



**Theological Education Discussions
#7: Apathy: Cat & Dog Theology**

CAT & DOG THEOLOGY: Developed by Bob Sjogren and Gerald Robison

I love my dog and my cat... But they're quite a bit different!

A dog says, "You Pet Me, You Feed Me, You Love Me, You Shelter Me..... YOU must be God!

A cat says, "You Pet Me, You Feed Me, You Love Me, You Shelter Me..... I must be God!

One of two different mindsets can grow in a believer

I serve God. I want to bless God. What does God get?

God serves me. God wants to bless me. What do I get?



**None of us are all oneway or the other.... But we sure lean one way or the other.
The difference shows up when we: pray, worship, think about salvation, and face life difficulties**



Dogs want to follow wherever God leads. Dog type verses:

- *...because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1 Pe 2:20-21*
- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations Mt. 28:19*

Cats have a 'feel good theology'. Cat type verses:

- *For as high as the heavens are above the earth so great is his love for those who fear him. Psalm 103:11*
- *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you... Jeremiah 29:11*

We often think that we know best and that God wants for us what WE think is best.

Most of What A Cat Thinks is Not Incorrect... But it IS incomplete. It does emphasize the self.

Dogs fit in with the master's plans. They don't skip the 2nd half of Hebrews 11.

There were others who were tortured...³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword.³⁸ the world was not worthy of them... All these earned a good reputation because of their faith...

Cats think their needs are central to God's plans. They stop after the first half of Hebrews 11.

I don't have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel & the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, & escaped the sword... Women received back their dead, raised to life again... vs. 32-35

Yes, God loves us. But his plans are eternal and go far beyond us.

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WHATEVER life throws at you, God can use it for GOOD and for HIS GLORY.

Worship is about GOD and who HE is. Secondarily it is about what he has done for us. Dog worship songs...

- *Majesty, worship his majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from his throne
Unto his own his anthem raise
So exalt lift up on high the name of Jesus*

Worship is about how I feel and what God has done for us. Secondarily it is about HIM.

- *I lay it all down again- To hear You say that I'm Your friend
You are my desire - And no one else will do
'Cause nothing else can take Your place - To feel the warmth of Your embrace...*

- *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's mercy seat
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings
You are my everything and I will adore You*

- *And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing
And He walks with me, And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known*

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We can use songs about our experience.... But these should be secondary to actual worship of GOD.

Dogs know that prayer is communicating with God and first listening to what HE has to say, then caring for others, and then brining our hopes before HIM.

- *Jesus before His crucifixion, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." Mt. 26:39*
- *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

Cats see talking to God as the way to get things. Prayer is about me and my friends/family having the fewest possible difficulties in life.

Sample Prayers: "Lord, please give me a car, help me be a better Christian, take away my Aunt's bad back..."

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They think that prayer is about receiving. YES we are to pray boldly and tell God our needs and those needs of others.... But we are to also accept his will and to look beyond our needs to those of others, and the world. Even more, to spend time on reflecting on who HE is and asking how we are to live and serve.

Want to read more on this? Why not go to:
<http://www.catndogtheology.com/>

Search me,
O God,
and know my *Heart*
test me & know
my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any
offensive way in me,
>Lead Me>
in the way everlasting.

•••••
• *Psalm 139:23-24* •

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Our Queensway version of TED Talks will focus on particular key ideas about what It means to be 'the Church' in a fast changing world. Drawn from Biblical references and key ideas from theologians and church leaders, our **T**heological **E**ducation **D**iscussions will come regularly and will provide a 5 -7 minute look that will help us as a community to focus on our purposes, organization, & tasks.

Please use this page at home to reflect upon in the light of who we are as a church today. Open up your Bible to check the references, and then think and pray about what you've read. As we all do this, we will be opening ourselves to the leading of God's Spirit in our church community.