

“ANIMAL RIGHTS” EXTREMES

Sadistic people visit cruel and senseless suffering on lower animal forms.

Accordingly, there is a place for a voice against such. As is often the case, however, that which is good in moderation becomes bad when carried to an extreme. This has happened in the “animal rights” movement. Those controlling the movement are lobbying and picketing (and sometimes using violence) against fur coat manufacturers and wearers and medical experimentation on animals. Consider some observations concerning this extreme:

1. It in effect places lower forms of life on the same level as human beings. (Of course, one must conclude that they are equals if he assumes that evolution explains the existence of all life forms.) If a researcher started experimenting on human beings instead of white mice or guinea pigs, he would be carried off in a straight jacket, but his practice would be consistent with the premise of the “animal rights” activists.

2. Where does the activist stop? If we let him take experiments on animals away from us, what does he suggest in their place? (Will he offer himself in place of a rat?) If he gets so upset over a fur coats that he maliciously pours paint on them while being worn by their owners, will he tolerate a plain leather coat? If he denies us a leather coat, must he not also deny us our belts, shoes, and purses? Where does he stop?

3. There are some implications concerning abortion. Amazingly, the same activist who works himself into a frenzy over preserving a Tennessee snail darter, an unhatched eaglet, or a whale will often be found screaming for a woman’s “right” to murder her own offspring in her womb. By what warped, twisted, perverted, insane logic such can happen I am unable to comprehend, but such occurs every day in our confused age.

4. What does God's Word say about "animal rights" and man's place in the animal hierarchy? First, the very order of creation shows that man is the crowning achievement of God's creation (Gen. 1:26). Second, God gave man dominion over all other life forms (Gen. 1:27; 9:2-3). Third, God was the first to make clothing for humans out of animal skins (it must not be too awful) (Gen. 3:21). Fourth, the Bible clearly distinguishes between men and "brute beasts" (2 Pet. 2:12; Jude 10). Fifth, Jesus said that one man is worth more than many sparrows (Mat. 10:31).

We should not inflict unnecessary, purposeless cruelty upon the lower forms. However, God created us as masters of them and made them to serve our needs. Let us not be driven from this sensible position by radical and extreme elements.

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