

John 11:47ff.
July 31, 1988
Rome Georgia
Dec. 28, 2014

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

I. MAN CREATING GOD IN HIS OWN IMAGE--47-51 + COLSON INTRO.

WHICH DO WE REALLY BELIEVE IS TRUE?

II. GOD CREATING MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE--GEN. 1-3,ROM. 1,

III.GOD CREATING MEN IN THE IMAGE OF HIS SON--51-54.II COR. 5:17 = NEW CREATURE.

In Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's novel "**THE CANCER WARD**" a young, cancerous political prisoner named Oleg finds respite from the horrors of the hospital by helping an attractive nurse, Zoya, with her clerical duties. While looking over the patients records, Oleg notices that hardly any deaths occur in the hospital. "I see they don't allow them to die here. They manage to discharge them in time." "What else can they do," replies Zoya, "Judge for yourself. If it is obvious that a patient is beyond help and there is nothing left for him but to live out the few last weeks or months, why should he take up a bed? . . . People who could be cured are kept waiting. "

IN AN ATHEISTIC SYSTEM, A MAN'S VALUE IS DETERMINED SOLELY BY HIS USEFULNESS TO SOCIETY.

In utilitarian terms, sending a terminally ill patient out to die in the streets is not inhumane, but eminently sensible. Why waste a bed on someone who will not survive?

YES BUT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT WAS IN COMMUNIST RUSSIA.

If you listened to the news this week (**July 1988**) you probably heard the reports of a court decision to allow the starvation of a young lady who was injured in a car wreck a couple of years ago. Before the wreck, she had been a vivacious young lady who was a real asset to her family. Since her injury, she has been hospitalized. She is not brain dead. She apparently recognizes family members and cries when they leave the room. Yet the family has requested and received from the court permission to withhold nourishment from this injured family member.

First it was abortion. Then just a few short years ago, the Court ruled that it was OK to starve a certain baby to death since he was handicapped and no one wanted him. They simply put him in a closet in the hospital - and let him die! Now it is adults - in America!

YES BUT, these are sick people and they are a drain on our resources.

Adolf Hitler started with the mentally ill, moved to the criminals, next, it was the injured soldiers from WWI, then his own storm-troopers, next - entire races of people.

IN AMERICA, WE HAVE STARTED WITH THE MOST INNOCENT - OUR UNBORN - AND WE MOVING PELL MELL IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MOST BARBAROUS NATIONS THAT THE WORLD HAS KNOWN!

YES BUT, we are different!

NO, we are not. We are not better, nor worse. We are men and as men, we are capable of anything.

WRITING IN THE JULY 83 ISSUE OF "**PEDIATRICS**", A PROMINENT BIOETHICIST (Peter Singer,) in an article entitled, "**SANCTITY OF LIFE OR QUALITY OF LIFE**" HAD THIS TO SAY:

"We can no longer base our ethics on the idea that human beings are a special form of creation, singled out from all other animals, and alone possessing an immortal soul. Once the religious mumbo-jumbo has been stripped away, we may continue to see normal members of our species as possessing greater capabilities . . . than members of any other species; BUT WE WILL NOT REGARD AS SACROSANCT THE LIFE OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR SPECIES . . . SPECIES MEMBERSHIP ALONE . . . IS NOT MORALLY RELEVANT."

TO PUT IT MORE SUCCINCTLY, HUMAN LIFE HAS NO MORE VALUE THAN THAT OF A COW OR PIG OR RAT.

"A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy" is more than the title to a book. It is system of belief that "For some activists, the animal rights ideology amounts to a quasi religion, one whose central doctrine declares a moral equivalency between the value of animal lives and the value of human lives.

Argentine court grants orangutan limited human rights

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(RNN) - A court has **granted Sandra, a 29-year-old orangutan housed at the Buenos Aires zoo, limited human rights as a result of a petition, paving the way for her to be transferred to an animal sanctuary**, the Spanish-language paper *La Nacion* reported Sunday.

The habeas corpus petition, filed by the Association of Officials and Lawyers for Animal Rights or Afada, argued that detaining a creature with Sandra's high level of cognitive function without cause and treating it like an object is unlawful.

The court agreed and granted Sandra the rights of an "non-human person," according to Reuters. The zoo has 10 days to file an appeal.

A similar attempt in New York, filed by the Nonhuman Rights Project, failed to win Tommy, a chimpanzee, human rights, the Guardian reported.

"While petitioner proffers various justifications for affording chimpanzees, such as Tommy, the liberty rights protected by such writ, the ascription of rights has historically been connected with the imposition of societal obligations and duties," the five-judge panel ruled earlier this month.

Some groups object to animals being held in zoos.

"Zoos claim to promote education, but the only thing to be learned at these sad facilities is how animals who want to be free act when they are confined," People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals stated, claiming that captivity drives animals insane and thus endangers zoo patrons.

That "Children who grow up to believe they are "only animals" soon manifest some " "bestly attitudes"

THIS IS THE PHILOSOPHY THAT IS BEGINNING TO PERVADE THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. DOCTORS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS AGENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, WITH THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH TO BE USED AT THEIR DISCRETION IN THE ABORTING OF THE UNBORN - AND NOW IN THE MURDER OF INVALIDS.

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?THE PROBLEM IS NOT SO MUCH PSYCHOLOGICAL AS IT IS ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND THEOLOGICAL.THAT IS - IT IS A PROBLEM THAT STEMS FROM A WRONG VIEW OF MAN - AND A WRONG VIEW OF GOD!

MAN IS NOT BASICALLY GOOD - AND THEN PERVERTED BY HIS ENVIRONMENT, LACK OF EDUCATION, ECONOMIC STRATA ETC. THIS IS THE LIE THAT IS BEING PUSHED ON US. IT IS THE "I'M OK YOU'RE OK" PHILOSOPHY OF THE 70'S.

