

# **GAY MARRIAGE: ARE THERE ANSWERS?**

**By Ken Ham and Dr. Carl Wieland**

**Gay marriage—who determines ‘right’ or ‘wrong’?**

Most people have heard of the account of Adam and Eve. According to the first book of the Bible, Genesis, these two people were the first humans from whom all others in the human race descended. Genesis also records the names of three of Adam and Eve’s many children—Cain, Abel and Seth.



Christians claim that this account of human history is accurate, because the Bible itself claims that it is the authoritative Word of the Creator God, without error.

To challenge Christians' faith in the Bible as an infallible revelation from God to humans, many skeptics have challenged the Bible's trustworthiness as a historical document by asking questions like, "Where did Cain find his wife?" (Don't worry—this will become highly relevant to the topic of gay marriage shortly!)

This question of Cain's wife is one of the most-asked questions about the Christian faith and the Bible's reliability.

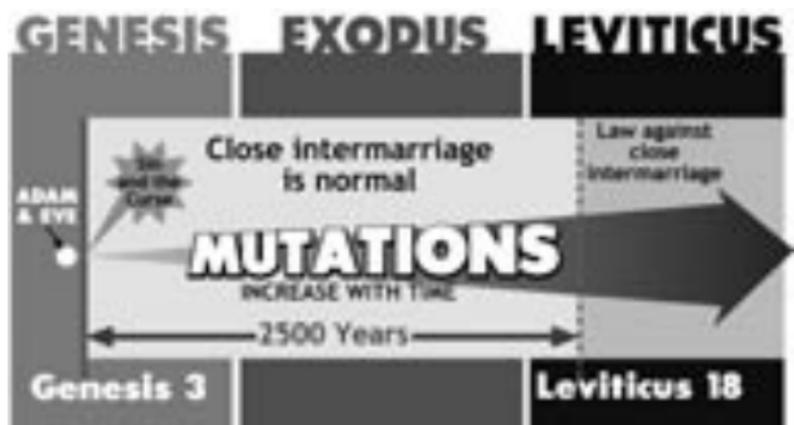
In short, Genesis 5:4 states that Adam had "other sons and daughters"; thus, originally, brothers had to marry sisters. (In another booklet in this series, the answer to this question is worked through methodically—it's also available online at [www.AnswersInGenesis.org/cains\\_wife](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org/cains_wife)).

It was not until the time of a man called Moses (around 1450 BC<sup>1</sup>) that God decreed that close relatives could no longer marry.

Note that when a man marries a woman today, each of them is still marrying his or her relative (all humans are related because all are descendants of one man and one woman, according to biblical history).

Because of mistakes (i.e. mutations) that have accumulated in the human gene pool over time (due to the effects of sin—see Genesis 3), if close relatives like brothers and sisters married today, there is a greatly increased likelihood that the same mistakes (inherited from the same parents) would reinforce each other and produce deformities in their children. But the further one goes back into history towards the time when everything was perfect (“very good,” as the Bible states, which was before the first man rebelled—i.e. sinned—against God), the less of a problem this would be.

From a biblical perspective, provided marriage involves one man for one woman, there was in one sense no difference between brother and sister marrying originally, than a man and woman marrying today, because the law against sibling marriages had not yet been proclaimed. Again,



all people are related. It's just that *close* relatives don't marry today, just as God commanded the Israelites at the time of the great leader Moses.

Today we can understand this genetically, for, over time, mutations and copying mistakes in human genes add up from one generation to the next, eventually requiring such a rule against close relatives marrying.

### **An atheist on a talk show**

This background is helpful in offering the context of a conversation one of the authors had with a caller on a radio talk show. The conversation went something like this:

**Caller:** "I'm an atheist, and I want to tell

you Christians that if you believe Cain married his sister, then that's immoral."

**AiG:** "If you're an atheist, then that means you don't believe in any personal God, right?"

**Caller:** "Correct!"

**AiG:** "Then if you don't believe in God, you don't believe there's such a thing as an absolute authority. Therefore, you believe everyone has a right to their own opinions—to make their own rules about life if they can get away with it, correct?"

**Caller:** "Yes, you're right."

**AiG:** "Then, sir, you can't call me immoral; after all, you're an atheist, who doesn't believe in any absolute authority."

