

The Uniqueness of *Homo Sapiens* Among Other Species

Popular science and nature books and documentaries present human beings as just one of the many animal species on this planet. They claim that any differences between our species and those they call our 'closest relatives', such as chimpanzees, are merely differences of degree and not of kind. We may be more highly evolved, but we are not in a distinct category. This workshop will consider the evidence of science for the unique features of our species and suggest lines of apologetic argument for the truth of the gospel from human nature and experience.

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I. *Homo Sapiens* Among Other Species

- A. Lines of enquiry

- B. Darwin's assertion and its consequences
 - 1. Self-understanding – our value?

 - 2. Morality – our duties?

II. Uniquely Human?

- A. Physiological

- B. Sociological

- C. Theory of Mind

III. Pointers Beyond – Indicators of Transcendence in Human Experience

- A. Blushing
- B. Fainting
- C. Weeping

IV. Where Next? Moving the Conversation on

- A. Which story fits best? The gospel on human nature
 - 1. God rules
 - 2. We rebelled
 - 3. God rescues
 - 4. We respond
 - 5. God restores
- B. The person of Christ (incarnation)

Suggested Readings:

Coulter, Paul B. (2015) *Are We Just Naked Apes?* Available online at <https://www.paulcoulter.net/apologetics>