

## Is A Cow A “Person”?

by Wayne Goff

*The Platte County Citizen (12/6/19, p. 16) reported a controversial billboard placed near the scene of an accident in Riverside, Missouri where a number of cows were killed when the tractor-trailer hauling them overturned and the cows were hit by vehicles. Police euthanized the injured animal.*

### “I’m ME, Not MEAT”

PETA [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals] is a controversial animal rights group that views animals as persons in the same way that human beings are viewed. Vice President Tracy Reiman released a statement about the accident which read:

“Every cow who died in this terrifying wreck was an individual who felt pain and fear — and so is every cow whose throat is slit in a slaughterhouse.”

The billboard placed near the scene reads “I’m me, not meat. See the individual, go vegan.”

How does anyone come to the belief that cows and people are equal beings? The answer is the real point of this article. The average American might scoff at the thought, and even the newspaper described PETA as a controversial group. But let me suggest to you that this group is simply following the logic set forth by evolution. According to evolution, man is only a more evolved creature than all other creatures. Therefore, we have no business eating other creatures which PETA calls “individuals.” So we are urged to go *vegan*, not for health reasons but for *moral ones*.

Now if you think I am mistaken, then go to PETA’s web site and read their story. They tell us that PETA “operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way. ...

“PETA believes that animals have rights and deserve too have their best interests taken into consideration, ... Like you, they are capable of suffering and have an interest in leading their own lives. ...

“...We uphold the rights of individual animals to be respected....”

Reading this, I am curious to know how they *logically* permit human “individuals” to go vegan, because evolution teaches that we evolved from plants too! Maybe plants are so far down the evolutionary chain that they do not have “rights” and do not “feel pain.” And if that is the case, then I wonder at what **point** the transition occurs!

### Simple Solution

Once we give up the concept of God as Creator and *man made in the image of God* (Gen. 1:26-27), then the moral compass is gone. The only thing that makes us different from all other creatures is that we are made in God’s image! If that’s not true, then we are no different than cows. *Logically then*, eating hamburger, or pork, or chicken, or fish sticks — is akin to cannibalism. If not, then please tell me why not.

Furthermore, the God Who made us in His image also made every “*living creature according to its kind*” (Gen. 1:24-25), including cattle. God gave man power and control over all other living creatures: “...*have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth*” (Gen. 1:28). Man’s “*dominion*” means “to tread down, i.e. subjugate; specifically, to crumble off: — have dominion, prevail against, reign, rule over, take” [**Key Dictionary of Hebrew Bible**]. This includes, biblically and historically, the right to eat animals (Gen. 9:3), offer them for sacrifice (Gen. 4:4), and to domesticate them for his own purposes (Gen. 1:28; 9:2). Man and beast that kill humans were to be put to death (Gen. 9:5-6) **because** man is made in the image of God! So that is the biblical, logical reasoning of the matter. But if you reject God in your mind, you will instead “*worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen*” (Romans 1:25).

The mistake of PETA is that they accept the evolutionary concept of man, rather than the biblical one. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

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