**The AiG guest went on:** "Do you believe all humans evolved from ape-like ancestors?"

**Caller:** "Yes, I certainly believe evolution is fact."

**AiG:** "Then, sir, from your perspective on life, if man is just some sort of animal who

evolved, and if there's no absolute authority, then marriage is whatever you want to define it to be—if you can get away with it in the culture you live in.

“It could be two men, two women or one man and ten women; in fact, it doesn't even have to be a man with another human—it could be a man with another animal.<sup>2</sup>

“I'm sorry, sir, that you think Christians have a problem. I think it's you who has the problem. Without an absolute authority, marriage, or any other aspect of how to live in society, is determined on the basis of opinion and ultimately could be anything one decides—if the culture as a whole will allow you to get away with this. You have the problem, not me.”

It was a fascinating—and revealing—exchange.

So the question, then, that could be posed to this caller and other skeptics is this: “Who has a right to determine what is ‘good’ or ‘bad,’ or what is morally ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ in the culture? Who determines whether marriage as an institu-

tion should be adhered to, and if so, what the rules should be?”

### **The ‘pragmatics’ aspect of opposing gay marriage—some cautions**

Some who defend marriage as a union between one man and one woman claim that it can be shown that cultures that have not adhered to this doctrine have reaped all sorts of problems (whether the spread of diseases or other issues). Thus, they claim, on this basis, that it’s obvious that marriage should be between one man and one woman only.

Even though such problems as the spread of HIV might be shown to be a sound argument in this issue, ultimately it’s not a good basis for stating that one man for one woman must be the rule. It may be a sound argument based on the pragmatics of wanting to maintain a healthy physical body, but why should one or more human beings have the right to dictate to others what they can or can’t do in relation to sexual relationships? After all, another person might decide that the relationship between one man and woman in marriage might cause

psychological problems and use that as the basis for the argument. So which one is correct?

Say that a person used the argument that research has shown, for example, that the children of gay parents had a higher incidence of depression. Or the argument that HIV kills people, hence it is vital that marriage is between a man and a woman. But note how such arguments have also been tried in the case of abortion, and *rejected* by the culture.

Let us illustrate. Some researchers claim to have shown a high incidence of depression in people who have had an abortion. The culture, however, has rejected such pragmatic “we shouldn’t hurt people” arguments, claiming that it is more important that others have the “right to choice.” The argument that abortion kills people is an important one, because most people still accept the basic biblical prohibition against taking innocent human life. So we should ensure that people know that the baby is really human. But is it going to be enough in the long term, as even this prohibition cannot be absolute without the Bible?

## **Allowing the killing of a newborn?**

A slowly increasing minority of people, like Professor Peter Singer,<sup>3</sup> are quite content to accept the obvious fact that abortion kills human beings, but this does not affect their view of abortion in the slightest. In fact, consistent with the fact that he rejects the Bible and the view that man was made in the image of God, Singer has argued that society should consider having a period after birth in which a baby is still allowed to be killed if socially desirable (e.g. if it has an unacceptable handicap).

Ultimately it comes down to this: How does a culture determine what is “right” and what is “wrong”? If the majority agrees on a set of standards, what happens when that majority is replaced by a different majority?

After all, the majority in power in many of our Western nations once believed abortion was wrong—but now the majority in power doesn’t believe this, so the rules were changed.

The majority in power in many of our Western societies once believed the institution of marriage should be one man for one woman. But

this has changed. Many are now allowing “gay marriage.” So how long before polygamous or pedophilic relationships are allowed, which some people are starting to advocate?<sup>4</sup> Who is to say they are wrong, if the majority agrees with them?

Before the Hitler era, nobody would have believed that the majority in a progressive, industrialized Western nation such as Germany could have agreed that it was ethically proper to mass murder the mentally retarded and those with incurable long-term illnesses. Yet the majority of Germans were convinced by their “society” to see euthanasia as ethically acceptable, even kindhearted.

Some might say that there is no way a culture like America would allow pedophilia. Fifty years ago, however, most people probably would not have dreamed that America would ever allow gay marriage.

Where does one draw the line? And who determines who draws that line? What’s the answer?

## Does the church have the answer?

The gay marriage issue has been headline news across North America and on other continents. Even the acceptance of gay clergy has been widely noted in both secular and Christian media outlets.

