

Pets "Like Family Members"?

by Wayne Goff

The Kansas City Star's Saturday edition (July 3, 2010; p. C10) carried an article entitled "All God's Creatures." The byline was "Theology." The gist of the article was that we need to treat animals more humanely, even when we use them for food! It claims that 7,500 DVDs named "Eating Mercifully" have been distributed!

The variety of attitudes depends on one's religious background. Be aware that many New Age religions see no distinction between man and animal. They do not accept the Bible's explanation that man is a higher creature because he is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). Some will argue for reincarnation up and down the food chain, so you have to be careful how you treat animals -- they might be a past friend or relative!

Christian denominationalism mimics popular society, so it is no wonder that these New Age beliefs are beginning to filter in among so-called "Christian" religions. The Star stated "Some religious leaders welcome pets to worship services, memorialize them at death and discuss them as spiritual beings without distinction from humanity -- the most controversial ideology and one that is not accepted by mainstream religious faiths." However, do not be surprised to see and hear in the next few years that these mainstream faiths have begun to incorporate such thinking into their creeds!

I couldn't help but laugh out loud when I read in this same article "Some Jewish rabbis celebrate a dog's coming of age with a 'bark mitzvah.'" However, the article went on to point out that a rabbi said "that's ridiculous!"

The Lesson For Us

It is fine to have animals as pets, and to love them, care for them, and treat them humanely. In fact, as stewards of such creatures, God expects us to do no less. It is more a reflection on us than it is on our animals. Animals may seem to think, talk, and act like us -- but they do not! They are not made in the Divine Image of God! Mankind has been given "dominion" (Genesis 1:26) over them. So do not get carried away with the tide of society and blur the distinction between man and animal.

Secondly, animal cruelty is never acceptable. It usually indicates a perverted mind that will strike out next at humans.

When hunters kill animals they should preserve the meat for food (Genesis 6:21). Killing for the sake of killing is never acceptable. But neither should we think that any animal creature is a reincarnated relative from the past! Think soberly.

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