

Christian Ethics

Animal Rights

Animal Rights Activism abounds

- In *Animal Liberation*, Peter Singer argues that it is wrong to discriminate against animals on the basis of their species (a dog should not have more rights than a pig), and that animals should be treated according to their ability to feel pain. He would support veganism, and oppose using animals for testing purposes
- Singer doesn't argue that people and animals are equal, just that it's wrong, at Christmas, to eat the pig and give a gift to the dog

- Some oppose eating animals, or animal products
- Some oppose vivisection—using animals for test purposes
- Some oppose industrial livestock production, or “factory farms”

The Biblical Purpose of Animals

- To display the glory of God.
- Ps. 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- I Corinthians 15.39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.
- 1Co 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

- As subjects of Adam. Genesis 2.18-20
- As sources of food. Genesis 9.1-4
- As measurement of wealth. Gen.13:2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.
- As sacrifices. Genesis 3.21
- As tools. Deut. 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.
- There is no provision for pet ownership. One must be careful there, for God is clear that animals aren't substitutes for people. Gen. 2.18-20

The Biblical treatment of animals

- They rested on the Sabbath. Exodus 20.10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates
- Exo 23:12 Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed

- They were to be treated humanely.
- Deu 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.
- Mat 12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?
- Mat 12:12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days

- God foresees a day in which animals will not be killed by man or other animals.
Isaiah 11.6-9

But even in this, the animal is not the most important thing

- I Corinthians 9.6-10. It wasn't about the ox, it was about God and man
- Pro. 12:10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- Animals exist in this sinful world, and may be used by men for food, and as tools. Mark 7.18-23