- In November 2003 a part of the Episcopal Church voted to ordain a gay bishop. Thus, the world saw part of the church now condoning homosexual behavior.<sup>5</sup>
- On January 30, 2003, a section of the United Methodist Church in America supported a lesbian pastor. Once again, the world looked on as many churches legitimized homosexual behavior.<sup>6</sup>

As part of the public debate on the gay marriage issue, many church leaders have been interviewed on national TV programs and asked to share their position on this topic. While the majority of church leaders have been



speaking against gay unions and have been defending marriage as being between one man and one woman, many of these same church leaders have not been able to adequately defend their position.

As he followed the gay marriage debate on television news networks, the co-author of this booklet, AiG-USA President Ken Ham, commented on what he was observing (in AiG's *Answers Update* newsletter, April 2004).

---

I watched a prominent Christian leader on MSNBC-TV being asked about the "gay marriage" issue. The interview went something like this:

**TV host:** "Did Jesus deal directly with the gay marriage issue?"

**Christian leader:** "No, but then Jesus didn't deal directly with the abortion issue or many other issues ... ."

I shook my head in dismay. A proper response could have been such a powerful witness—not only to the interviewer but to the potential millions of viewers watching the news program, so people could understand why this Christian leader opposed gay marriage.

So how could he have responded differently? Well, consider this answer:

“First of all, Jesus (who created us and therefore owns us and has the authority to determine “right” and “wrong”), as the God-man, *did* deal directly with the gay marriage issue, in the Bible’s New Testament, in Matthew 19:4–6:

*And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?” So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’ ”*

My answer would have continued:

“Christ quoted directly from the book of Genesis (and its account of the creation of Adam and Eve as the first man and woman—the first marriage) as literal history, to explain the doctrine of marriage as being one man for one woman. Thus marriage cannot be a man and a man, or a woman and a woman.

“Because Genesis is real history (as can be confirmed by observational science, incidentally),<sup>7</sup> Jesus dealt quite directly with the gay marriage issue when he explained the doctrine of marriage.

“Not only this, but in John 1, we read:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

“Jesus, the Creator, is the Word. The Bible is the written Word. Every word in the Bible is really the Word of the Creator—Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup>

“Therefore, in Leviticus 18:22, Jesus deals directly with the homosexual issue, and thus the gay marriage issue. This is also true of Romans 1:26–27 and 1 Timothy 1:9–10.



“Because Jesus in a real sense wrote all of the Bible, whenever Scripture deals with marriage and/or the homosexual issue, Jesus Himself is directly dealing with these issues.”

The same Christian leader appeared on CNN-TV doing an interview that in part went something like the following:

**Interviewer:** “Why are you against gay marriage?”

**Christian leader:** “Because down through the ages, culture after culture has taught that marriage is between a man and a woman.”

We believe this kind of answer actually opens the door to gay marriage! How? Because it basically says that marriage is determined by law or opinion.

Even in a secular context, the only answer a Christian should offer is:

“The Bible is the Word of our Creator, and Genesis is literal history. Its science and history can be trusted. Therefore, we have an absolute authority that determines marriage.

“God made the first man and woman—the first marriage. Thus, marriage can only be a man and a woman because we

are accountable to the One who made marriage in the first place.

“And don’t forget—according to Scripture, one of the primary reasons for marriage is to produce godly offspring.<sup>9</sup> Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply, but there’s no way a gay marriage can fulfill this command!”

### **Why don’t many Christian leaders give the right kind of answers?**

So, why is it that we don’t see many Christian leaders giving the sorts of answers as presented in the section above? We think it’s because the majority of them have compromised with the idea of millions of years of history, as well as evolutionary beliefs in astronomy, geology and so on. As a result, the Bible’s authority has been undermined, and it’s no longer understood to be the absolute authority. It’s an important point, which merits closer examination.

Back in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the idea of millions of years for the age of the earth began to be popularized. Sadly, many

church leaders adopted this millions-of-years idea and began to reinterpret Genesis (the history upon which all Christian doctrine stands). They began to reinterpret the six days of creation as long periods—and Noah’s Flood to be a local event.

