

## **The Bridge to “Common Ground”**

**Evolution is the cosmic-Earth-life process of universal transformation continuing from the original first big bang beginning. Life and consciousness are continuing refinements of evolving continuity in which all transformations correlate with all other; everything we do is with consequence. Informed personal consciousness is the bridge that connects us intentionally, and “really”, with all other.**

**When mistaken understandings pretend to be real, they are problematic because they create disconnections that deny reality and frustrate relationships. Wrong assumptions and mistaken understandings remove reflective consciousness from natural connections and cause people to behave in ways that are damaging to each other and the natural order to which all belong. “Common Ground” understandings escape us because minds are closed to transformational necessity—a universal and involved imperative none escapes.**

Physical health and mental sanity is a joined process of self-understanding based not on divisions and mistaken notions of differences, but on the essential complementarity and correlation of femaleness and maleness. Every person is characterized in same female/male likenesses that enable interpersonal reciprocity (mutuality) and complementarity. In “rainbow” traits of mind/ body, female and male, every person shows the oneness of humankind; polarized thinking to the contrary, based on mental stereotypes, frustrates complementarity and interpersonal harmony.

Female and male, every person is a composite blend of like mind/ body traits. The biological strategy of cell division (mitosis) happens in the same way in female/ male. Cell division maintains and renews organs, physical and mental functions.

A special kind of cell production (meiosis) happens in females and males in which special cells (gametes) are produced with one-half the normal number of chromosomes; these cells are specific for the reproduction of the species, for when they (egg and sperm) join, a new cell is formed with the full complement of chromosomes required for cell division and the production of a new, one-of-a-kind person. The joining of gametes happens in the woman’s body, the fertilized egg is a zygote capable of cell division and growth into a fetus; as the fetus develops, the value and investment in life grows, as do moral considerations and “rights”, of and to life.

In reality, the reproduction of life does not “create” new life; rather, existing life self-diversifies, for female/ male gametes are already alive and contribute their genetic uniqueness to the living zygote. So, the argument as to “when a new life begins” misses the point and is irrelevant to moral issues as to “rights to life”, etc. What’s relevant are moral considerations of investments in life, natural and personal, and conflicts with other imperatives in bringing a conceptus (the zygote) to term.

**So, what is the bridge that grounds universal awareness in moral and harmonious relationships? It is self-reflective consciousness focused on and dedicated to symbiotic sustainability. Bridge-building is a lifelong process of intentional reflection, a process of reason kept vital by communication, consciousness and conscience. Bridge-building is about conscience formation by which a common way forward works through moral choices and actions that authenticate and sustain. Always involved in sustainable communication is the trustful dialog between faith and reason.**