

Cage-Free Eggs Campaign – Sermon Notes for Season of Creation 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, I want us to reflect on a topic that might not be at the forefront of our minds but carries significant ethical implications – the way we approach the eggs we consume, particularly those that come from caged hens. As followers of Christ, we are called to be stewards of God's creation and to show compassion and care for all living beings. This is true indeed because God is very specific in His allocation of food for his creatures and that this is linked to the idea of mutual care and consideration. To treat life as if it were an industrial process demeans it and disregards the sacred nature of life as a whole.

Here are a few notes for us to remember:

- The Golden Rule, precept in the Gospel of Matthew (7:12): “In everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
- The book of Genesis states that God created the heavens and the earth and saw that everything He had made was good. We are reminded of our responsibility to cherish and protect His creation. When we consider the lives of caged hens, confined to cramped spaces, unable to engage in natural behaviours, it challenges the very notion of goodness that God intended for His creation.
- In Matthew 6:26, Jesus tells us to look at the birds of the air, for they do not sow, reap, or gather into barns, yet our Heavenly Father provides for them. How much more, then, should we be concerned for the welfare of these creatures that provide us with sustenance? Our faith calls us to show compassion and to consider the welfare of all living beings.
- The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us about compassion and care for those in need. When we choose eggs from caged hens, we may be indirectly supporting a system that mistreats and neglects these animals. Our faith prompts us to be mindful of the suffering of others, whether they are human or animals, and to take steps to alleviate that suffering.
- Ethical considerations also extend to our role as stewards of the environment. In Genesis 1:28, God commands us to fill the earth and subdue it, but not in a way that exploits or harms His creation. Industrial egg production usually has negative environmental consequences, contributing to pollution and depletion of resources. By choosing ethically produced eggs, we honour our role and moral obligation as caretakers of God's creation.
- As Christians, our actions should reflect our values and beliefs. When we opt for eggs from more humane and ethical sources, we demonstrate our commitment to living out the principles of love, compassion, and stewardship that our faith teaches us. Each choice we make has the potential to bring glory to God by aligning our lives with His design for creation.

In conclusion, the ethical considerations of the eggs we consume provide us with an opportunity to live out our Christian faith in practical ways. Let us remember that every choice we make is an opportunity to honour God, whether it's in the food we consume, the products we purchase, or the care we extend to all living beings.

May our actions be a testament to our faith, and may we strive to be responsible stewards of God's creation, showing love and compassion to all creatures great and small.

In Jesus' name, amen!