Over the years, most church leaders reinterpreted additional portions of Genesis based on evolutionary ideas. This compromise actually “unlocked a door” for future generations to reinterpret other parts of Scripture. In the end, this led to a loss of respect for the Bible’s authority—which is now no longer considered absolute by Western cultures as a whole. Thus, doctrines like marriage, which are based in Scripture, are no longer considered to be absolute.

Church leaders are certainly aware that the culture does not respect the Bible as it used to. But instead of understanding the foundational reason for this change (i.e. that the Bible is no longer considered trustworthy because its history and science—particularly in Genesis, where the doctrine of marriage is founded—is no longer considered valid by scientists and even

many in the church), these leaders attempted to defend Christian doctrines like marriage without using the Bible and its foundational history in Genesis.

In fact, the majority of these Christian leaders will never be able to logically defend marriage because they themselves don't accept the literal history of Genesis as they should. As soon as they have allowed parts or all of Genesis 1–11 to be reinterpreted on the basis of man's fallible ideas, they have undermined their own absolute authority that is foundational to all of their doctrines—including marriage of one man to one woman, as recorded in Genesis.

We believe that, because of years of such compromise over Genesis and biblical authority, many Christians cannot speak with authority as Christ did (Matthew 7:29). They don't really understand how the literal history in Genesis 1–11 is foundational to *every* Christian doctrine—including marriage—and cannot in any way be compromised with man's fallible ideas. Such compromise unlocks the door to adding man's fallible ideas elsewhere in the Bible.

## **What can surveys tell us?**

Statistics (such as those from Barna Research<sup>10</sup>) show us that as generations have adopted this attitude toward the Bible, the majority of Christians (and Christian leaders) either no longer look on the Bible as the absolute authority—or they misunderstand what it means for it to be the absolute authority (an “absolute authority” cannot be reinterpreted on the basis of outside ideas). No wonder these Christians appeal to human opinion—“what the majority says”—in their answers about moral issues.

Thus, doctrines like marriage, which are based in Scripture, are no longer considered to be absolute by the culture as a whole. That’s why there is an exploding gay marriage problem: by and large, people and the cultural leaders are no longer building their worldview on the Bible.

This also explains why there is now a problem with some in the church accepting homosexual behavior and gay marriage. Because most of the church has accepted the belief in millions of years and other evolutionary ideas, generations brought up in the church no longer see

the Bible as absolute. Instead, they believe the Scriptures can be interpreted on the basis of man's fallible ideas.

We have no doubt that, if those bishops who ordained a gay bishop in the Episcopal Church in the US and the leaders who supported a lesbian minister in the United Methodist Church were challenged concerning their beliefs in Genesis, you would find that they have already compromised with millions of years and other evolutionary ideas and thus would definitely not stand on a literal Genesis creation of six literal days—and the institution of marriage recorded in Genesis.

So, rather than *avoiding* the Bible in an attempt to appeal to the culture not to legalize gay marriage, church leaders who hold to the right doctrine of marriage (one man for one woman) need to be educating the church and the public to understand that the Bible's history and science can be trusted in Genesis.

If the history and science in the Bible are true, then the morality based in that history is true (e.g. marriage equals one man for one woman).

Jesus made exactly the same point, only using the negative, when He said in John 3:12: “I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”

### **Gay marriage—is evolution the cause?**

After reading AiG’s explanations such as those above, some critics have concluded that we are saying that belief in millions of years or other evolutionary ideas is the cause of social ills like gay marriage. This is not true at all.

It is accurate to say that the increasing acceptance of homosexual behavior and gay marriage has gone hand in hand with the popularity and acceptance of millions of years and evolutionary ideas. But this does not mean that every person who believes in millions of years/evolution accepts gay marriage or condones homosexual behavior.

But the more people (whether Christian or not) believe in man’s ideas concerning the history of the universe, regardless of what God’s Word appears to be plainly teaching, the more man’s

fallible ideas are used as a basis for determining “truth” and overriding the Bible’s authority.

People need to understand that homosexual behavior and the gay marriage controversy are ultimately not the problems in our culture, but are the *symptoms* of a much deeper problem. Even though it’s obvious from the Bible that homosexual behavior and gay marriage are an abomination (Romans 1 and other passages make this very clear), there is a foundational reason as to why there is an increasing acceptance of these ills in America and societies like it.

Cultures in the West were once pervaded by a



primarily Christian worldview, because the majority of people at least respected the Bible as the authority on morality.