THIS IS THE PHILOSOPHY THAT ALLOWED MAO TSE-TUNG TO ASSERT"OUR GOD IS NONE OTHER THAN THE MASSES OF CHINESE PEOPLE" AND THEN, IN THE NAME OF HIS "god" TO SLAUGHTER MILLIONS OF CHINESE PEOPLE.

I. MAN CREATING GOD IN HIS OWN IMAGE--47-51 + COLSON INTRO.

THE PROBLEM BEGAN - NOT WITH THE COMMUNISTS - BUT WITH CAIN!

IT IS THE PROBLEM THAT EXISTS BECAUSE MAN IS INTRINSICALLY"SINFUL"

IT IS THE PROBLEM THAT ARISES WHEN WE SEEK TO CREATE GOD IN OUR OWN IMAGE RATHER THAN ADMITTING THAT WE ARE CREATED IN HIS IMAGE.

IN **JOHN 11:47**, WE HAVE A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF HOW MAN SETS HIMSELF IN GOD'S PLACE AND TRIES TO CHANGE GOD'S PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A SELECT GROUP OF MEN.

READ **JOHN 11:45-50**

THESE MEN HAD A PROBLEM - THAT PROBLEM WAS THAT THE KINGDOMS THAT THEY HAD BUILT FOR THEMSELVES ON EARTH, WAS BEING THREATENED BY ONE WHO CAME FROM HEAVEN AND OFFERED TO ALL MEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.IT WAS NOT A "REALM" SUCH AS THESE MEN THOUGHT OF IN TERMS OF A KINGDOM, BUT RATHER IT IS A "RULE."IT IS THE DECLARATION OF GOD'S ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSE. **Cf. "Kingdoms In Conflict". p. 83.**

John 11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him:and the Romans shall COME AND TAKE AWAY BOTH OUR PLACE AND NATION.

MEN WHO SEE LIFE ONLY ON THE TEMPORAL AND MATERIAL PLANE CAN SEE ONLY TEMPORARY AND OFTEN MILITANT SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

WHEN WE SERVE GOD, NOT FOR HIS GLORY, BUT FOR OUR OWN BENEFIT, WE TEND TO CREATE HIM IN OUR IMAGE RATHER THAN ADMIT THAT IT IS WE WHO ARE IN HIS IMMUTABLE IMAGE.

II. GOD CREATING MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE--GEN. 1-3,ROM. 1,

GEN. 1:26-27 - MAN AS UNIQUE AMONG ALL CREATION.GOD'S LIFE IS IS IMPARTATION TO US OF HIS IMAGE.NO OTHER CREATURE HAS THAT.

"Among all God's creatures, ONLY HUMANITY RECEIVES THE IMAGE OF GOD, and that quality separates us from all else. We posses what no other animal does; we are LINKED IN OUR ESSENCE TO

GOD . . . killing an animal means one thing - killing a man means quite another, "for in the image of God made He man." [Gen. 9:6](#)

"God's image is not an arrangement of skin cells or a physical shape, but rather, an inbreathed spirit." **"In His Image** by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey **p. 22.**

Image = "The likeness of one subject expressed visibly in another." **"In His Image"** p. 20.

GOD HAS REPRODUCED FOR US HIS IMAGE IN US! IT IS IN THIS WAY THAT HE HAS CHOSEN TO VISIBLY REVEAL HIMSELF UNTO MANKIND. WHEN MAN WAS CREATED, GOD BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE. IN SO DOING, HE PLACED HIS IMAGE WITHIN US!

But this image has been marred by sin. Adam and Eve's rebellion in the Garden led ultimately to a break in the perfect unity that God desired for man to enjoy with Him.

"The God of all creation tells the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers." (Gen. 3:15). This is a real and historic event. There was a real Adam and a real Eve — a real first man and first woman." [This is the protoevangelium—or first gospel account in scripture.](#)

It is important to note that God tells the serpent that enmity will be between its offspring and the **woman's offspring**, (*Jesus*) not the man's offspring. In Genesis 5, we get a hint of why. "When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God." (Gen 5:1) But when Adam had a son, "he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image." (Gen 5:3) God's creation was in his image. Man's creation was in man's own image. It is a hint of something to come. (See [Erick Erickson article, Christmas 2014, Illus. folder](#))

FROM THE GARDEN EDEN TO GENOCIDES OF THE LAST CENTURY, THE ONLY THING THAT HAS CHANGED ABOUT UNREGENERATE MAN IS HIS TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRUELTY.

GOD IS NOT SOMETHING WE CREATE IN OUR MINDS, THAT WE MOLD AND MANIPULATE TO SERVE OUR OWN ENDS. IT IS HE AND HE ALONE THAT IS THE CREATOR - OUR ALLEGIANCE SHOULD BE TO HIM - AND NOT TO THE CREATURE. WE ARE NOT HERE TO WORSHIP AND SERVE THE CREATURE - BUT THE CREATOR. BUT MAN HAS SOUGHT TO ALTER GOD'S PLAN.

READ **ROM. 1:20-25** -SPEAKING OF THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED THEIR BACK ON GOD.

- 1:20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
- 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- 1:22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
- 1:23** And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
- 1:24** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:
- ROMANS 1:25** WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE, AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE MORE THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOR EVER. AMEN.

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Joh 11:51 And **this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year**, he prophesied that Jesus should **die for that nation** 11:52 And **not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.** Joh 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 3:15 **Of whom the is named, whole family in heaven and earth**

II COR. 5:17 = NEW CREATURE.

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a **new creature: old things are passed** away; behold, all things are become new.

INVITATION: