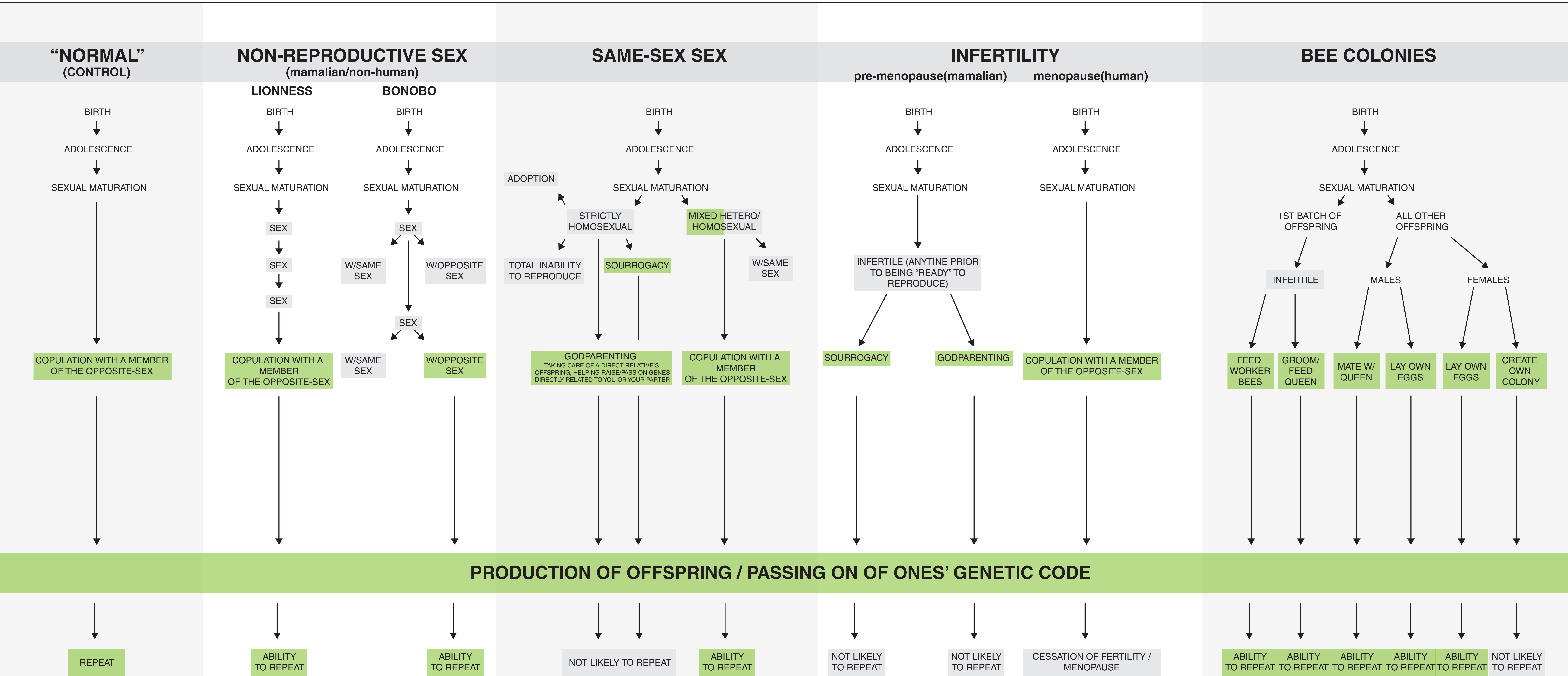


Q: How do these “errors” in design fit into an inherent evolutionary end goal of **reproduction**?



The reason I chose to create this was because I was looking for a way to graphically express the relationships between the occurrences in nature that have been deemed “errors” and the reality that these instances are actually “errors” and can still, indirectly be motivated by the driving evolutionary factor of helping pass one’s genes onto another generation. There are a number of things that I looked at when composing this; I first created a column that represents what evolution has told us we are supposed to do, and then continued on to compare this “normal” column to the columns that don’t necessarily seem to fit right away. In the first column we see the stages of a “normal” evolutionary path, beginning with birth, adolescence, the point where an individual reaches sexual maturity, and once this stage has been reached sex with a member of the opposite sex is used as a tool for reproduction, and post-creating an initial offspring, can, and more often is, continually used for this purpose. Throughout the representation here, I’ve depicted instances in a group’s evolution which both do, and do not, fit with reaching an end goal of reproduction, and passing on one’s genes. The green boxes throughout the chart represent those instances which follow this pattern, and the grey boxes represent instances in which reproduction/passing on one’s genes is not a viable option. For both same-sex sexual intercourse as well as for infertility (looking at humans) one of the things I was interested in was adoption, and what I found out was that adopted children most always have a much stronger evolutionary tie to their biological parents, even with as much imprinting and social rearing their adoptive parents provide them with [3]. This does make sense, but I had been interested in whether or not this could be a viable option for both same-sex couples and infertile couples to squeeze into the evolutionary reproductive end goal, however, it was not. The rest of the chart illustrates how, when although a particular path may not seem like it obviously will lead to accomplishing this evolutionary goal, in one round-about way or another, the goal can be accomplished by these individuals as well.

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