As stated above and needs to be clearly understood, over the past two hundred years, the Bible's authority has been increasingly undermined, as much of the church compromised with the idea of millions of years (this began before Darwin) and thus began reinterpreting Genesis. When those outside the church saw church leaders rejecting Genesis as literal history, one can understand why they would quickly lose respect for all of the Bible. If the church doesn't even believe this Book to be true, why should the world build its morality on a fallible work that modern science supposedly has shown to be inaccurate in its science and history!

The Bible has lost respect in people's eyes (both within and without the church) to the extent that the culture as a whole now does not take the Bible's morality seriously at all. The increasing acceptance of homosexual behavior and gay marriage is a symptom of the loss of biblical authority, and is primarily due to the compromise

the church has made with the secular world's teaching on origins.

## **Mocking the Bible**

For example, consider the following. A New Orleans newspaper printed a commentary entitled, "In gay rights debate, Genesis is losing."<sup>11</sup>

The column pointed out (correctly) that God intended marriage to be between one man and one woman. The writer even quoted Genesis 2:24 where it declares, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh."



The author then, mockingly, wrote, "Ah, Genesis. Heaven and earth created in six days, a serpent that talks and a 600-year-old man building an ark. Just the guide we need to set rational policy."

This secular writer recognized that the literal history of Genesis was the basis for the belief

that marriage is one man for one woman. However, by mocking the Genesis account (just as many church leaders effectively do when they reinterpret Genesis 1–11 on the basis of man’s fallible ideas), the writer removed the foundations upon which the institution of marriage stands. Thus, this opens the door to gay marriage or anything else one might determine about marriage.

### **Were homosexuals created this way?**

Human sexuality is very complex, and the arguments will long rage as to the causes of homosexual behavior. In this fallen world, most behaviors are a complex mix of one’s personal choices superimposed on a platform of predisposition. This can be both from one’s genetic makeup and one’s environment (for example, one’s upbringing). Few students of human nature would doubt the proposition that some personalities are much more predisposed to alcoholism and/or wife-bashing, for instance. But would anyone argue that this would make wife-bashing acceptable?

The case for a “homosexual gene” has

evaporated, but let's say that researchers really were able to identify such a gene. After all, mutations in a cursed, fallen world can cause all sorts of abnormalities and malfunctions. For one thing, that would be a result of the Curse, not creation. And would knowledge of such a gene make right what Scripture clearly says is wrong? Absolute right and wrong exist independent of any secondary causative agencies.

In fact, it is quite possible that a contributing factor to at least some cases of homosexuality is a dysfunctional upbringing right at the time when the child is gaining crucial environmental input regarding their own sexual identity. (Notice the importance the Bible places on bringing up children, the family unit, and so on.) But if anything, this highlights one of the huge risks of "married" gay people bringing up adopted children, namely the vulnerability of the children to confused messages about their own sexual identity. To put it simply, if the environment contributes to homosexuality, gay marriage will tend to increase the likelihood of the next generation being gay.<sup>12</sup>

## **Gay marriage—what is the answer?**

In the Bible's book of Judges 17:6, we read this statement: "When they had no king to tell them what to do, they all did what was right in their own eyes."<sup>13</sup>

In other words, when there's no absolute authority to decide right and wrong, everyone has their own opinion as to what they should do.

Regardless of what the world may say, the Bible is that absolute authority. It is the revealed Word of God as it claims. Its history and science in Genesis are true and can be defended using observational science.<sup>14</sup> Since the history in Genesis is true, then the morality (such as the doctrine of marriage) that is built on that history is also true.

In the New Testament, Matthew 19:4–6, we read Jesus's answer to a question concerning divorce—which, of course, concerns marriage:

“And He answered and said to them,  
‘Have you not read that He who made  
them at the beginning made them male  
and female, and said, For this reason a

man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

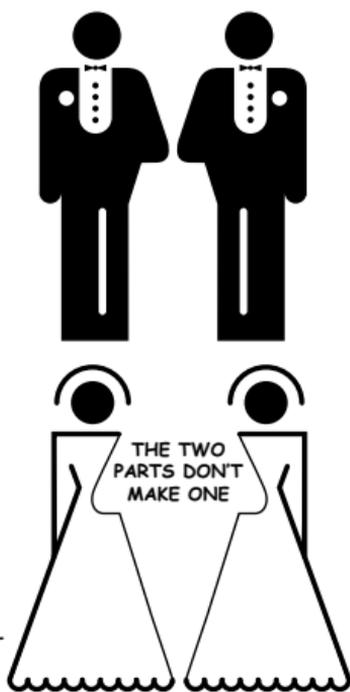
Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, the Son of God, the Word, quoted from the account of history in Genesis that details the creation of Adam and Eve. Jesus was effectively stating that the biology and anthropology of Genesis are true—the history recorded in this book is accurate in every detail.

