

KJV

"...THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH."

I Timothy 3:15

THE BAPTIST PILLAR

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SECULAR HUMANISM

In the early 80's evangelical Christianity discovered secular humanism.

Many books were published exposing this anti-Christian worldview. Actually various forms of humanism have been around since Eden.

General Definition

- 1.The word "humanism" was coined during the Renaissance.
- 2.The Encyclopedia of Philosophy (vol. IV, p. 69ff.) defines humanism as "any philosophy which recognizes the value or dignity of man and makes him the measure of all things or somehow takes human nature, its limits, or its interests as its theme."
- 3.A humanist was originally one who focused his studies on man, his art and thought, and nature, as opposed to God, the spiritual and revelation. Today such study of culture is called the humanities.
4. It was originally an innocuous term. The humanists of the Renaissance were Christians. This type of humanism can be wedded to any religion or philosophy, for it only recognizes the value and dignity of man and his art.

There are as many varieties of humanism as there are of Christianity. For example, one of the most visible forms of humanism today is a mystical variety known popularly as the New Age Movement.

Specific and Contemporary Meaning

- 1.One who makes man his ultimate concern, his ultimate point of reference.
- 2.Today's humanist is generally not theistic or at most deistic or agnostic.
- 3.It was declared a religion by

MODERNISM - LIBERALISM

Liberalism or sometimes called Modernism is a major shift in theological thinking which occurred in the late nineteenth century. Liberals insist that the world has changed since the time Christianity was founded so that biblical terminology and creeds are incomprehensible to people today. Although most would start from the orthodoxy of Jesus Christ as the revelation of a saviour God, they try to rethink and communicate the faith in terms which can be

the Supreme Court in 1961.

- 4.The best definitions of contemporary humanism can be found in the Humanist Manifesto I and II (p. 16). "We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity."

What Humanism Is Not

Many confuse humanism with humanitarianism. The

latter is simply one who shows philanthropic concern for his fellowman. Anyone can be humanitarian.

An Overview of the History of Modern Humanism

It is the second oldest religion in the world.

In Genesis 3:5, Satan told Eve, "...Your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

In Psalm 2, is the conflict between these two--God and His kingdom versus man and his schemes to replace God. Humanism denies the sovereignty of God.

Revelation 17 and 18 predicts the outcome of the struggle.

The Greeks: Protagoras (5th Century B.C.) coined the phrase "Man is the measure of all things." The Greeks became known for their emphasis on reason apart from superstition and religion. It brought about the Golden Age of Greece. They believed man could control his own fate.

The Romans: They borrowed from the Greeks. Caesar was worshipped as God.

The Renaissance (began about 1200 A.D.): It was a

understood today.

It rejects religious belief based on authority alone, rather insists that beliefs must pass the tests of reason and experience. They point to the fact that the Bible is the work of writers who were limited by their times, it is neither supernatural nor an infallible record of divine revelation, and thus does not possess absolute authority. It sees God as present and dwelling within the world, not apart from or elevated above the world as a

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NO RELIGION ALLOWED IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS?

by Robert W. Moore

No religion allowed in government schools.

Better look again. The predominant religion in our country has been creeping in - or barging in, however you want to look at it - since April 20, 1837. That's when Massachusetts state senator Horace Mann succeeded in seeing his landmark education bill become law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to this, the Massachusetts schools were decentralized and locally funded. Locally funded meant locally controlled. The deeply-held values of parents and their ministers could easily be taught during the hours in which schoolchildren were in class. Horace Mann's bill consolidated state control over the schools and Massachusetts had embarked upon its brave experiment. Under Mann's influence, a minimum school year of six months was mandated by an act passed in 1839. Compulsory education was off and running.

Biographer Jonathan Messerli notes that Horace Mann lived "...at a time when political and technological revolutions seemed to be ushering in the new dawn of an age of unprecedented human welfare. Mann hoped to accelerate "the agenda of the Almighty," as he referred to his endeavor. To accomplish this, he believed the nation needed new enabling institutions, especially public schools." Messerli describes the religious nature of Horace Mann's vision in an alarming way. "What the church had been for medieval man, the public school must now become for democratic and rational man. God would be replaced by the concept of the Public Good, sin and guilt by the more positive virtues of Victorian morality and civic conformity, and mankind would emancipate itself once and for all, not only from the relentless gnawings of a Puritan conscience but, through its own self-attained enlightenment, from the endemic evils of poverty,

ignorance, violence, disease, and war."

Messerli presses forward: "All of this was now possible only if reasonable men and women would join together to create a well-managed system of schooling, where educators could manipulate and control learning as effectively as the confident new breed of engineers managed the industrial processes at work in their burgeoning textile factories and iron and steel mills. For the first time in the history of western man, it seemed possible for an intellectual and moral elite to effect mass behavioral changes and bring about a new golden age of enlightened ethics, humanism, and affluence. Indeed, so dazzling was the prospect, that Mann and his countless co-workers could not conceive of the possibility that those who would follow in their footsteps might actually build a suffocating and sometimes mind-numbing establishmentarian bureaucracy. Nor could they envision that in the hands of lesser individuals, their cherished institution, instead of functioning as a fundamental part of the social solution they sought, could become an integral part of the problem."

