

---

Subject: Re: Church of FSM

Posted by [Crimson](#) on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 00:19:09 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

The definition of "theory" in the scientific world is not opposite of "fact". The evidence of evolution is quite expansive.

(emphasis mine)

"Mark Thomas" It's important to remember that the term "theory" in science is not the same as it is in general usage. A scientific theory is a unifying concept that explains a large body of data. It is a hypothesis that has withstood the test of time and the challenge of opposing views. The Theory of Evolution is the basic unifying concept of biology. The CEO of The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Alan Leshner, wrote, "Although scientists may debate details of the mechanisms of evolution, there is no argument among scientists as to whether evolution is taking place." The National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most prestigious scientific organization, has declared evolution "one of the strongest and most useful scientific theories we have," and notes that evolution is supported by an overwhelming scientific consensus. The Theory of Evolution has as much validity as the theory of gravity, atomic theory, or the germ theory of disease.

Look at it this way. Back in ancient Greece, it was believed that Helios pulled the sun across the sky every day. In fact there were "gods" for every action that was unexplained. A god for fertility, one for thunder/lightning, etc. But the more that was learned over the years, the less we needed "gods" to explain them.

I find this particularly scary: (emphasis mine)

"Mark Thomas" Galileo took the new invention of the telescope, refined it, and used it to look at the night sky. He was astounded. On the moon he could see mountains and valleys. It wasn't just some strange heavenly object; it was probably made out of the same stuff as Earth. In 1609 Galileo looked at Jupiter, and discovered that it had four moons. If moons orbited Jupiter, then not everything orbited the Earth, as the Catholic Church taught at the time. Astronomy made more sense if the theories of Copernicus were true, and the Earth and planets orbited the sun. After writing a book about this, Galileo was called to Rome in 1633 by the Catholic Church's Inquisition, and told to recant his heretical ideas.

This was no "simple request" by the Church. Just 33 years before, the Inquisition had executed Galileo's friend Giordano Bruno. Have you heard of him? In 1600, the Christian authorities in Rome took him out of the dungeon he had been in for eight years, drove a nail through his tongue, tied him to a metal post, put wood and some of his books under his feet, and burned him to death. Bruno's crime was writing ideas that the Catholic leaders didn't like — there might be other worlds with other intelligent beings on them, Jesus didn't possess god-like power, and souls can't go to heaven. For these heretical ideas, the Catholic Church punished this brilliant thinker with a slow, agonizing death.

Galileo knew what he was up against. For the crime of heresy the Inquisition could put him in a dungeon, torture or even execute him. So, after a long trial, this proud 70-year-old man obediently got on his knees and recanted. But even after recanting, he was still sentenced to

house arrest for the rest of his life. The Catholic Church officially condemned heliocentrism 31 years later, when Pope Alexander VII banned all books that affirmed the earth's motion. But, even as powerful as the Church was, they could not hold back the tidal wave of scientific discovery, and the Church eventually lost its battle over our view of the Universe. It only took them over three hundred years to admit it. In 1992, after 12 years of deliberations, they grudgingly noted that Galileo had been right in supporting the theories of Copernicus. But no such admission has been made for Bruno; his writings are still on the Vatican's list of forbidden texts, and Pope John Paul II refused to even apologize for the Catholic Church's torture killing of Bruno.

1992!!! This was not ancient history! A mere 13 years ago, the Catholic church finally admitted that the solar system revolves around the sun.

So, as science progresses and explains what we previously didn't know, "God"s role in this universe gets smaller and smaller. Losing your ignorance is when you can finally let go of trusting a supernatural cause of something, and instead looking for the scientific cause.

"Mark Thomas"The "god of the gaps" is the basic premise behind all the "scientific" arguments for the existence of a god. The logic of "god of the gaps" goes like this (as an argument that Martin Luther could have used): Isn't lightning amazing! I don't understand how lightning could be, without something else (that I don't really understand either) making lightning. This something else must be a god because I can't come up with a better explanation.

---