

Animals Rights: Discussion Questions (Answers)

1. Will there be animals in heaven?

- o Is this really an important question to be answered?
- o Controversial subject - emotional for many because of their children - many side step the issue
- o In what sense did Paul preach to every creature under heaven (NIV)? (Col 1:21-23)
 - o Sense is all mankind, as context shows (lit: "proclaimed in all creation - under the heaven")
 - o Same sense as Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"
- o Animals have a soul the same as does man where "nepes" - means "possessing life" (Gen 1:20,24,30; **9:12, 15-16; Eze 47:9**). In reference to man it can also mean: seat of physical appetite; source of emotion; associated with the will and moral action; designating an individual or person; can denote self. It is not used in conjunction with animals to imply an eternal existence
- o Christ came as a man, not as an animal; there is no recorded instance of Christ healing an animal or talking about its future life - He did not come to redeem an animal's life
- o Do animals sin?
 - o Prior to the fall, there was no death - even among animals
 - o Generally, christian theologians believe the plight of animals is connected with the fall
 - o Animals illustrate the effects of the fall by their "inhumanity" towards each other
 - o Thomas Aquinas believed animals sinned and thus fell from grace before there ever was an Adam and Eve - Aquinas suggested the sufferings of animals is their just due
 - o Animals were not created in the image of God, and do not have moral accountability
- o Scripture implies the "spirit" of an animal does not rise as man's does (Ecc 3:19-21)
- o Same implication in 2 Peter 2:12, where brute beasts are said to perish just like false teachers
- o Scripture speaks to the redemption of the entire universe, there will be a new heavens and a new earth - could very well include redeeming the animal kingdom and creating it anew (Rev 5:11-14)
- o Opinion: animals will not be resurrected, but there will be animals in the new heavens and the new earth, as all creation will be freed from its bondage to decay, and the pre-fall state obtained again

2. Is it a sin to cause unnecessary pain in the animal kingdom?

- o What would motivate a person to inflict pain on an animal? Sinful nature
- o Prov 12:10 and many of God's commands compel us to show mercy to animals not cruelty (Ex 23:5,12; Deu 22:6,7; Luke 13:15)
- o To inflict useless, purposeless pain is a violation of our stewardship responsibility before God, and constitutes a violation of His command (hence a sin in my opinion)
- o Pain (a bit in a mouth) is intended to ensure obedience and to train, this is not the same as torture
- o Man is far above the animals, just as they are above plants, and in turn the earth - consequences of foul treatment may be different than sin against man, but the heart is the measuring rod
- o Animals used in medical research, must question:
 - o Is it absolutely necessary?
 - o Are any alternatives available to prevent destruction or painful treatment of animals?
 - o If no other way within reasonable use of resources, what is the minimal use that needs to be made of animals?
 - o If it is a choice between an animals life and that of man ("in God's image"), protect and preserve the man's life

3. Are we predisposed against any "animal rights" movement because of the unbiblical foundation underlying it?

- o Some believe that acknowledging any good aspects of this movement implies buying into all of it as well as its underlying theology - not so
- o The conscience of man compels many to sympathy towards animals - God's common grace, in a vacuum of God's truth, will provide care for His creation - but error will replace His truth
- o Man will tend to idolize nature or abuse it, Biblical approach is the only true way to view it
- o Christians in many instances have walked away from the arena because of the idolatrous approach taken by the radical animal rights movement

4. Is it justifiable to spend thousands of dollars to medically treat a sick animal? A pet?

- o As the Lord has prospered us, we may use our bounty for our own purposes, but never at the expense of our family well fare, our tithes and offerings, and meeting the needs of the body of Christ
- o Samaritan example: gave generously when need presented itself, did not go out searching for it
- o We must have a clear conscience before the Lord, we have freedom to do with our resources as would be honoring to the Lord
- o Rom 14 - do not be a stumbling block to others
- o Nathan before David - man's ewe lamb was like a daughter to him, it would be expected that he would use extensive means to protect and care for his pet

5. How do animals give glory to God?

- o Just as the stars in the heavens sing to God and speak to His glory, so does the animal kingdom
- o Animals display God's abundant provision, perfection of function, creativity, compassion - thus they demonstrate many of God's characteristics, hence acknowledging this brings glory to God

6. Does God love chickens?

- o God has compassion for animals, but does not love them as He loves His people and sent His Son to die for them
- o Chickens are like brute beasts, grown to provide food for man and to be eaten

7. Is it a sin to allow an animal to become extinct?

- o Each animal offers some insight into the character of God, and should be protected and preserved as we have ability (resources are limited, wisdom must be exercised in their use to preserve these marvelous creations). To allow a species to become extinct when effort would have prevented it constitutes careless disregard for a gift from God (a sin? possibly)
- o To wantonly destroy the last of a species to exterminate it is destruction for destruction sake and is evil
- o We are to be good stewards of animals, but we live in a fallen world, and species will disappear
- o Don't forget, that God Himself exterminated more species than mankind has ever been able to (flood)
- o Again, we are not to value animals lives above man's if that becomes a choice

8. Is it a sin to cage an animal in a zoo? How about a pet bird in a cage?

- o Zoos can protect an animal from extinction
- o Many zoos treatment of animals constitutes a form of torture - we have learned how best to confine them for their protection and well being, and our education and pleasure
- o Good stewardship principles would imply caring for animals in a humane and compassionate way, not in a cruel manner

9. When will the lion and the lamb lie down together?

- o During the Millennium time? During the new heavens and the new earth?
- o Never? This is only an allegory?

10. Does God feel the sufferings of animals?

- o All death is a consequence of man's sin and fall from grace, including the death of animals
- o God is aware of the sufferings of animals, and commands us to be compassionate towards them
- o God does not treat animals on the same level as man
- o Since all of creation exists because God continues to will it to exist - He obviously is aware of what animals are feeling at any time - our treatment of them will be judged