**Extension Activities 8: Humans and (other) Animals**

**[http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship](http://ex.ac.uk/beyondstewardship" \t "_blank)**

**1. ‘Test Tube’ Burgers**

Scientists have recently pioneered a technique that could be used to grow meat in a laboratory.

Read the article available here: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17113214](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17113214)

As you read, think about the following questions:

* Why might an environmentalist support this method of producing meat?
* Could vegetarians eat meat produced in this way? Might it depend on an individual’s reasons for vegetarianism?
* Do you think the Bible could be interpreted as offering support for this method of meat production? If so, which verses do you think would be relevant and how would you interpret them?

**2. Further Reading**

Studying food and its production provides an excellent opportunity to connect up many areas of ethical and religious concern, as well as of science, economics and politics.

Select one following resources. As you read, think about the following questions:

* What is the author saying about the status of animals in relation to humans?
* What are the author’s motivations for their position? Are they primarily concerned with animal welfare, environmental ethics or religious teachings?
* Are the author’s ideas influenced by the Bible? If so, what interpretation of particular words or verses has been used?
* Do you agree with what the author is saying? Why or why not?

**a. Michael Pollan,** [***The Omnivore’s Dilemma***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Omnivores-Dilemma-Fast-Food-reissued/dp/1408812185/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1349965010&sr=8-1)**(London: Bloomsbury, 2006)**

This presents a very stimulating investigation of various systems of food production.

**b. John Barclay, ‘Food, Christian Identity and Global Warming: A Pauline Call for a Christian Food Taboo’, *The Expository Times* 121:12 (2010), 585-593**

This is a recent discussion about Christians reducing their meat consumption.

In addition, the following articles offer responses to this piece:

David Grumett, ‘Eat Less Meat: A New Ecological Imperative for Christian Ethics?’, *The Expository Times* 123:2 (2011), 54-62

Tim Gorringe, ‘Rise Peter! Kill and Eat: A Response to John Barclay’, *The Expository Times* 123:2, 63-69.

This article offers a reply from Barclay:

John Barclay, ‘Meat, a Damaging Extravagance: A Response to Grumett and Gorringe’, *The Expository Times* 123:2, 70-73.

**c. Stephen Webb,**[***Good Eating***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Good-Eating-Christian-Practice-Everyday/dp/1587430150/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349965071&sr=1-1) **(Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2001)**

This book explores Christianity in relation to a number of food-related issues including vegetarianism, fasting and animal rights.

**d. Rachel Muers and David Grumett (eds),** [***Eating and Believing: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Vegetarianism and Theology***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Eating-Believing-Interdisciplinary-Perspectives-Vegetarianism/dp/0567032841) **(London and New York: T&T Clark, 2008)**

This book investigates the relationship between Christianity and vegetarianism.

**e. Andrew Linzey,** [***Animal Theology***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Animal-Theology-Andrew-Linzey/dp/033400005X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349965279&sr=1-1) **(London: SPCK, 1994)**

The theologian who has done most to bring animals onto the agenda of theological discussion is Andrew Linzey. Other important publications by him include:

Andrew Linzey and Dorothy Yamamoto (eds), *Animals on the Agenda* (London: SCM, 1998)

Andrew Linzey and Tom Regan (eds), *Animals and Christianity: A Book of Readings* (London: SPCK, 1989).