

Humanism: The Worship Of Man

Definition: The religion and/or philosophy that rejects the supernatural and regards man as wholly a natural being and the measure of all things...it is devotion to man. Not to be confused with being humane or humanitarian.

Introduction:

* Ephesians 6:12 – We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places – I believe there is a war against Christianity going on by humanist...and the question then arises: are Christians going to join the battle?

* Jude 14, 15 – Notice the repeated emphasis on “UNgodly” – do not snicker at the warning about humanism’s impact...they snickered at Darwin at first, too, and now it dominates our schools.

* Not new – Protagoras and the sophists of 400 B.C. were humanist. He coined the phrase: *Man is the measure of all things*. – pantheism (god is in everything and there are therefore many manifestations of god) has been around “forever” – Even in the beginning of creation – “You will be as God” (said the serpent)

* Paul knew of it – Romans 1:18–23 Result? v. 24–32

* Some do not like to retain God in their thoughts....this is the driving force behind it. They hate God! They love the darkness. They love to do their own thing. And they want no guilt associated with it.

* It waned for many centuries, but revived in the Renaissance period.

* Began being seen in America in 1930’s and millions of adherents today

I) Organizations Heavily Espousing Humanist Tenets

1. American Humanist Association (AHA)
2. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
3. Planned Parenthood Federation
4. National Education Association (NEA)
5. World Health Organization (WHO)
6. United Nations (UN)
7. People For The American Way

II) Where Humanism Shows Up

1. Environmental Extremism – Humanists believe this earth is all there is and must be preserved at all costs. Since man is believed to be a part of the environment, rather than a distinct creation (made in the image of God) and evolved to the highest level of intelligence, he is both able to do the most destruction and responsible for saving the planet. What arrogance! Man can and will destroy it if we do not intervene. The latest craze is so-called global warming. Notice the alarmist tone. It is religious. Whenever we experience heatwaves, hurricanes, droughts, floods, etc. there will be the cry of global warming. The ozone is shrinking and icebergs are melting. But, they fail to see the climatic changes that have taken place over centuries. GREENland used to be green! What happened? It cannot be anything to do with industrial pollution. Most of us older ones, recall harsher winters in Wisconsin. What has happened? There are simply some climatic changes over decades...others over centuries. And very little of it has anything to do with man. And was it not only 30 years ago that the alarm was global cooling? It was a Newsweek article in 1975. To the humanist, man must become ONE with nature if there is future hope. God's involvement is forgotten, His promises of seed time, harvest and seasons as long as the world stands and the provision of the earth for man's use. True, man as a good steward of the earth will seek to act responsibly and clean up his mess, but environmental extremism is not one and the same thing.

*God created the planet to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18). God declared His intention that human beings were **to rule and have domination over the Earth's resources**. Referring to humans, He stated: "Let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26). He instructed humans to "fill the earth and **subdue** it" (Genesis 1:28). The Hebrew term for "subdue" (*kah-vash*) means to bring into submission by force (Oswalt, 1980, 1:430). The psalmist echoed these very directives when he praised God by saying, "You [God] have made him [man] to have **dominion** over the works of Your hands; You have put all things **under his feet**" (Psalm 8:6). God stressed human domination in even stronger terms after the Flood: "The fear of you [humans] and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that moves on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you **all things**, even as the green herbs" (Genesis 9:2-3). God obviously intended for humans to make use of Earth's natural resources, including animals and plants, in order to live, survive, develop, and progress—all in preparation for eternity.*

*Second, not only did God initially set up the environment to fulfill its divinely designated purpose, placing within it all necessary variables for sustaining it until He decides to terminate the physical realm, but He also **continues to sustain and maintain it**. The Bible has a great deal to say about the role that Jesus played at the Creation (e.g., John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2). He continues to have a relationship with the physical Universe by ensuring that it remains intact and functional. Paul referred to the "one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom **we live**" (1 Corinthians 8:6). Paul also stated: "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth.... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him **all things consist**" (Colossians 1:16-17). The Hebrews writer claimed that Jesus is "**upholding all things by***

*the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3). Peter said that “the heavens and the earth which now exist are **kept in store** by the same word” (2 Peter 3:7). The terms in these verses connote the notion of preserving, governing, regulating, and superintending the created order (Nicoll, 1900, 4:251–252; Thayer, 1901, p. 650; Weiss, 1974, 9:59). In other words, deity continues to maintain the order, harmony, and well-being of the whole creation—the vast Universe as well as planet Earth. We can be assured: the environment will remain intact and suitable for life for as long as God intends.*

