

## PHILOSOPHIA CHRISTI

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### *Editor's Introduction*

A number of public moral issues were daily in the news in the United States during the fall of 2004 because of the intense posturing by the political parties in the presidential race. One issue that certainly trumped all the rest by making it onto the front page “above the fold” most often was the same-sex marriage debate. Indeed, after the dust settled and G. W. Bush had won the election handily, pundits of all stripes declared that overreaching by some mayors, legislators, and judges in favor of same-sex marriage had so alarmed the voting public that it likely played a role in the conservative president's reelection.

I would like to think that the debate the EPS sponsored on the issue of same-sex marriage helped to inform the deliberations of the voting public on both sides of the issue—but that would be hard to demonstrate since our debate took place over two weeks after the general election (*pre hoc, ergo propter hoc?*). But our timing need not dismay us. This issue has legs and will return again and again. Our public forum was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and featured presentations by Marvin M. Ellison and Ronald E. Long (pro) and Francis J. Beckwith and J. Budziszewski (con). EPS president William Lane Craig convened and moderated. This was a potentially volatile gathering, and, indeed, there was a great deal of heat in addition to light. But perhaps the most inspiring aspect of the evening was the way all the participants and the audience maintained order and composure in the midst of some very difficult and even disturbing discussion. The issues got out on the table, they were argued in a robust fashion, and civility ruled the day. It made me proud to be a member of both the EPS and the AAR. After the debate, we gave the participants an opportunity to rework their essays, and we present them here in print for the first time.

As you'll quickly notice, we have surrounded this debate with other essays and reviews that touch on the theme of “philosophy and public policy.” We had them in the hopper, and it seems to have made a nice package.

You will want to keep your subscriptions up-to-date because we are in the midst of preparing a very stimulating special fall issue on “Design, Fine Tuning, and Naturalism.” We will have essays by William Dembski, Steven Meyer, Robert Koons, Tim McGrew, Robin Collins, Jay Richards, Charles Taliaferro, and more. Not to be missed!

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