

### III Scientific Theories in Conflict with Christian Belief

Herbert Simon: "A Mechanism for Social Selection and Successful Altruism" *Science* (vol 250 (December, 1990) pp. 1665 ff.):

Docile persons tend to learn and believe what they perceive others in the society want them to learn and believe. Thus the content of what is learned will not be fully screened for its contribution to personal fitness (p. 1666).

Because of bounded rationality, the docile individual will often be unable to distinguish socially prescribed behavior that contributes to fitness from altruistic behavior [i. e., socially prescribed behavior that does not contribute to fitness--AP]. In fact, docility will reduce the inclination to evaluate independently the contributions of behavior to fitness. . . . By virtue of bounded rationality, the docile person cannot acquire the personally advantageous learning that provides the increment,  $d$ , of fitness without acquiring also the altruistic behaviors that cost the decrement,  $c$  (p. 1667).

David Sloan Wilson (*Darwin's Cathedral*):

Many features of religion, such as the nature of supernatural agents and their relationships with humans can be explained as adaptations designed to enable human groups to function as adaptive units" (p. 51).

In the first place, much religious belief is not detached from reality . . . Rather, it is intimately connected to reality by motivating behaviors that are adaptive in the real world--an awesome achievement when we appreciate the complexity that is required to become connected in this practical sense. . . . Adaptation is the gold standard against which rationality must be judged, along with all other forms of thought. Evolutionary biologists should be especially quick to grasp this point because they appreciate that the well-adapted mind is ultimately an organ of survival and reproduction (p. 228).