In doing this, He was explaining the foundation of marriage by reminding his listeners concerning the origin of marriage, the first and most fundamental of all human institutions ordained by God in Scripture.

The first family consisted of a man created from dust, and a woman created from his side. Because these were literal creation events, the meaning of marriage is therefore determined by its origin. Thus, biblical marriage consists of one man and one woman—because

God created a man and a woman, not a man and a man, or a woman and a woman.

Because Eve was created from Adam, they were said to be “one flesh,” which is also why a man and a woman become “one” in marriage. A so-called “gay” marriage has no basis for this “oneness” and is totally contrary to the biblical doctrine of marriage based in Genesis.



The battle against gay marriage will ultimately be lost (like the battle against abortion) *unless* the church and the culture return to the absolute authority beginning in Genesis. Then and only then will there be a true foundation for the correct doctrine of marriage—one man for one woman for life.

## Here's the Good News

*Answers in Genesis* seeks to give glory and honor to God as Creator, and to affirm the truth of the Biblical record of the real origin and history of the world and mankind.

Part of this real history is the bad news that the rebellion of the first man, Adam, against God's command brought death, suffering and separation from God into this world. We see the results all around us. All of Adam's descendants are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and have themselves entered into this rebellion (sin). They therefore cannot live with a holy God, but are condemned to separation from God. The Bible says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and that all are therefore subject to "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

But the good news is that God has done something about it. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ the Creator, though totally sinless, suffered, on behalf of mankind, the penalty of mankind's sin, which is death and separation from God. He did this to satisfy the righteous demands of the holiness and justice of God, His Father. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice; He died on a cross, but on the third day, He rose again, conquering death, so that all who truly believe in Him, repent of their sin and trust in Him (rather than their own merit) are able to come back to God and live for eternity with their Creator.

Therefore: "He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

What a wonderful Savior—and what a wonderful salvation in Christ our Creator!

(If you want to know more of what the Bible says about how you can receive eternal life, please write or call the *Answers in Genesis* office nearest you—see inside front cover.)

## Appendix

### What basis, morality?

The April 2004 cover of *Discover* magazine poses the question, “Are Right and Wrong Wired into Our Brains?” The article’s author details the work of postdoctoral researcher, Joshua Greene, who has been studying the biochemical reactions within people’s brains when they are faced with moral decisions.

As a result of his study, Greene has discovered that clusters of neurons in the brain begin to react under an MRI scan when people are making moral judgments. From his perception of this biochemical reaction, Greene hypothesizes that our moral judgments are not based solely upon reason alone but also upon emotion. Furthermore, Greene believes that such responses are the result of millions of years of evolution and that, “A lot of our deeply felt moral convictions may be quirks of our evolutionary history.”<sup>15</sup>

Is Greene right? As the magazine asks, “Are right and wrong wired into our brains?” The inquiry is a false one. Rather than

questioning whether or not evolution has hard-wired morality into our brains, the researcher should be questioning how the evolutionary hypothesis can claim anything is right or wrong at all.

For an evolutionist, life exists merely as a result of chance mutations occurring within a chemical “soup.” The same primordial soup that produced human beings produced plant life, animals and all of the seemingly infinite varieties of things which we observe on earth. In such a system, there is indeed no basis for determining value for anything aside from the shifting sands of human opinion.

For example, one may believe that sending airplanes into skyscrapers is evil and wrong, and another may believe that it is pleasing to God and correct. But, without a higher moral code than just one’s own beliefs, how could anyone be able to say that he or she is right and another individual is wrong?

There can be no such universal principles as “right” or “wrong” in an evolutionary system as there is no higher authority for such principles

than man himself—who is no more valuable than his own opinion would deem him to be.