The foundations of the American faith and the American family were being torn apart by these northern Yankee unitarians whose mission was nothing less than to remake the cultural, educational, and spiritual landscape. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3)

159 years have passed since Horace Mann gained his triumph. His influence is now seen in every school district in America. Our neighborhood schools have become temples of Religious Humanism where man, not God, is honored and worshiped. Consider this quote from an article by John Dunphy ("The New Faith of Humanism and Teachers") published in the Jan/Feb 1983 issue of THE HUMANIST MAGAZINE:

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Dear Pastors,

The Bible Baptist Church of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, home of *The Baptist Pillar*, highly recommends Bro. John and his family to you for consideration of daily prayer and monthly support to assist us in getting them to the field of the Czech Republic.

Bro. John has laboured over 6 years in this church. He has held many positions in his training: youth director, printer in our print shop, school principal, teen choir director and for the last 3 years, Assistant Pastor, not to mention over 5 years in our Bible Institute.

It has been my great pleasure as his father and pastor to train him for the gospel ministry. The church and I have truly seen God's hand upon him, from his calling to even the Lord

Introducing The Reaves Family

*Missionaries to the
Czech Republic*

providing him with a wife, Rachael, and now a daughter, Kyndall. He is a solid Independent Baptist from the K.J.V. 1611, to the local church only with its ordinances, close communion and authority baptism. Bro. John is committed to planting Independent Baptist Churches in the Czech Republic. We need your help in getting him and his family to their field of service as soon as possible. He will be calling you soon. Please give this your most prayerful consideration in having them come and present their field in your church.

Thank you for your consideration concerning The Reaves Family to the Czech Republic.

In Christ,
Pastor John Reaves

MODERNISM

Modernism has no message, for it denies the only hope of the world, a supernatural Bible and a supernatural Christ. It is rooted in evolution and therefore rotten at the source. It denies the depravity of the human heart and the need of a blood-bought redemption. It laughs at a "slaughter-house" theology and eliminates the "blood" songs from hymnals.

It takes the precious name of Lord "Emmanuel" and removes the "Em" from the beginning and the "uel" from the ending, leaving only "man". It gives to the congregation a set of blocks and lets the people spell "God" the best they can.

It calls weakness what God calls wickedness,

recommends culture instead of Calvary, and polish instead of pardon. It has tried to revise the Bible, streamline the Gospel, remodel heaven, explain away the devil, and air-condition hell. It has no "hallelujah."

It never produces a revival. It never saved a soul. It never convicted a sinner. It never changed a dope fiend into a Christian. It never took away a drunkard's love for booze or loosed a libertine from the shackles of lust.

It is a form without force, a religion without redemption. It defies the Book, denies the Blood and derides the Blessed Hope, and the wrath of God is upon it.

Vance Havner

GIVE CREATIONISM, EVOLUTION EQUAL TIME

Have you heard of the Scopes trial of 1925? At that time the only theory of origins that was allowed to be taught was creationism. The evolutionists, led by Clarence Darrow and the American Civil Liberties Union, went to court to overturn that law. Darrow said, "It is the height of Bigotry to have only one theory of origins taught in our schools."

Today the bigotry is on the other foot. The same ACLU is doing its best to keep only one theory of origins taught in our schools because now it's evolution!

If all the facts on one side of a case are presented and all the facts on the other side are repressed, that's not education—that's brainwashing. It is precisely this brainwashing that has been going on in America for the past 50 years. I have never met a student in any public educational institution who could tell me one fact he or she learned in school that contradicted evolution.

This attempt to suppress all of the scientific evidence for scientific creationism is a form of censorship. It is exceedingly ironic that the ACLU, People For The American Way and others who cry out constantly against censorship, would be in the forefront of the attempt to censor this information.

Evolution has not established itself as an irrefutable fact, as its adherents would like people to believe, but rather it is crumbling on every side. The whole of evolution is in

absolute chaos today, and the general public is not being made aware of this.

Evolutionists like to say that it is only a small group of fanatical zealots who are opposed to evolution. The truth is that a recent national poll disclosed that only 9 percent of the American people want only evolution taught in public schools, and 86 percent desire both evolution and scientific creationism to be taught in a balanced way.

Keep in mind that creationists are not trying to get rid of evolution. They are only trying to have a balanced treatment of both positions.

Scientific creationism does not deal with Genesis or the Bible but with biology, embryology, chemistry, astrophysics, anthropology and all sorts of similar subjects not found in the Bible. It deals with merely scientific evidence that points to one of the two models. Did life arise gradually, as evolutionists say, or did it arise abruptly?

It is interesting that in California, when the board of education refused to have creation taught with evolution, and amendment was proposed asking that the scientific evidence opposed to evolution be taught along with the scientific evidence supporting evolution. It was voted down. That is pure, unadulterated brainwashing—not education.

It is time for this brainwashing to end! The scientific facts for creation and evolution must be presented, and students must be allowed to make up their

Editor's Note:

In The Baptist Pillar we use articles taken from many different publications and written by many different authors. Please realize that this does not necessarily mean we agree with the doctrinal position of the publication or the author of the article, but that the particular article presents a scriptural truth we do agree with.

If you would like to receive The Baptist Pillar, please write and request one. Also, feel free to copy it and hand it out.