*Please listen carefully: God created the Earth to be self-sustaining until it has served its purpose. It is self-healing. It is resilient and restorative. It actually rejuvenates itself. The Earth is not fragile when it comes to human interference. Humans cannot **destroy** the Earth (let alone the Universe). Humans cannot deplete the ozone layer. Humans cannot cause permanent global warming. Human ability to pollute, contaminate, and destroy the environment cannot begin to compare with the destructive forces of nature itself: volcanoes, tornados, hurricanes, drought, typhoons, earthquakes, and floods. One volcanic eruption—like the 1991 explosion of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines that introduced **20 to 30 megatons of sulfur dioxide and aerosols** into the Earth’s atmosphere, with those materials completely encircling the Earth in some three months (Sagan, 1997, p. 107)—**generated more ozone-depleting chemicals than humans have been able to generate in all of human history**. We humans have an inflated sense of our own importance if we think that **we** determine whether the world goes on after we are gone. -- Dave Miller*

2. Animal Rights Movements – Eg. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). As with the environmental extremists, do not confuse these with the humane society or the The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). To the humanists, we are only one species among many and man does not have dominion over the others. Hunting is therefore inhumane or unethical...for food or for clothing.

3. Abortion – A fetus is nothing more than a mass of protoplasm, a potential human being. There is no concern for a soul or spirit; only the mother’s desires or choice. The sanctity of life is lowered as man becomes nothing more than a smart animal.

4. Euthanasia – In the evolution of all things it is survival of the fittest. For the betterment of the majority there may come a time to put some to sleep. Life is devalued. Doctor assisted suicide is the first step to others deciding your fate. It also corrupts the medical profession’s purpose.

5. Children’s rights – To the humanist, children are autonomous, independent of their parents. Suing parents is good if parents are acting unacceptably. Spanking is child abuse. The Children’s Defense Fund or League is a torch bearer.

6. Homosexuality – If between two consenting adults then anything of a sexual nature is to be accepted. Selfish pleasure is the only concern. Man’s mind allows him to do what even animals do not; unnatural things.

7. Sexual Promiscuity – AIDS has become politicized due to the great setback it would be to the humanist cause. It must not be seen as a disease of deviant behavior. Fornication and

adultery are rampant, as God is not in the conscience. Abstinence is mocked and scorned and pornography is everywhere.

8. Schools – Humanists believe sex education classes should begin as early as kindergarten...but after years of classes illegitimacy is skyrocketing! Condom distribution is promoted. Values Clarification is a tool of some teachers to restructure the way kids think of right and wrong. Role playing of survival games to have little children choose who gets to live.

9. Media – The media is predominantly liberal and promotes the humanist causes and slants things in that direction. Sometimes it is not what is said, but what is left out...or how it is phrased.

10. Narcissism – Health fanaticism, exercise mania, weight loss extremes are all outgrowths over a preoccupation with the here and now. Though not all efforts to get in shape are rooted in humanism, some are and maybe others are influenced by it.

11. Evolution – The alternative explanation to origins. Humanists needed an answer for the question and Darwin gave them one.

12. Churches – Yes, even churches are subtly influenced by humanism in society. The introduction of the social gospel as the purpose for church around the turn of the 20th century, gave eventual rise to dating and singles ministries, marriage seminars, drug rehabilitation, schools, day-care centers, recreation, adoption agencies, hospitals, charity services, etc. All these things and more are now standard practices in most churches and are an evidence of misplaced devotion. Because of a man centered society and a de-emphasis of God, salvation and spiritual development is made secondary.

Conclusion: There is no absolute to the humanist, but every man does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6). Ethics are situational. Looting and burning is normally wrong, but justified if brought on by the verdict of trial seen as racially biased. Lying is not usually good, but necessary for politicians to get elected. Stealing is wrong, but ok if necessary to prevent starvation. And even listen closely and you will hear efforts made to explain Islamic terrorism because of the oppression of others. Romans 3:4 says, let God be true and every man a liar. To that I say, "Amen." *The material, physical realm was not intended to last forever. It is temporary—by divine design. In the meantime, God will see to it that our environment remains intact until it has served the purpose for which He created it. Then, He, Himself, will bring not only the Earth, but the entire Universe, to its grand and climactic conclusion by means of cosmic meltdown and dissolution (2 Peter 3:7,10–12). "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13)* – Dave Miller. When we remove God as the measure, it is only a matter of time before some man's right is another man's wrong and frustration sets in. Things can only get worse. Be on guard to the sometimes subtle, but other times overt, influences of humanism in our world today. Don't be affected by it and expose it for the damnable belief it is.