Greene seems to recognize this problem within his evolutionary framework when he addresses people's questions concerning morality by stating that it is simply another biochemical process. According to Greene, "People sometimes say to me, 'If everyone believed what you say, the whole world would fall apart. If right and wrong are nothing more than the instinctive firing of neurons, why bother being good?'"

Disturbing as that question is, Greene still insists that this is what the research indicates. "Once you understand someone's behavior on a sufficiently mechanical level, it's very hard to look at them as evil," he says. "You can look at them as dangerous; you can pity them. But evil doesn't exist on a neuronal level."<sup>16</sup>

Greene is right. Good and evil cannot possibly exist within a world that defines everything by chance. In his evolutionary belief system, only (fallible) human preference can determine ideals of right and wrong, and such preferences may shift from society to society.

Biblical Christians have a much more satisfying and rational point of view.

In the beginning, a holy and immutable (unchanging) God created human beings with a sense of right and wrong built into their very being. This sense of right and wrong is known as God's moral law. God, the moral lawgiver, also revealed His moral standards more perfectly and directly following creation, by way of the Ten Commandments revealed to the children of Israel and subsequently in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

Although man's moral intuition has been severely damaged through the effects of sin (from the Curse of Genesis 3), each human being can see right and wrong; we are all without excuse before God and man for our evil actions.

Evil and good do objectively exist because they emanate from an unchanging, omniscient (all-knowing) and holy God. These are not subjective opinions invented and written down by man. Rather, they express the innate characteristics of God Himself that He has built into every human being, and every human being is

responsible to live up to those standards.

But evolutionary “science” will likely never recognize this simple truth. While continuing in its quest to overturn the existence of God in the mind of society, it is inadvertently revealing the truth regarding the ghastly implications of evolutionary philosophy. With the *Discover* magazine article, we are witnessing the “leading edge” of evolutionary research drawing towards the inevitable and logical conclusion that in a world without a God there is no objective basis for moral truth. There is only human preference. A frightening, anarchical proposition.

The question is: will society continue to blindly follow this flawed theory of origins and life?

(Note: This article was written by Janine Ramsey and was originally posted at [www.AnswersInGenesis.org](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org) on May 11, 2004)

<sup>1</sup> James Ussher, *The Annals of the World*, translated by Larry and Marion Pierce, Master Books, Green Forest, Arkansas, 2003, p. 40.

A comment here about the Levitical laws and whether they apply today: while some of the commands in the Law of Moses were specifically stated to apply only to the Israelites up to the time of their promised Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, the commandments about marriage being one man and one woman come from before Moses—creation itself—and were reaffirmed in the New Testament. Thus they apply to all people at all times. See [www.answersingenesis.org/gay-response](http://www.answersingenesis.org/gay-response)

<sup>2</sup> Man marries dog for luck—then dies, [www.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,4057,8584109%5E13762,00.html](http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,8584109%5E13762,00.html). Michael M. Bates, Marriage in the new millennium: love, honor and scratch between the ears, *Oak Lawn (Illinois) Reporter*, April 5, 2001, as referenced at [www.freerepublic.com/forum/a3ac9e00d0a87.html](http://www.freerepublic.com/forum/a3ac9e00d0a87.html). There are many articles online that discuss the possibility of a man marrying his dog if the sanctity of marriage is not upheld. Just type in words like “marriage,” “man” and “dog.”

<sup>3</sup> Cited by Robert Doolan, The baby-killers, *Creation* **18**(1):4, December 1995–February 1996. Also found online at [www.answersingenesis.org/docs/1186.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/1186.asp).

<sup>4</sup> Ben Sorotzkin, The denial of child abuse: the Rind, *et al.* Controversy, NARTH.com; Linda Ames Nicolosi, The pedophilia debate continues—and DSM is changed again, NARTH.com; and Russian region wants to allow men up to four wives, CNN.com, July 21, 1999.

