they were coming in and committing genocide.

Kieryn:

Right, not at all a metaphor.

Eve:

In Palestine. And yeah, that was not a metaphor, that was literal. And then Jesus literally was raised from the dead and literally walked on water and-

Kieryn:

Literally healed all of those people.

Eve:

And then literally ascended into heaven in his physical body. So all these things, they have to be literally true so seven day creation and the flood, they also have to be literally true because otherwise who Jesus was comes into question and that's just too threatening.

Kieryn:

And then that threatens your entire faith and you shouldn't be asking those kinds of questions.

Eve:

Right. Who are you to judge God? Miserable sinner.

Kieryn:

It's faith, you have to accept it on faith.

Eve:

When real reports like this one get released, how do people in the Christian community respond, like usually?

Kieryn:

I mean, they spin it so it's like fake, it's just the spooky liberal media overreacting to God's plan. Or I was kind of thinking about this the other day too, my parent's obsession with the end times feels strangely real right now because so much of their interpretation of revelation or whatever was like, "The earth is going to literally be on fire and there will be wars and rumors of wars and all of these things will be happening." And all of those things kind of are happening. So I think a way that a lot of people may also be taking it if they're of the end times religious sect like my parents were is like, "Jesus is coming any second now, this is how it's supposed to happen, we shouldn't get in the way of God's plan to scorch the earth because that means Jesus is coming back."

Eve:

Right. Which is actually a prophecy.

Kieryn:

Right.

Eve:

So yeah, there's kind of two modes. One is the denial thing where it's like, "Yeah, things are not as bad as they sound." And the people who take that method or that approach usually try to discredit the authority of whoever's presenting the data, they'll question the authority of the source, they'll question the voracity of the data and the methods used to collect it and the methods used to analyze it. They'll pull up counter arguments from other scientists who are peers criticizing this stuff.

Kieryn:

Answers in Genesis in 2015 wrote this long paper. The title is The Globe Is Warming But It's Not Your Fault.

Eve:

Yeah. So they'll take the peer review piece of the process and instead of accepting that this is a normal part of academia and looking for these holes is not necessarily intended to discredit the premises, they will use that instead to try to discredit the entire thing and they'll ply select critics whose material was probably not intended to be used the way they're using it.

Kieryn:

Right, they just take it out of context.

Eve:

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They'll take it out of context. They'll proof text science data which proof texting is a way of using bible verses to "got you" someone. So they'll do the same thing with academic dialog.

Kieryn:

If you watch any video of Bill Nye versus Ken Ham, that happens all the time whenever Ken Ham talks really.

Eve:

Yeah. So he'll be like, "Yeah, but this one guy who was an undergrad wrote this paper and he said... " And come at it with sketchy weird criticisms.

Kieryn:

And also, "The bible backs this up because of this verse so how do you argue with that?"

Eve:

Right. Which is like what if [crosstalk 00:19:48]-

Kieryn:

You have to both agree that the bible is a source for that argument to work and that doesn't... that's why watching Ken Ham versus Bill Nye is so cathartic and good.

Eve:

I haven't done it yet. It kind of scares me. Yeah, I don't know. It's like but what if people started using Homeric epics, like took the Odyssey and started talking about, "Yeah, but the Odyssey says that Neptune did this. So obviously that can't be true in real life." The bible is literature guys, it's not literally true.

Kieryn:

Yeah. They just don't believe that. That would shatter their entire faith.

Eve:

Science as we know it did not exist then so you cannot compare these things, it's apples and oranges. Okay, so that's the denial route where they'll try to get you to go off on a rabbit hole with them and logic their way to win that rabbit trail... rabbit hole, rabbit trail, argument.

Kieryn:

It's very windy, there's a lot of hoops.

Eve:

Yeah. Basically it's a red herring fallacy. It'll just get you off the scent and argue fine details until one of your fine details collapses and then they'll be like, "Aha, so it can't be true."

Kieryn:

Right, this one fine detail overrules all of the other facts.

Eve:

Right. So then there's the, not the denial camp, there's the people who accept that climate change is happening and they have a very different response and this is what you were getting at with your prophecies of end times stuff. How do they interpret this stuff, how will they respond?

Kieryn:

It really just kind of validates their whole idea of the end times is now, it's coming soon, and they're not going to want to stay in the way of that. I'm pretty sure people like my family will be kind of celebrating this because that's how my family would be is whenever that happened...