"We are convinced in the vitality of the Marxist-Leninist teaching which has scientifically substantiated the possibility of building a society of social justice and a civilisation of free and equal people. That is what guides us in our revolutionary perestroika. And that is how we shall act in its new and crucial stage that is being ushered in by our Party Conference!" Mikhail Gorbachev - 19th All Union Conference of the

MAN'S VAIN EXPLANATIONS

Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang Theory is the atheist/humanists doctrine of how the universe began. This theory teaches that in the beginning the matter of the whole universe was compressed into a tiny ball smaller than a pinpoint (where all this matter comes from is seldom discussed). Then (without cause) there was a tremendous explosion which, instead of disintegrating things into particles, assembled particles into things, and instead of destroying life created it! Explosions as observed today never do this; all observed explosions kill and destroy, producing chaos—never do they give life or produce order. Such an event certainly goes against all presently observed laws of nature.

Evolution

Evolution is another theory essential to the atheist/humanist dogma. Evolution is the idea that one kind of being can give birth to another kind of being. Change within species, of course, happens all the time. There are, for example, a great variety of cats; but never does a cat give birth to a new kind of animal—which is what atheist/humanists are implying when they use the word evolution.

Evolution, of course, has never been observed. All observed births demonstrate the opposite—each living

being gives birth only to a baby of its own kind just like the Bible stresses in Genesis chapter one. Nor is there any evidence in the fossil records that evolution ever happened. The "missing links" Darwin hoped would be discovered in the fossils have never been found. So, in spite of the constant atheist/humanist hype to the contrary, evolution is not science, but mere superstition. It is blind faith with no foundation.

Design without a Designer

For an automobile to be built, there must be a designer of high intelligence to design it, and begin a process requiring great energy to convert simple basic elements into complicated parts which can finally be assembled into an automobile. Never in the history of the universe has an automobile - or any complicated creation - come into existence by random chance without a designer. Just the opposite is the case; daily we see designers create things. Always it takes a designer. Yet, atheist/humanists say that the universe with its myriad solar systems, and the human body with its exceedingly complicated brain, and all the plant and animal life on earth, all came into being by random chance without a designer! These atheist/humanist theories have not a foot to stand on.

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"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject

they teach, regardless of the educational level -- preschool day care center or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism. It will undoubtedly be a long, arduous, painful struggle replete with much sorrow and many tears, but humanism will emerge triumphant. It must if the family of humankind is to survive."

Martin Luther was right
(No continued on page 7)



NEWS



Problems with Swindoll

Dallas Seminary President Chuck Swindoll plans to grow a new megachurch near Dallas. The 7/98 *Australian Beacon* said Swindoll is one of the most eminent popularizers of new evangelicalism and pop psychology, and also highly esteemed in charismatic circles. It says he has no qualms in supporting Billy Graham and the work of Mother Teresa. In the past five years he has spoken on NRB, MBI, Word of Life, and Promise Keepers platforms. He has praised the unreliable Living Bible, referred to Chuck Colson as a prophet, and promoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Swindoll "grace" in his *Grace Awakening* book disregards its bounds of doctrinal truth. This "legalism vs. liberty", book is ably refuted by fundamentalist theologian Dr Ernest Pickering in a 33-page 1994 booklet, *Are Fundamentalists Legalists?*, (Baptist World Mission, P.O. Box 2149, Decatur, AL 35602, \$2). Much of the above is discussed in greater depth in a 5-page paper from BDM, P.O. Box 679, Bedford, IN 47421, \$1. cc

Brother Andrew Neutral On Theology?

This year, for the first time, Open Doors with Brother Andrew (of *God's Smuggler* fame) linked up with the ecumenical Global March for Jesus (6-8/98 *Contending for the Faith*). In answer to critics, Andrew said it is not his task to expose wrongs in theology, and that "Open Doors as an organization does not have a standpoint on doctrinal issues." This neutrality is evident also by his guesting with Robert A. Schuller in the Crystal Cathedral, Apr. 10, 1994.

Reasons to Oppose the Lottery

1. It changes the values of the state from a work ethic to a chance ethic.
2. It diverts dollars from goods and services to lottery tickets.
3. The state becomes a bookie.
4. The chance of winning is very low.
5. It is an unpredictable source of state revenue.
6. It exploits the poor and creates new gamblers

(9/24 *Ala. Baptist*). 7. It is immoral and bad social policy. cc

240 Methodist Ministers Would Perform Homosexual Unions

A recent binding ruling by the United Methodist Church's highest court stated **that same-sex unions by UM ministers shall not be conducted in UM churches.** But a conservative UM leader says that 240 UM ministers earlier this year signed statements saying they would conduct same-sex unions if asked (10/5 CT). *World* for 9/19 said Glide Church (UM) pastor Cecil Williams (San Francisco) and other clergy signed a declaration stating their willingness to officiate at same-gender unions. cc

Mormon Pres. Admits its Christ is Different

Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley, speaking June 6 in Switzerland, acknowledged that Mormons do not believe in the same Jesus as traditional Christians (6/20 *Church News* - a Mormon paper - via 10/5 *Chr. News*). He said: "The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak." This confirms what Christians have long claimed. But the Mormon media director still contends that Mormons adhere to the New Testament account of Jesus. cc

TV Worse Than Ever

The vulgarity dike has been broken on TV fare, so now expect a flood of sex, violence, bad language, scatology and pedophilia (8/22 *World*). Today, sex, bathroom humor, and vulgarity rule the air, practically unopposed. It seems that anything goes, and ratings are not accurate (10/10 *World*). Over 90 percent of shows with sex did not have an "S" rating, nor an "L" for bad language according to a recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation. cc

Global Prayer at UN

United Nations Sec'y Gen.