- <sup>5</sup> Episcopal Church consecrates openly gay bishop, CNN.com, November 3, 2003.
- <sup>6</sup> Pacific Northwest Conference United Methodist Church, Committee upholds dismissal of charges against the Rev. Karen Dammann, [www.pnwumc.org/Dammann.htm](http://www.pnwumc.org/Dammann.htm).
- <sup>7</sup> See other AiG booklets: *Is There Really a God? What Really Happened to the Dinosaurs? Does Carbon Dating Disprove the Bible? Is There Intelligent Life in Outer Space? Six Days or Millions of Years? Where Did the "Races" Come From? Why Is There Death & Suffering? Where Did Cain Get His Wife? Mammoth: Riddle of the Ice Age? Major Categories of Scientific Evidence for Special Creation; Evidence for a Young World, and Adam's Rib: Creation & the Human Body*. See the inside front cover for contact and ordering information.
- <sup>8</sup> Colossians 1:15-20 as well.
- <sup>9</sup> Malachi 2:15: "Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth."
- <sup>10</sup> "In fact, even four out of every ten individuals currently involved in a Christian discipling process contend that there is no such thing as absolute moral truth." More than twenty million church-ed adults actively involved in spiritual growth efforts, *Barna Research Online*, [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org), May 9, 2000.
- "The survey also revealed that only half of all church leaders (53%) believe that there are moral truths that are absolute. While that is more than the one-third of non-leaders (36%) who hold such a belief, it is substantially less than might be expected among individuals who extol the Bible as the source of

moral truth.” Church lay leaders are different from followers, *Barna Research Online*, www.barna.org, June 26, 2000.

“A minority of born again adults (44%) and an even smaller proportion of born again teenagers (9%) are certain of the existence of absolute moral truth.” The year’s most intriguing findings, Barna Research Studies, *Barna Research Online*, www.barna.org, December 12, 2000.

- <sup>11</sup> James Gill, In gay rights, Genesis is losing, *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 5, 2004.
- <sup>12</sup> Two things to note in this section: (1) The idea is already with us that gay “couples” should be freely able to donate their sperm to surrogate mothers, or to clone their DNA, to perpetuate their own genes. So if there is any genetic basis to homosexuality (i.e. “made that way”), then this too will increase the frequency of homosexuality in future generations. (2) Regarding the capacity of an individual to stop his or her homosexual behavior, we wish to observe that even with what sin has done in this fallen world, the Bible promises that we will not be tested beyond what we can endure (I Corinthians 10:13) because the power of God is available to all believers.
- <sup>13</sup> During America’s election year of 2004, some civil rights groups were equating the difficulty of gay couples being allowed to marry with the lack of civil rights experienced by many blacks during the anti-discrimination struggles that flared up in the 1950s (and continue to this day to some extent). Dr. Charles Ware, however, the pastor of a multi-ethnic church in Indianapolis, shared the following with AiG as this booklet was being written. In summary, Dr. Ware has observed something keenly important regarding the whole area of choice in making this comparison. People do not choose their skin color (and

actually, people are of only one color anyway; they just have different shades of the color brown), but they do have their choice in how to behave and make life decisions. But our Creator God has made His choice known—through His Word in Genesis—that marriage is one man for one woman for life. Sadly, many people purposely choose to ignore this clear teaching. The “civil rights for ethnic groups, gay couples also” comparison, therefore, uses an apples and oranges argument.

<sup>14</sup> For example: Bryant Wood, The walls of Jericho, *Creation* **21**(2): 36-40, March 1999—also found online at [www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v21/i2/jericho.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v21/i2/jericho.asp); Tas Walker, Three Sisters: evidence for Noah’s Flood, *Creation* **25**(2): 38-42, March 2003—also found online at [www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v25/i2/sisters.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v25/i2/sisters.asp); Carl Wieland, Darwin’s finches: evidence supporting rapid post-Flood adaptation, *Creation* **14**(3):22-23, June-August 1992—also found online at: [www.answersingenesis.org/docs/1332.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/1332.asp); Andrew Snelling, Radioactive “dating” failure: Recent New Zealand lava flows yield “ages” of millions of years, *Creation* **22**(1):18-21, December 1999–February 2000—also found at [www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/magazines/docs/cenv22n1\\_dating\\_failure.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/magazines/docs/cenv22n1_dating_failure.asp). Many more articles are available on the Questions & Answers section of the *Answers in Genesis* website: [www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/qa.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/qa.asp).

<sup>15</sup> Carl Zimmer, Whose life would you save? Scientists say morality may be hardwired into our brains by evolution. *Discover*, p. 60, April 2004.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, p. 64.