that our historical development exhibits the same general patterns of linear and divergent evolution characteristic of all life. Man is, of course, a unique product of evolutionary forces and has attributes not found in other species; but so is every other species of living organism unique in its particular characteristics and evolutionary development. Human beings are interested in human evolution not because of any special evolutionary forces responsible for our origin and development, but because as one of our biological attributes as men we are egocentrically anthropomorphic. in some individuals our egocentrism is carried to the extreme in a complete denial of our biological relations and repeated statement that we are so peculiar that we cannot be the products of biological development and cannot be descended from other animals. Unfortunately, such statements are not based upon evaluation of the evidence but rather upon emotional or mystical grounds. As will be readily apparent in the discussion below, the crucial evidence of human evolution and the essential outlines of man's evolutionary progress are overwhelmingly convincing to all men with open minds. Those people who continue to insist that recognition of evolution from other animals somehow debases us or destroys in same unknown manner those biological attributes that have made us successful and unique evolutionary products, prefer to disregard the evidence.

"it has long been recognized that man as a species is related to a rather diverse group of mammals, placed by modern biologists in the order Primates. This order is regarded as being among the more primitive groups of placental mammals and is characterized by retention of many generalized features that in more highly evolved mammal orders have taken on extreme specializations. . . .

"The course of evolution among the primates other than man may be sketched in broad outline on the basis of the structure of living forms and a fragmentary but convincing fossil record. . . .

"....Numerous ape remains are known from Miocene and Pliocene times. Significantly, although they are definitely apelike in most regards, all these ancient apes exhibit few of the extreme specializations of the modern gibbon, orangutan, chimpanzee, or gorilla but have characteristics somewhat similar to those found in man . . . .The similarities between men and the manlike or anthropoid apes have led to a general theory of a common ancestry of the two groups, a theory enhanced by the striking similarities between primitive fossil apes and the human species. It has been only recently, however, that the crucial fossil evidence of man's origin has been uncovered in a series of exciting discoveries in central and southern Africa.

"The most important differences between apes and men are summarized below as a basis for evaluating the position of the newly discovered fossil primates so critical to our understanding of human origins.