

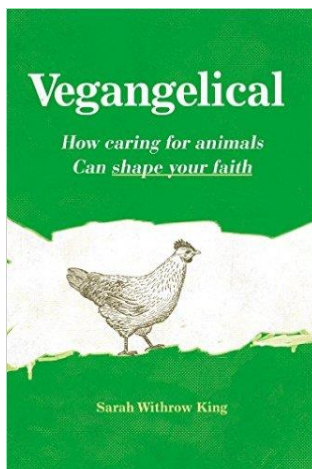


KAREN CAMPBELL
M E D I A

Is There a Biblical Basis for Veganism?

Sarah Withrow King starts a conversation about animal stewardship as a necessary part of Christian peace and justice

Christians have discussed and shared their beliefs about many pressing political issues such as abortion, human trafficking and environmental degradation, but a casual Christian discussion about animal stewardship may be harder to come by. Unless, of course, you are lucky enough to be at a social gathering with theologian and animal welfare advocate, Sarah Withrow King. “Inevitably, I’ll end up talking about Jesus or chickens. . . I am really bad at small talk,” says King. However, she is ready for the conversation to spread with the hope of developing a theological framework to govern our treatment of animals and our relationship to them.



King has always had a passion for justice, but never knew just where she was being called to work.” That is, until she came across a booklet on animal abuse one day at lunch that would unexpectedly change the course of her life and, indirectly, the lives of many readers. King’s passionate journey has brought her to write *Vegangelical: How Caring For Animals Can Shape Your Faith* (Zondervan, June 2016), which presents readers with a Biblical perspective of animal welfare.

King begins by exploring the commonly held values of Christianity from dominion to stewardship to love and service in order to establish a biblical foundation for Christian animal ethics. “How we see ourselves, and especially how we see ourselves in relation to God and to one another, informs every decision we make,” says King. She pushes forward to demonstrate the many ways humans are using animals today and concludes with practical guidance for readers who want to start making changes in their lives and begin to alleviate animal suffering.

King’s biblical, intellectual, grounded and sometimes humorous approach will make readers fall in love with her as an author, while the words of *Vegangelical* will “open your eyes to truths that will make you a better human being,” says Rev. Carlos Malave. “Your understanding of compassion, violence and life will be transformed.” *Vegangelical* is a compassionate and welcoming invitation to reconsider God’s design, and how he intended the relationship of his creation to be.



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Sarah Withrow King earned her MTS with a concentration in Christian Faith and Public Policy from Palmer Seminary of Eastern University in 2014, then started a Christian outreach program for PETA before returning to Eastern University as Deputy Director of the Sider Center and the co-director of CreatureKind, a project to engage churches on farmed animal welfare issues. She is the author of *Animals Are Not Ours (No Really, They're Not): An Evangelical Animal Liberation Theology* (Cascade Books, 2016) and she is an Associate Fellow of Oxford University's Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

Suggested Interview Questions for Sarah Withrow King, author of *Vegangelical*

1. How did your journey to learn more about animal welfare and its biblical connection begin?
2. What are some of the most common misconceptions about being a vegan?
3. Is the intention of *Vegangelical* to convert all of its readers to a vegan lifestyle? Is it worth reading even if you don't plan to stop eating meat?
4. You refer to popular, often ridiculous, Vegan survival scenario questions, which is your favorite? Do you have an answer?
5. What was our original design in the Garden of Eden? How did God intend humans to relate to animals?
6. How do dominion over the animals and animal stewardship work hand in hand?
7. Owning a pet seems to be a caring thing to do. What troubles are arising with animal owners that works against our calling to care for them?



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8. How is our desire to use animals for entertainment or sport working against our biblical responsibility to animals?
9. What is the reality of animal experimentation? Is it ever ok?
10. What advice would you give to the reader who wants to begin their journey as a vegan? Where do they start?

To request an interview with Sarah Withrow King, contact Karen Campbell at karen@karencampbellmedia.com or 616-309-4390

Praise for Vegangelical: How Caring For Animals Can Shape Your Faith

Sarah Withrow King in this factual, Biblically sound and theologically profound book makes a strong case for the spiritual connectedness between animals and humans. She then challenges us to change our lifestyles so that we do not harm the animals around us in ways that break the heart of God.

--Tony Campolo, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Eastern University

I love animals (except cats). I also love eating them (animals, not cats). This book isn't a self-righteous rant. It's a provocative, funny, spiritual manifesto about how precious life is. It's easy to forget that God's original plan was to hang out with a couple of naked vegetarians in a garden. Our McDonalds-and-Chipotle-loving-fast-food world has come a long way from the ole Garden of Eden. Sarah's book is an invitation to step back and consider how God really intended for us to relate to all these wonderful creatures.

--Shane Claiborne, Activist, animal-lover, backsliding vegetarian, and author of *Executing Grace*

This book signals the end of an era in which the Bible has been selectively and erroneously used to justify how the world thinks about animals. A very diverse group of theologians and biblical scholars have been challenging this received wisdom in recent years, but King expertly connects their ideas to a much broader audience. Anyone who takes the Bible seriously as God's Word will find themselves deeply challenged--and perhaps even brought closer to God--by wrestling with this book.



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--Charles Camosy, Associate Professor of Theology, Fordham University

In her eminently readable *Vegangelical*, Sarah Withrow King combines wry personal testimony, evangelical reflection upon scripture, and bracing accounts of contemporary treatment of animals. The result is an inviting yet prophetic challenge that should be faithfully considered not only by all Christian animal lovers, but by all who believe God is love.

--William Greenway, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; author of *For the Love of All Creatures: The Story of Grace in Genesis*

I'm grateful for my friend Sarah Withrow King and this important book she has written. God cares for his creation and made us in his image so we could too. Although it's often been a blind spot in our churches, how we treat God's other (nonhuman) creatures is integral to our discipleship and witness today. It also has serious implications for the health of both people and the planet. These aren't easy questions—and they may have more than one answer—but they're important and biblical ones that need asking. And Sarah is an honest and thoughtful guide for all of us committed to living more faithfully in a world too full of violence and suffering.

--Rev. Ben Lowe, Activist and Author, *Doing Good Without Giving Up* and *The Future of our Faith*

This book will open your eyes to truths that will make you a better human being. Your understanding of compassion, violence and life will be transformed.

--Rev. Carlos L. Malavé, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together

Sarah Withrow King offers a thoughtful invitation to Christians to consider our relationship with animals in light of our faith. *Vegangelical* is an articulate, sincere introduction to Bible-based social and environmental justice, opening the conversation to how God forms us through our interactions with the created world. A must-read for protectors of all creatures, great and small.

--Nancy Sleeth, co-founder of Blessed Earth

A significant introduction to the important but too-long neglected topic of a solidly Christian approach to the (mis)treatment of animals. One need not agree with every argument to realize this book presents an urgent challenge that biblical Christians dare no longer ignore. King's chilling stories, extensive statistics, and probing biblical arguments offer a great place to begin.

--Ronald J. Sider, Senior Distinguished Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry, and Public Policy, Palmer Seminary at Eastern University