Eve:

I knew people who would be celebrating this too. It would be like, "Oh, thank God, finally the end times are coming faster now and Jesus is coming back. Let's celebrate this." And the idea of we stewarded the earth up until this point but that we are expecting God to come back and take charge where it's kind of like the sense is like you're the babysitter and you're not actually responsible-

Kieryn:

Yeah, and they're like the parents coming home.

Eve:

Yeah. You're not actually responsible for these kids, you just have to get them to a certain point and then you can hand them over and be like, "Whew. Wow, that was tough."

Kieryn:

Yeah, so it's fine if the house is a mess.

Eve:

It's fine if the house is a mess, the parents can fix it later. And that's kind of how they see climate change stuff is like, "Yeah, but Jesus is coming back and he'll fix it."

Kieryn:

Right, yeah. That's exactly... and so it builds complacency and not caring and also the thing is too, they believe it's not going to affect them. My parents believe that before things get really bad, Jesus is going to come back. So it's going to start being fire and doom like it is now. But before everything really goes to shit, they're going to be raptured and it's fine and that's all they care about. So it's very much like, "Got mine. Fuck you. Bye planet."

Eve:

Well and it's like they believe that even if they do die in climate change events like major, major global traumas, they will be immediately inducted into the new heaven and new earth because there's this promise that God will remake the earth and there will be-

Kieryn:

And it'll be perfect.

Eve:

Yeah. You'll be without sin, it'll be a new creation, we'll start over. And so if you've ever listened to... not listened to, I listened to it on audiobook a lot, that's why I said that, but if you ever read the Last Battle, there's this whole... it's the last C.S. Lewis book and it's kind of his answer to revelation and the end times. And the Pevensie kids die in a train crash and get sent to Narnia at the end of end times in Narnia and Narnia's ending and then they get walked through this door and they enter the new heaven and new earth and Narnia is remade and perfect. And who cares that they sold the forests to the racist caricatures of their enemies in the south? This book is so bad. Who cares that they ravaged Narnia for capitalism? That's literally what's happening in that book because Aslan's coming back and making a new one and he's going to burn the entire old one with fire. And that's how that's seen as a pretty true literal metaphor for how-

Kieryn:

Yeah, it's basically what my parents believe.

Eve:

Christians should be responding to the world going up in flames.

Kieryn:

Yeah. Like my parents, and this isn't super uncommon, it's something that I've seen a bit is people will take the in the world but not of it thing very, very far. So it's like all of this is happening but because I'm not really of this world, I don't need to care.

Eve:

Well and I've known people take this... that to like super, super serious extremes. They might be chronically ill and refusing to go to a doctor because they believe that suffering is holy and since they're not of the world then if they die sooner, the sooner they get a new body and get to be with Jesus and start over.

Kieryn:

Yeah. And my family also very much believed that.

Eve:

So that's where you get situations of medical neglect of children. That's pretty traumatic. Do you want to talk a little bit about why Christians tend to believe that all scientists are atheists and that faith and science are incompatible?

Kieryn:

Yeah. So I think it comes down to feeling threatened by science when it conflicts with their belief. I was barely allowed science. I was barely allowed Catie Frates who does Apologia and it's extremely, extremely religious. Actually she moved to Florida and was part of my homeschool group for a short period of time which was kind of hilarious. There were a bunch of homeschool moms who were fangirling over having an "actual scientist."

Eve:

Actual scientist, yeah.

Kieryn:

But I remember that being a huge thing and I never fully grasped it besides that it was just because science was basically very threatening to faith and people saw science as a gateway to atheism. They saw people who-

Eve:

Oh is science a gateway drug?

Kieryn:

Yeah. Science, dancing, reading, feminism, college in general, all gateways to atheism.

Eve:

Basically existing in any plane that involved your brain as being part of your body.

Kieryn:

Right. Yeah, exactly.

Eve:

Yeah, my mom's a nurse and so science was always exciting and cool. And she would be very, very into it. She encouraged us in our curiosity about things outside and plants and animals and she was very into all of this. But yeah, the larger understandings of the universe, as soon as it left studying species and the way plants work and stuff like that, if it came in contact with existential questions at all, then it was seen as suspect. We would watch Magic School Bus a whole lot and anytime evolution was brought up, she would be like, "La, la, la, la, la, la, we don't believe in that. The bible says that's not true." Or something like that which is so funny because that's not true. But yeah, it would become a point of mockery.

Kieryn:

Yeah, that was my experience too. I was allowed to watch Bill Nye the Science Guy for a short period of time. But I wasn't allowed to watch any episodes where he talked about evolution.

Eve:

Yeah, same.

Kieryn:

I could watch the experiments that he did and I watched the Magic School Bus a lot. But anytime evolution came up it was always like, "We know that's a lie. That's not real." All of my science books whenever they dealt with anything that even touched on an existential question was always just like, "And God made it this way, and that's why." And it just shut down any kind of thought. So I was never allowed to really ask all of the questions so science, especially the sciences that answer universal questions and the science of space was never anything that I had a chance to explore because all of those avenues of questioning were shut off. And it wasn't until I was an adult and watching science

videos that I was like, "Oh, now I do want to know the answer to these questions. I do want to see the end of the universe. What is that?"

Eve:

Yeah, physics was off limits for reasons related to that. It was just kind of like, "Yeah, this stuff is how it sort of works. But it doesn't." And Isaac Newton was held up as a really big hero because he was-

Kieryn:

Yeah, there was a lot of worship of Isaac-

Eve:

Because he was able to merge faith and science. And they were like, "Why can't modern day scientists be like him?" And the point is because they kept learning.

Kieryn:

Right, because we've evolved since the apple. We understand gravity now.

Eve:

Right.

Kieryn:

I did physics but it was never really explained to me. I did physics as this science competition program where I made this little vehicle that was supposed to... it had an egg on the end of it and it was supposed to go a certain distance and stop without breaking the egg. And my dad, brother, and grandfather took over the project with my male science partner and I just kind of picked up the lead and they didn't bother to explain any of what was happening or why the things worked this way or why we were using rubber on the plexiglass. So I technically did physics but I didn't understand any of it because it was a boy thing and that was infuriating.

Eve:

Wait. How is it a boy thing?

Kieryn:

Because it was building a contraption out of wood and stuff and girls aren't supposed to build things.

Eve:

I see. Jokes on them.

Kieryn:

I know.

Eve:

This is why you're trans, they let you build things.

Kieryn:

This is why I'm trans. I know. I really just wanted to be able to build small objects and the only way I could do that was by becoming trans, clearly. So much more privileged this way, definitely not increasing the marginalization aspect here.

Eve:

Yeah, yeah. It makes perfect sense. Oh my god.

Kieryn:

As soon as you come out as a trans man, you have cis male privilege all the time.

Eve:

Right. That's why-

Kieryn:

Definitely not erased constantly.

Eve:

Oh no, definitely not. That's another episode.

Kieryn:

Yeah, I know. Let's get into AFAB healthcare sometime.

Eve:

Yeah. What about the fossil fuels question and should we reduce using fossil fuels, was that something that was on your radar as recycling and environmentally efficient things, was that okay?

Kieryn:

No. I don't remember why but that was seen as some weird liberal thing that was bad and anti God somehow. In fact, in 2004, the NCSCS resolution was to significantly reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And a lot of people were like, "What if we did hydrogen or wind or solar or all these other kinds of energy?" But what I did was, "Let's drill in Alaska."

Eve:

Oh you were pro ANWR. I feel like that-

Kieryn:

That was my entire case.

Eve:

I feel like whoever won that year won on a pro ANWR drilling case.

Kieryn:

I think they did. I think it was actually really similar to my case and I felt validated. At the time. Now I'm horrified.

Eve:

Right. So this was one of those like, "Well if God gave us these resources, we should use it." My mom was pro recycling, my mom was pro reducing waste. She was always yelling at my dad for buying paper towels and being like, "No, we're only going to use cloth ones." She used cloth diapers as much as she could. There's a point where she was trying to be sane, the twins, and definitely we were using disposables. But she was waste conscious in some ways, definitely not in some others. But I remember being aware of these questions as unrelated and it was seen as a stewardship thing. It was like if you had the spoons to be able to do this, you will be a better person if you can do these things. But if you don't have the time or the energy or the privilege or whatever, it doesn't matter that much because God's just going to burn the earth with fire anyway.