Kofi Annan addressed world leaders (at St. Bartholomew's Church in NY) representing religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Shintoism, and Buddhism, yoked with Christian, Jewish, Jain, [and] Sikh groups in a UN-sponsored "Global Religious Service for Peace." (9/26 *World*). He put a new slant on the meaning of prayer, saying the challenges before "prayer is compassion and concern; it is thanksgiving and atonement; it is yearning and relief." cc

Hawaii to Approve Homosexual Marriage?

Hawaii may become the first state where a homosexual couple can legally marry. An amendment to its constitution lets the state legislature limit marriage to heterosexuals. If voters defeat this (Nov. 3) homosexuals would likely flock there. Same-sex newlyweds could then take their licenses back to their home states and challenge state laws that limit such unions (10/5 C. News). The U.S. Constitution now "requires" states to honor contracts made in other states. cc

Don't Blame Music

Marilyn Manson shock rocker says don't blame me for what your kids do. He tells parents, "to raise your kids to be more intelligent." Who would ever have thought something so intelligent could come out of something so perverse. If parents would stop blaming everyone else for their failures and take charge concerning raising their children, their children might have a chance. Eph. 6:4 says: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Blasphemy at its Worst

A gay couple who wrote the play, *Corpus Christi* says, "This is the play I wanted to write, performed, and directed as I hoped it would be." The play portrays a gay Christ-like figure who has sex with his disciples. The gay Catholic

who wrote *Corpus Christi* is the same one responsible for the current musical hit *Ragtime*. You can tell when plays such as *Corpus Christi* is considered entertainment. Editor

More Blasphemy

A new swim suit was unveiled in Rio De Janeiro, by a popular boutique. The new swimsuit for men displays a picture of Jesus on the seat, mind you the picture is not a true picture of Jesus, but to most of the world it is. They might think it's funny to sit on Jesus but my friend one day things will change. Rev. 6:15 & 16: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Editor

Mormons Not So Squeaky Clean

300 gay Mormons met in Portland recently for the 20th annual conference of Affirmation, a gay Mormon support group. Among their topics: gay marriage, gay youth in the church and parenting gays. The group estimates thousands of gay Mormons remain in the closet.

More Animal Activists at Work

Manitoba has adopted new regulations guarding against puppy mills and provides protection for animals that are being transported including dogs in the back of trucks. These new laws are to ensure that farm animals and pets are treated humanely. Animals can be seized immediately and placed into humane care. Fines will range from \$500 to \$5,000 for first time offenses and \$10,000 for a second offence. Strange isn't it, a dog riding in the back of a pickup truck and you got a fine for \$500 to \$5,000 but if you have a person riding in the back, you get only a \$100 fine. Save the eagles and kill our babies. To most of the world life is cheap. This attitude arises when God is cast out and

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RESULTS OF SECULAR HUMANISM

Our society is in decay. Violent crime has grown so much in the last thirty years that many people are afraid to go into our cities after dark. Sexual immorality has exploded in our culture since the 1960s. There was a time only a generation ago when premarital sex was the exception not the rule. Now teenagers are having sex at a younger and younger age. Many are even sexually active in junior high school. Young men and women who desire to maintain their virginity until marriage are considered freaks. In the last thirty years families have been disintegrating. The divorce rate hovers near fifty percent. It is common knowledge that children from broken homes often have more problems functioning in society than children from traditional two-parent families. Adultery is both common and accepted by many in our land. Premarital sex, drunkenness, drug abuse, theft, murder, abortion, lying, cheating, fraud, homosexuality, rape, cruelty and pornography are now a normal part of our societal landscape.

There is no question that there has been a very large moral decline in society since the early 1960s (this decline is a matter of record). This decline cannot be explained in terms of poverty, racism and

sexism, for those societal elements have been much worse in the past. We live in a period of great material prosperity compared with almost all of recorded history. Yet literacy rates and family solidarity were higher in the 1870s than today, when people in the ghetto live like princes, compared to their ancestors. There is a reason for the decline: we are experiencing the fruit or results of a worldview change that took place during the earlier part of the twentieth century.

The worldview transition took place primarily between 1870 and 1930. The old worldview which dominated our culture was basically Christian with some right-wing enlightenment thinking tossed in. The Christian worldview had more or less dominated western civilization since the fall of the Roman Empire. This Christian worldview was replaced by materialistic naturalism (or as it's called today, secular humanism). Secular humanism is the belief that man lives in a closed universe. There is no God who is transcendent above and beyond created reality. The secular humanist presupposes that the Christian God does not and cannot exist—that everything which does exist is merely the product of matter plus time plus chance. The secular humanist presupposes that the only thing which can exist and have importance to mankind is that which is open to empirical verification and observation by man.

Therefore, the Christian God and biblical Christianity are ruled out of bounds from the start by the so-called objective materialistic scientist, even before the investigation of reality begins. The essence of secular humanism is that man is the measure of all things. Man, not God, is the determiner of reality, meaning and ethics.

Secular humanism became the dominant worldview of intellectuals by the 1930s. By this time naturalism, Darwinian evolution, modernism, and biblical higher criticism had captured

all the major universities, the mainline Protestant denominations and their seminaries, the large media outlets (e.g., *The New York Times*), and many politicians. The secular-humanistic elite now believed that since most educators and scientists no longer look to the Bible for truth and guidance, mankind was now capable of solving all the world's problems. Because of the modernistic view of the Bible the majority found themselves in churches which no longer believed the Bible and submitted to it. There was

a certain form of godliness and going through the motions but a denial of God's power and authority (2 Tim. 3:5). The majority of people now looked toward the civil government, scientists, artists and intellectuals as saviours who would bring mankind into a sort of millennial paradise. If the secular-humanistic worldview was true and the Christian worldview false, one could reasonably assume that the expectations of the social planners would come true. But what if the Christian worldview was true and the secular humanist worldview was false? Would not a wholesale rejection of God and the Bible, in favour of incoherent, irrational nonsense bring disaster to society and culture? Is this not just what has happened?

Meaning or nihilism?

The secular-humanist intellectuals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have been the sharpest critics of Bible-believing Christianity. They teach that the Bible is ancient mythology for a bygone era. They believe that society must rid itself of biblical teaching in favour of "science and rationality." The secular elitists even promised that once biblical teaching was removed from the schools and universities in our country, real progress would be made in solving mankind's problems.

The secular-materialistic view of reality states that the universe is the product of chance or pure contingency. Everything that is, is an accident. Everything is the product of chaos. In an

impersonal, chance universe where chaos, flux, and randomness are king, personality, meaning, and universal laws of logic clearly have no place. If the secular-evolutionary worldview is true, then your life and existence have no meaning whatsoever. You are nothing more than an accumulation of atoms randomly floating in the void. Your thoughts, desires, relationships, love and deepest concerns are merely the illusions of chemical-electronic impulses. You are an impersonal machine. You have no soul, no future, and no hope. You and the random universe around you are heading toward extinction. Your life has no more significance than pond scum. These statements are the logical implication of the secular-humanistic worldview. All talk of love, justice, meaning, and helping your fellow man are holdovers from the Christian worldview.

The atheistic university professor and socialist politician may speak much of justice, love, and brotherhood but they are stealing such ideas from Christianity, because such things are only possible in a God-created and God-controlled personalistic universe.

The creed of secular humanism is: out of the chaos of pure chance comes meaning and order; out of atoms floating randomly in the void comes man, the giver of meaning. Secular humanism is a religion based solely on faith. That it is irrational, self-contradictory, and arbitrary does not seem to bother its adherents. It is a blind faith in man.

Ethical absolutes or chaos?

Do you believe that murder is wrong? Do you believe that child molestation and bestiality are wrong? Most people do. The question that must be answered, then, is "Why?" The secular-humanistic worldview presupposes that nothing can exist above and beyond the universe. The idea of an infinite, personal God who is transcendent, who reveals ethical absolutes to man (e.g., "Thou shalt not kill," "Thou shalt not steal," etc.) is

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paganism comes in.

Editor

New Evangelical Pulpit-Sharing Meetings

Franklin Graham and E.V. Hill are slated to speak at Bill Hybels' Willow Creek Community Church's Evangelism Conference, Oct. 19-21 (6/15 *Chr. Today*). Hybels, Habitat For Humanity founder Millard Fuller, Lyle Shaller, and Bishop Charles Blake are listed speakers for Robert H. Schoiler's conference, Jan. 25-28 (10/5 *CT*). John Maxwell and Chuck Swindoll were listed as main speakers at Jerry Falwell's Super Conference, Oct. 4-7. Maxwell was also listed to speak at charismatic Jack

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anathema to an atheistic naturalist. With no higher power, the secular humanist must derive an ethical system from this world alone.

But what is the modern view of the universe, of reality? The universe is evolving. It is a product of chance. It is impersonal. It is in a state of flux. Man himself is a product of chance and is in a state of flux. Thus, the secular humanist teaches that ethics are evolving, arbitrary, subjective, relative and changing. There is no "out-there-ness" to ethics; there is no absolute right or wrong.

For the secular humanist, the source of ethics, morality and law is not God but man. The secular humanist says that ethics are whatever man happens to say they are at a given point in time. In such a system moral law is merely opinion, custom, "community standards," what the state says (or the supreme court, or an intellectual elite like hospital ethics boards). Man determines what is right and wrong

for himself, and if man changes his mind, then what used to be wrong is now permissible—even virtuous.

The secular humanist who seeks to establish ethical norms apart from the triune God of the Bible actually perverts and destroys moral imperatives. Ethics cannot exist and operate in a void. If the universe is a product of chance and impersonal, then people have no real reason not to lie, cheat, murder and steal, other than the coercive power of the state (e.g., the police, prisons, etc.).

Young people are not stupid. Do you really think that young people are going to be honest, chaste and moral because their parents or some celebrity or the state says it's a good idea? All talk of virtue is utter nonsense. To the Nazi, exterminating Jews was virtuous. Stalin and the communists murdered 20 million farmers for humanity. To the radical feminist, murdering unborn babies is a virtue. To the gang member, torturing and murdering one's opponent are virtuous. If morality is constantly changing, evolving, and if it is only what man happens to

believe at any given moment, then the modern ethical maxim is, "Do whatever you want—just don't get caught. And if you do get caught, blame it on someone else."

There was a time when children were told not to lie, cheat, swear, fornicate and steal because such things were against God's moral law (the Ten Commandments). People were told that such activities offended a holy, righteous God. They were told that good was good because God said so in His Word, and likewise bad was bad because God said so. People were warned that a day was coming in which God would judge all men according to their deeds.

Ethical absolutes are transcendent; they come from outside the universe and are revealed to man by an unchanging, all-powerful God. These ethical commands are objective and unchanging; they are backed up by a morally perfect God who will punish every wicked act committed by man. In a personalistic universe where an absolute, infinite, perfect, moral God (who is the creator of meaning, the revealer and enforcer of ethical absolutes and the judge of wickedness) stands behind all created reality, people have a very real reason for self-government and personal responsibility.

In the area of ethics (as in the area of meaning itself) the Christian worldview is coherent, rational and self-consistent, while the supposedly "scientific" secular-humanistic worldview is irrational, arbitrary and absurd. When the secular humanist speaks of compassion, humility, virtue, helping the poor, the evil of murder, and so on, he is stealing concepts from the Christian worldview. It is one thing to assert that murder is wrong and quite another to explain why it is wrong. Anyone can assert that something is good or evil, but only the Christian can consistently say why. In the secular-humanistic worldview, chance not God is ultimate; therefore "it is meaningless to speak of imposing the formalizing activity of the universal mind of man, itself a product of chance, on a bottomless and shoreless ocean

of chance. The only possible foundation for science and philosophy as well as for theology is the presupposition that God as all-controlling and Christ as actually redeeming does actually exist and is actually known by man. But to hold this position requires us to give up the idea that man himself is the source of unity in human experience. In seeking such unity as only God can have, apostate man cuts himself loose from the possibility of having any unity in experience at all."

The secular humanist, if honest and consistent, would simply assert that "in the end we're all dead"; the injustice and evils of life are never resolved. Hitler, Stalin and Mother Teresa all turn to dust. The universe expands to an icy death. In such a system your life and supposed good deeds have no real meaning or lasting significance at all. "What advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die!" (1 Cor. 15:32).

Does human life have value?

According to the evolutionary, naturalistic worldview, man is really no more than a sophisticated machine brought into existence by chance. Does man, according to this view, have value? No, not in the ordinary sense that people think of the value of human life. That is because a machine, no matter how sophisticated and unique, is still impersonal; it is still a machine. And even if one thinks of man as a great animal—the pinnacle of evolution—man is still just an animal. Very few secular humanists advocate radical vegetarianism. Very few secular humanists allow insects free reign in their homes and among their crops. It is impossible to attribute a special, real, unique, lasting value to human life, if man is a chance-derived, impersonal machine destined to eternal extinction in the cosmic void. Human life value presupposes an immortal human soul and a personal beginning (i.e., creation by an infinite, personal God). The secular humanist cannot justify attributing human life value to an impersonal, chance-derived

machine. In the naturalistic system, not only is man just a sophisticated machine, he is also destined sooner or later to extinction when the universe inevitably expands into an icy death or contracts into a fiery ball. Secular humanists cannot avoid this eschatology of death, of ultimate extinction.

Therefore, in the areas of origins, being and eschatology (man's ultimate future), secular humanism really has nothing to offer except extinction into the cosmic void. Secular humanists rarely admit to such when discussing ultimate concerns (with the exception of Bertrand Russell). The Humanist Manifesto II, published in 1973, does make an attempt at future meaning for man when it speaks of man living on through children and culture. But this living on cannot last beyond a supernova; it cannot go beyond the death of the universe. Secular humanists are ignoring the inevitable by focusing on the immediate future instead of the distant, eternal future. If, in the end, everyone who ever lived ceases forever to exist, then life is meaningless. The eternal nonconsciousness of the future renders everything that happened on earth totally meaningless, because if man's soul does not live on it will be as if no one ever even existed. The cosmic void of nothingness (nonconsciousness) in the future meets the cosmic void of the past. This is the logical implication of secular humanism. Are you beginning to understand why children brought up under this worldview are willing to commit murder over a pair of tennis shoes or a gold chain? Do you understand how Stalin could murder 20 million people with less feeling than one has when swatting a fly? Are you beginning to see how



"In October, 1917 we parted with the old world, rejecting it once and for all. We are moving towards a new world, the world of communism. We shall never turn off that road!"

Mikhail Gorbachav before the Supreme Soviet, 1987

(Humanism continued from page 1)
 revival of classical learning. Greek thought and Christian doctrine were synthesized. Reason began to be separated from religion. St. Thomas Aquinas mistakenly believed man's reasoning ability was unaffected by the Fall.

The Enlightenment (1600-1800): Humanism became secularized. The enlightenment became the foundation of modern humanism. They proclaimed reason a goddess. Principle figures: Rousseau and Voltaire.

The 20th Century: After Darwin's theory of evolution, humanism had all it needed. Other notable events:

Founding of the Ethical Union in England in 1896. It later became the influential British Humanist Association.

In America in 1933, the Humanist Manifesto was published. Later in 1949 a humanist society was formed.

There is now an international network of humanist organizations.

In 1973 the Humanist Manifesto was updated.

The Major Tenets of Naturalistic Humanism.

1. Concerning the nature of things:

All is material: no spiritual dimension, no life after death.

All events are natural and uniformitarian. There is no supernatural, no God.

2. Concerning man and his nature:

Man is central, sovereign and autonomous.

Man is the hallmark of evolutionary development; only a part of nature.

Man's dignity is derived from his position on the evolutionary scale; the difference between man and animals is quantitative.

Man does not need salvation. Just more time. Man can now control his own evolution.

3. Concerning Ethics: Values are relative, based on experience, human reason, the will of the majority, or based on the situation, i.e. what will bring the greatest good.

4. Concerning the process of knowing:

Reason is supreme.

All that can be known is known through the scientific

method.

5. Concerning Government:

It is a positive force, a tool to re-engineer man.

Internationalism: goal is world government. "We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of a human family can participate." from THE HUMANIST MANIFESTO p. 22.

6. Concerning Social Concern:

Emphasis on education and changing the environment.

Equitable distribution of wealth, eliminating poverty, disease, etc.

Ending oppression caused by religion.

Four Common Illusions about Humanism

1. Humanism is humane.

But humanism has no basis for human dignity. Man was not created in God's Image but rather evolved from the slime by a purely chance operation. There is therefore, no clear demarcation between human and animal rights.

Values are relative. On what basis do we declare Mother Teresa more humane than Himmler?

No adequate reasons can be given as to why survival is important.

There is no safeguard against manipulation.

2. Humanism is not a religion.

A non-theistic belief is not necessarily non-religious. Several Religions of the world do not subscribe to a supreme being, i.e. Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism.

The Supreme Court declared it to be a religion in 1961 in *Torcaso v. Watkins*.

Humanist publications refer to it as a religion.

Julian Huxley predicted that humanism would be the ultimate religion of the world.

3. Humanism is unbiased.

Neutrality is a myth; we all have presuppositions or unprovable assumptions.

A school teacher with

humanistic convictions cannot help promoting humanistic values.

If humanistic objectives are to be achieved it cannot allow a pluralistic society.

4. Humanism is broadminded.

It ignores the facts concerning the resurrection of Christ.

It ignores contradictory evidence concerning evolutionary theory.

It ignores logical contradictions in its worldview. For example:

a. The universe is self-caused.

If it caused itself it would have to exist prior to causing itself--a logical absurdity.

b. It says man must determine his own future yet its scientists proclaim all man's behaviour is determined by his genes and environment. Free will is a myth.

c. They say there are no absolutes yet that is an absolute statement.

It claims to be the only hope for man yet it has no valid basis for that hope.

The Current Influence of Humanistic Philosophy

1. *Education:* It is the major unifying factor in public education today. Children are viewed as property of the state. Their primary aim is the social adjustment of children into group-oriented mentality. Education is social and not content oriented. Self-development is stressed rather than learning from the wisdom of the past. Secular does not equal neutral! The public education system from elementary to college is a monopoly of the religion of Humanism! They are parochial schools!!

2. *Media*

- Newspapers - Most newspapers are compiled from two wire services.

- TV - Most news is from 4 networks.

3. *Active Humanist Organizations:*

The most active and visible are: The American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way, The American Humanist Association, and the National Education Association.

The Most Influential Humanist Books

THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES by Charles Darwin.

THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTIANITY by Ludwig Feuerbach.

THE FUTURE OF AN ILLUSION by Sigmund Freud.

WHY I AM NOT A CHRISTIAN by Bertrand Russell.

BEYOND FREEDOM AND DIGNITY by B.F. Skinner.

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO by Karl Marx.

BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL by Friedrich Nietzsche.

What can Christians Do?

Pray for our country and its leaders.

Take responsibility for the education of your children.

Boycott slanted news or immoral TV programming.

Share your faith.

Be informed.

Seek intellectual superiority.

Learn to see all things from a Christian perspective.

C.I.M.



(No continued from page 3)

when he observed that "...the universities and schools will prove to be the gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount."

Schools that refuse to teach the truth are not worthy of one nickel to keep them open. Clearly, not all government teachers see themselves as humanist evangelists. Nonetheless, they cannot be neutral. They are sanctioned by the government to offer students a philosophy which revolves around the idea that mankind, having evolved, is self-existent with no eternal destiny. With no one outside himself to turn to for the solution to his problems, man becomes, or invents, his own god. It is no surprise that Horace Mann had personally rejected the Word of God as a young man growing up in Franklin, Massachusetts. Sitting under the famous minister, Dr. Nathanael Emmons, young Horace was confronted by the fact of his own sinfulness. Though

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From Our E-Mail

I would like to receive or get information on how I can receive *the Baptist Pillar*.

Thank you for taking a stand and what you stand for.

G.S.I.

We visited your website and put up a link to it from our own website...We believe your web pages minister well in the name of Jesus Christ...

D.

I am attempting to build a church web page. May I put a link from my page to your page? I have read some of your articles and thoroughly enjoyed them.

J.M.

Thank you for having an outstanding site for young Independent, KJV1611, soulwinning, Fundamental, Baptist preacher like me. I appreciate the great work.

D.K.

This is great! I've been looking for a place where I could read about things that I believed in and I found it. I'm the pastor of First Baptist Church of Switzerland. We are an independent Baptist

church. I've been looking for some material to use in my Sunday School class and now I've found it. Thank you for being on the Internet!

T.W.

My name is J.K. and I am a missionary to Brazil... I ran across your site tonight and appreciate the good writings.

We have a paper for preachers down here...and we are always looking for good material to give to our preacher brothers in Brazil here. I would like to know if you would allow us to translate and use your articles from time to time in our paper. If so, how you would like the credit line done. Thank you in advance for this information.

Bro. J.K.

I wanted to drop you a note to say "thanks" for your dedication to putting forth the truth. Your web site is great and I rejoice to see our sound Baptist men entering into this type of "publishing" also. The Lord bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Bro. B.

Our Web Site

www.techplus.com/bkqv1611

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Emmons's sermons contained both Law and Gospel, Horace was repulsed by the idea of a literal hell. According to his own account, he resolved to create a god which was more to his own liking:

"I remember the day, the hour, the place and the circumstances, as well as though the event had happened but yesterday, when in an agony of despair, I broke the spell that bound me. From that day, I began to construct the theory of Christian ethics and doctrine respecting virtue and vice, rewards and penalties, time and eternity, God and his providence which...I still retain."

From the beginning of time, men have attempted to construct and reconstruct their own ideas about God and His holy demands. Perhaps no other person in American history, however, has been as instrumental in undermining

the faith of our fathers as Horace Mann. Throughout his life, he developed an unswerving belief in the unlimited improvability of man through education. Jeremiah 17:9 declares, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Horace Mann's great mission was to remove the "treachery" of God's Word from the classroom, thereby freeing little boys and girls from its demands. The salvation of society would rest in the corporate enlightening of the human mind.

Mann's efforts were resisted by many ministers of the day, but none had any idea of how entrenched this humanist faith would become in the American way. Today, God is not welcome in the government school classrooms of our nation. His Word is banned. Children are faithfully indoctrinated by the priests of human achievement;

(Modernism continued from page 1)
transcendent being.

Liberalism also manifests a humanistic optimism. Society is moving toward the realization of the kingdom of God, which will be an ethical state of human perfection.

Theological liberalism originated in Germany in the late nineteenth century where most of the major theologians had studied. Many of them had come to accept the principles of higher criticism and Darwinism. Kant's ethical idealism and rejection of all transcendental reasoning about religion had the effect of limiting knowledge and opening the way for faith. Schleiermacher introduced the idea of religion as a condition of the heart whose essence is feeling. This made Christian doctrine independent of philosophical systems and faith a matter of individual experience of dependence upon God. Hegel went off in another direction with his absolute idealism, as this emphasized the existence of a rational structure in the world apart from the individual minds of its inhabitants. The main contributions of Hegelian idealism were support for the idea of divine immanence and the fostering of historical and biblical criticism.

Higher criticism questioned the authorship and dating of much of the biblical literature and rejected the traditional understanding of the Scriptures as divinely revealed oracles. The life of Jesus was studied with the intent of stripping off the dogmatic formulations of the church and getting back to the concrete, historical human

personage.

Liberals welcomed the finding of science and readily accommodated to the challenge of Darwinism. Evolution vindicated divine immanence, since this explained how God had slowly built the universe through natural law. God revealed himself, they believe, through an evolutionary process, as the Israelites began with backward, bloodthirsty ideas and gradually came to understand that the righteous God could be served only by those who are just, merciful, and humble. Redemption is seen as the gradual transformation of man from a primitive state to that of obedient sonship to God. Just like the physical realm, culture and religion had evolved, and there was no fundamental antagonism between the kingdoms of faith and natural law.

Students of comparative religion have suggested that the religions of mankind evolved from lower stages to ever higher stages, the highest of all being monotheism. They propose that Israelite religion began as animism, the belief that every natural object is inhabited by a supernatural spirit. After animism the idea developed in Israel that some spirits were more powerful than others and deserved to be called 'gods.' Eventually the most powerful of all became preeminent above the others, and the people believed in his supreme authority and worshipped him alone.

Finally, Israel became willing to admit that the lesser gods had no existence whatever.

Walter A. Elwell

they are trained to bow in worship at the altars of human convenience.

The words of Christ inform us of the dreadful condition of state education: "He that is not with me is against me..." (Matthew 12:30a). God's people must separate themselves from a system which is choking the spiritual life out of their children. No religion allowed in government schools? Look again. □

"War between Capitalism and Communism is inevitable...in order to win we will need the element of surprise, but the Bourgeoisie will have to be put to sleep so we shall begin by launching the most spectacular peace movement on record. There will be electrifying overtures and unheard of concessions... stupid and decadent (Capitalist countries), they will rejoice to cooperate in their own destruction." Demitri Manailly