

It is argued you cannot subscribe to the modern theory of evolution through natural selection and at the same time be a sincere practicing Christian (Morris 1974; Gish 1973). However, the opinion of reflective thinkers, in both science and religion, is that this charge is quite mistaken (Montagu 1984). To quote the nineteenth-century philosopher/scientist John F. W. Herschel: "Truth cannot be opposed to truth." If God created through an evolutionary process, then this is for practicing Christians to recognize and appreciate, not deny (Ruse 1979; Durant 1985) (Ruse 1994, 5)

(...) Finally, let me turn to the highly contentious issue of homosexuality. Historically speaking, it turns out that in practice the Church has had a variable attitude toward homosexual activity, and, today, even conservative churchmen generally realize that homosexual orientation is not something over which people have much control. Nevertheless, homosexuals have frequently suffered in the name of the Lord, and many Christians continue to condemn homosexual behavior. Again, Saint Paul is the authority:

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust one toward another. (Romans 1: 26-27)

This position did not originate with Saint Paul. It goes back to the Holiness Code of Leviticus, and indeed can be found in Plato (in *Laws*). Coming toward the present, Aquinas was succinct and unambiguous. He thought homosexuality was worse than even rape. The latter is just a violation of a human being. The former violates God.

The developed plan of living, according to reason, comes from man; the plan of nature comes from God, and therefore a violation of this plan, as by our natural sins, is an affront to God, the ordainer of nature. (Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* 154: 12)

But the question remains! Is homosexuality biologically unnatural? Modern evolutionary theory suggests that this claim is highly questionable. Certainly, we can say with confidence that homosexual activity is not (as everyone from Plato on down seems to have assumed) a phenomenon exclusively restricted to humans. Indeed, it is not exaggeration to say that *every* animal species studied with care shows some such behavior (Weinrich 1982) (Ruse 1994, 10-11)