

The Silliness of Comparative Psychology

by Carl McMurray

The study of animal behavior can lead to a deeper and broader understanding of human psychology. ...Students of biological sciences and social sciences can benefit from studying comparative psychology

- *What Is Comparative Psychology?*

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Comparative Psychology is learning about the human animal, based upon the behavior of non-human animals. It will come as no surprise that it is based in evolutionary philosophy and that Charles Darwin is given credit for beginning this "science." It is built around the idea that since human animals are "evolved" from non-human animals we can learn more about human behavior by studying animals. I am not a geneticist, nor a biologist, but I still disagree with this so-called science. I don't disagree that there are similarities too obvious to miss between humans and animals. I submit that these similarities are not because we are all long lost cousins, but because we have all been created by the same intelligent force, the Almighty.

What this "science" actually does is what other scientific disciplines do when it comes to the evidence of God. It picks and chooses which "evidence" it will accept to advance its theories. First on the list is always Pavlov's dogs showing that we can be trained to respond to bells. Or, eagles who mate for life showing loyalty and commitment. Or, animals that practice homosexual behavior, supposedly showing that it's a genetic trait? But what about other animal habits.

What of the black widow spider that mates and then consumes its mate? Or the emperor penguin that lays one egg and then leaves for a two month luncheon with the girls while the males stand out in the winter blast of Antarctic winter huddled with the guys with an egg on his feet to keep it warm? Or, polar bear cubs that are destroyed by their own male parent? And speaking of homosexual behavior among animals. Shouldn't that be considered an aberration rather than a genetic trait to be passed on, because it would naturally lead to a failure in the reproductive cycle? Homosexual behavior doesn't pass on anything because it doesn't reproduce.

A wolf by instinct knows to care for it's young and beware lone wolves that are not part of it's pack family. It is only among humans that reason against instinct where we find the stupidity to trust outsiders (who seek after their own self interest), and peers, rather than parents, and to kill their own young while in the womb, out of convenience. It is only humans that were created in the image of God, with moral choice, the ability to reason over instinct, nobility to sacrifice for causes and not just kinship. Although humans may share many physical traits with animals there is no like comparison to the human spirit and it was man that was given the dominion over the earth and all it contains. Perhaps we should stop worrying about behaving like animals and be more concerned about behaving like children of God.