

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: What is Wrong with Animal Rights?

SERMON REFERENCE: Genesis 1:26

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1955

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Genesis 1:26
 - i) God made man in His image to have dominion of the animals.
- b) Genesis 3:21
 - i) God made clothing from the animals to clothe Adam and Eve.
- c) Genesis 9:1-3
 - i) God placed man over all animals of the land, sea and air.
- d) There are those who believe that:
 - i) Men are not created in the image of God,
 - ii) Men and animals evolved,
 - iii) Men and animals are all created equal.

2) ANIMALS AND HUMANS ARE NOT THE SAME

- a) Organizations such as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) have distorted that.
 - i) Ingrid Newkirk, the director of PETA, said “A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy.”
 - (1) There is no difference.
 - ii) Alex Pacheco, PETA chairman also stated, “We feel that animals have the same rights as a retarded human child.”
 - iii) Some PETA activists have resorted to violence: arson, property destruction, attempted murder, burglary and theft.
 - (1) These are considered acceptable crimes by animal rights activists.
 - (2) They believe wearing animal fur is akin to lampshades the Nazis made from human skin.
- b) Question: is man just a clever animal who can stand erect, has a thump juxtaposed to his fingers, with a little bigger cranium and a little more gray matter?
 - i) PETA, the Humane Society and other organizations, reject the fact that God made man and told man to have dominion over the works of His hand.
 - ii) Their goal is to set all animals free from human control and domination.
 - iii) Gary Francione, a law professor, says, “I do not believe it is morally permissible to exploit weaker beings, even if we derive benefits.”
- c) Speciesism
 - i) Valuing one species of animal, humans, over and above the others.
 - (1) Animal liberation people say we are bigoted is we say that human beings are more important than the “other animals.”
 - (2) They believe that, “It can no longer be maintained by anyone but a religious fanatic that man is the darling of the universe, that “other animals” were created to provide us with food or that we have divine authority over them and divine permission to kill them.”
 - ii) This is not just some other philosophy; it is a challenge to the Word of God.

- (1) Dr. Michael W. Fox, veterinarian, author and Senior Scholar at the Humane Society says, “There is no clear distinctions between us and animals. Animals communicate. Animals have emotions. Animals can think. Some thinkers believe that the human soul is different because we are immortal, and that just becomes completely absurd.”
 - iii) Humane Society literature has claimed for decades, “There is no rational basis for maintaining a moral distinction between the treatment of humans and other animals.”
 - (1) They are trying to raise animals to the level of humans, but what they are succeeding in doing is lowering humans to the level of animals.
 - d) Many secular scientists believe in using animals for research, while doing so as humanely as possible.
 - i) Animal rights activists say they have no right to do that because animals are the same as humans.
 - ii) When pushed to explain the difference, scientists hesitate because many also believe in evolution.
- 3) THE DECEPTION OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT (PANTHEISM)
- a) Eastern religions, such as Hinduism, believe:
 - i) God is impersonal.
 - (1) They do not believe in Yahweh, the Jehovah that we believe in.
 - ii) God is energy.
 - (1) An all-pervading reality.
 - b) Pantheism
 - i) They do not believe there is no God, they believe that everything is God.
 - (1) The air, the flowers, the plants and trees, the dirt, you and I; we are all God.
 - (2) What does this do to morality?
 - (a) If everything is God and God is everything, there is no good or evil, because all is the same and the idea of good and evil is only a figment.
 - (i) What we see as good and evil is just a perception.
 - c) Where does the animal rights movement come from?
 - i) It is a synthesis, an amalgamation and homogenization of evolution, secular humanism and Eastern religions.
 - d) This is complicated by those who are not in the animal rights movement or the New Age movement, but they are materialists and secularists.
 - i) They believe that saying, “life is sacred,” is, “The beginning of the argument, not the conclusion.”
 - ii) They believe that you cannot describe one kind of life as better than another kind of life.
 - e) Chuck Colson said, “This philosophy will bring three changes to Western thought.”
 - i) The approval of infanticide.

- ii) The approval of euthanasia.
- iii) Legalization of homosexual marriage.
- f) We have lost a generation.
 - i) Now, the courts, colleges, institutions and universities do not come from the same base that we come from.

4) THE CREATION OF MAN AND ANIMALS

- a) How did we get here?
 - i) Godless evolution.
 - (1) We started out as primitive protozoa and evolved through time.
 - ii) Theistic evolution.
 - (1) Regards religious teachings about God as compatible with modern scientific understandings about biological evolution.
 - iii) Creationism
 - (1) God created man and woman exactly as God's Word says.

5) THE COMPARISON OF MAN AND ANIMALS

- a) Man is like an animal, but he is not an animal.
 - i) Some believe because we compare with animals, therefore we are animals.
 - ii) Men and animals have the same design.
 - (1) We have a heart, brain, lungs, stomach, etc.
 - (2) This does not mean that man evolved from animals.
 - (3) Similarity in design means the same architect designed both.
 - iii) Men and animals have a similar diet.
 - (1) Genesis 1:29-30
 - (2) Having a similar diet does not mean that man evolved from animals.
 - iv) Men and animals both die.
 - (1) Genesis 2:17
 - (2) Ecclesiastes 3:19
 - (a) This is not saying that a man is no better than an animal, but when it comes to dying, man has no preeminence over animals; we are all living creatures and we die just as they die.

6) THE CONTRAST OF MAN AND ANIMALS

- a) Man was given a craving for God, a craving for deity.
 - i) God is spirit.
 - ii) Plants have a body but no soul or spirit.
 - iii) Animals have a body and a soul but no spirit.
 - (1) A soul is mind, emotion and will.
 - iv) Man has body, soul and spirit.
 - (1) John 4:24
 - v) God breathed into man's nostril's the spirit of life.
 - (1) This makes man different from the animals.

- vi) Man was created in the image of God.
 - (1) With our bodies we know the world beneath us.
 - (2) With our soul we know the world around us.
 - (3) With our spirit we know the world above us.
 - (4) This image is not physical; it is the spiritual image of God.
 - (5) Colossians 3:10
 - (a) When we get saved, God puts that image back in us.
 - (6) Ephesians 4:24
 - (a) Animals do not have righteousness or holiness.
 - (7) Man is the only creature that can blush; the only one that needs to.
 - (8) Man is the only creature that can laugh.
 - (9) Man is the only creature that has a capacity to suffer, to anguish, because they are made differently from all these other creatures.
- b) Man has a capacity for dominion.
 - i) Man is meant to rule over the animals.
 - (1) Psalm 8:6-8
 - (a) God gave man dominion; Adam lost it to Satan.
 - (b) Jesus, the last Adam, did not lose it.
 - (i) Luke 19:30
 - 1. Jesus had dominion over the beast of the field; a donkey that had never been ridden.
 - (ii) Matthew 26:34
 - 1. Jesus had dominion over the fowls of the air; causing all roosters to remain silent except one.
 - (iii) Matthew 17:27
 - 1. Jesus had dominion over the fish of the sea; causing a fish to have a coin in its mouth.
 - c) Man has a capacity for depravity.
 - i) Animals cannot sin, they are creatures of chemistry.
 - ii) Man has a spirit to guide him.
 - iii) God gave man a choice that animals do not have.
 - (1) A capacity for good and evil.
 - (2) Man, by his wickedness, has become lower than the animals.
 - (a) Men do things that animals would not do because man has a capacity for depravity.
 - d) Man has a concern for his destiny.
 - i) No animal knows that it is going to die.
 - (1) Animals do certain things by instinct; not knowledge.
 - (2) God did not give man these same types of instinct.
 - ii) God gave man spiritual insight and revelation that He did not give to the animals.
 - (1) Animals have instinct; they do not have knowledge, logic or a conscience.

- iii) Man is made different from the animals; he knows that he is here for more.
- iv) God has set an eternity in his heart.
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 3:11

7) CONCLUSION

- a) What is God's plan for us in our relationship to the animals?
 - i) They can be used for food and clothing.
 - ii) They can be used for research but there must be no gratuitous cruelty.
 - (1) Proverbs 12:10
- b) We should love God's creation.
- c) We should be environmentalists.
 - i) This is my Father's world.
- d) We should not put animals on the same plane with human beings.
 - i) Made in the image of God.
- e) Should we teach our children they evolved from animals?
 - i) Absolutely not otherwise they begin to act like animals.
 - (1) Self-preservation
 - (2) Self-profligation
 - (3) Self-gratification
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16