Kieryn:

Yeah, my parents really didn't care about the environment at all. It was odd, the kind of extreme lengths that my parents didn't care about the environment or animal rights or safety or anyway.

Eve:

Oh yeah, animal rights didn't exist.

Kieryn:

None of that.

Eve:

Vegetarians are kind of made fun of.

Kieryn:

Yeah, vegetarians were ungodly.

Eve:

Well vegetarians were gay, that's basically what it came down to. It was like a, "If you care about this stuff, you have a twisted sense of values. And so we're afraid of you." And it was kind of lumped in with homophobia. There were a lot of jokes and rhetoric around that.

Kieryn:

Yeah. And there was a lot of seeing people as soft and caring was bad and-

Eve:

Yeah, that's what it is, it's effeminate. And that's dangerous.

Kieryn:

Because masculinity is the only thing that is whatever.

Eve:

And then similarly there was a lot of talk about Priuses, like Prius owners were made fun of. They were called gay, they were said to vote for Al Gore, they were ridiculous, "Look at those girly cars." It was, again-

Kieryn:

Everyone made fun of the liberals for being feely and hippie dippy and wishy washy and just having a lot of feelings all the time like that was somehow bad.

Eve:

I think that wishy-

Kieryn:

Caring too much.

Eve:

Washy gets to the point of facts are complicated, the world requires nuance, you have to approach people individually and situations individually and you can't have... they saw this as a threat, an attack on absolute truth. And so this absolute truth, whatever the bible teaches, is for sure the way it is so moral relativism is a threat because it challenges what the bible is teaching and it challenges biblical inerrancy and therefore having to approach people individually rather than with broad top-down systems and caricatures and one size fits all approaches, they would feel if you were doing any of that sensitive stuff, then you doubted God. You doubted God's truth and you were willing to question everything and so your faith was suspect.

Kieryn:

Right. And being willing to question and questioning things is something that is seen as a threat instead of something that is supposed to be celebrated. So most people are like, "Yeah, you're questioning things and finding things out and looking for answers and that's good, but here it's not. That's a bad, scary, unholy thing. You shouldn't be asking questions, you should be living by faith alone."

Eve:

Yeah. So climate change is real, we're all going to die. But before we die, we should participate in some late stage capitalism and donate to a local charity that is doing work to counteract the effects of toxic homeschooling and abusive parents.

Kieryn:

Yes. It's the end of the year and so the Coalition for Responsible Home Education is having our fundraiser, you should donate. It's responsiblehomeschooling.org/donate. We do a lot of really good work.

Eve:

Yeah, there's not a lot of data out there about homeschoolers and there's a huge anti regulation homeschool lobby and most of the work that we do is centered around trying to understand what data

we do have, access more data, interpret it correctly, and present that information to policy makers at the local level who may not have any knowledge of what is going on in the homeschool world outside of what they hear when HSLDA launches an email campaign and angry homeschool moms call about their religious liberties being threatened.

Eve:

So the work we do is really unusual, no one else is doing it. And we're all homeschool alums and so we have really, really strong experiential perspectives that we bring to support our policy recommendations. And we're working to try to be able to pay some of our people for the work that they do but right now everybody's just volunteering. So anything that you can give to help us would be great.

Kieryn:

And CRHE is a 501(c)(3) so you can write it off on your taxes.

Eve:

Yay.

Kieryn:

And support a small volunteer run nonprofit that is doing a huge amount of emotional labor trying to make homeschooling better.

Eve:

Yeah, yeah. All right, thank you for listening.

Kieryn:

We'll see you next week.

Eve:

For now, I haven't changed it yet, but I probably will at some point, my Twitter handle is haettinger.

Kieryn:

And mine is mxdarkwater.

Eve:

And you can join our Patreon and we're going to be doing another After Dark session soon so sign up, throw some dollars our way and you'll get to hang out with us live while we either record an episode or get intoxicated somehow.

Kieryn:

Or both.

Eve:

Or both.

This transcript was exported on Nov 20, 2020 - view latest version [here](#).

Kieryn:

Possibly both.

Eve:

Hopefully both. All right. I hope everybody had a restful holiday and family wasn't too traumatic. If it was, send us your questions, tell us all about it, give us some ideas for episode topics. And join us next time.

Kieryn:

Bye.

Eve:

Bye.