



The Fallacy of Humanism

Lesson Subject: Human philosophies err when they contradict God's truth as revealed in His Word.

L26. Date: May 1984. **Text:** Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 19:7-11.

Topic: Humanism.

There is an enemy abroad in our land. He is respected and promoted by many. But he is the deadly foe of Christianity. His name is "Humanism."

Humanism is a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests and values. It is a philosophy which asserts that a person is self-sufficient and capable through his own reason to reach his ultimate capacity for self-realization. It holds that one is sufficient in himself without God. Humanism is a religion which is centered in man rather than in God.

Humanism stands in stark contrast to conservative Christianity. It emphasizes material values and rejects spiritual values. It is concerned about time rather than eternity. It deals with one's reconciliation with others rather than his reconciliation with God. It holds "sin" to be a person's wrong relationship with other people rather than his wrong relationship with God. It depends on human intellect rather than divine enlightenment. It depends on secular power rather than the power of the Holy Spirit. It rejects the revelation (or even the existence of God) rather than trusting Him. Humanism is a religion which deifies mankind and rejects God. It is the deadly foe of conservative Christianity.

The following comments will show that human philosophies err when they contradict God's truth as revealed in His Word.

I. WHAT IS MAN'S CHIEF DUTY?

A. According to the Bible, man's chief aim is to live in fellowship with God. That involves accepting the revelation of God as contained in

inspired Scripture. It means one admits that he has erred from God. It means one receives forgiveness of sin by the mercy of God. It means one commits his life to the service of God.

God is the center of life for the person who is committed to biblical revelation. He follows the principle, *“Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore”* (Psalm 105:4). *“It is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you”* (Hosea 10:12).

B. According to humanists, man's chief aim is to come to full self-realization in personal freedom. That will involve four things. (1) He must establish a new world religion based on science with man or the state as its god. Man must become the end of all things. (2) Man must establish a new world order in which there is no war, poverty, or social problems. That society must be his work without God. (3) Man must establish a new and superior race of people for that new world by genetic engineering. The evolution process which humanists believe has always been upward must be accelerated by medical science to produce the superior people. (4) Man must establish a new economic order of equality which will be socialism or communism since, according to the theory, capitalism has failed.

Where does the believer in conservative principles of religion and politics fit into that grand scheme? He does not fit in at all. Humanism is possible only to the liberal who rejects the knowledge of God.

II. WHAT IS MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM?

A. According to the Bible, man's greatest problem is sin. Man is pictured in Genesis 3 living in an ideal environment in perfect peace and happiness. Then sin entered human experience. Man and wife became separated. Humans and God became separated. Brother and brother became separated. From the entrance of sin into human experience, the course of humanity has been downward. God comes and calls to the sinner, *“Thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help”* (Hosea 13:9). God warns, *“Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate”* (Psalm 34:21). He warns of destruction to those who continue in sin (Matthew 7:14). And God invites *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon”* (Isaiah 55:7).

B. According to the humanists, man's greatest problem is the “oppression” caused by the religious beliefs of conservative

Christianity. They see the principles of morality as evil restraints on personal freedom.

The result is that humanism stands against all that conservative Christians stand for. We say a person is made in the image of God; they say a person is an organism with no immortal spirit. We say the Bible is ultimate authority; they say an individual is his own authority in matters of morals and ethics. We say there is a standard by which a person must live to be holy and happy; they say there is no such standard in the Bible or anywhere else.

The result is that should humanism have its full sway, murderers would go free (as capital punishment is abolished), rapists would not be held accountable (since “society” is responsible for their acts), sexual license would be practiced (since there is no wrong for any act between “consenting adults”), and homosexuality would be approved (since it is just an “alternate life-style”).

What principle contributes to a stable society: Christianity or humanism? Yet, humanism is being presented in our school systems and by the public media, and is being widely accepted in our American society.

III. WHAT IS MAN'S REAL POSITION?

A. According to the Bible, man is a creature before his Creator.

Examine Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 5:1, 2, to find man's origin at the creative hands of God. We can all say, *“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life”* (Job 33:4).

The Christian stands in amazement before God, asking, *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour”* (Psalm 8:4, 5). He gladly recognizes himself as the creature: *“Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves”* (Psalm 100:3).

It is possible for a person to seek God and to find Him, since he is made in the image and likeness of God. *“In him we live, and move, and have our being”* (Acts 17:28).

A finite individual stands in awe and worship before the infinite God. He fears before such sovereignty, and hopes before such love and grace.

B. According to the humanists, man is self-sufficient and needs no God. He is the master of his soul and the captain of his fate. They see no inherent human nature. They say God is irrelevant to modern humanity, so prayer and worship are useless. They see no need for a divine revelation

(even if they admit the existence of God) because a person's reason is sufficient. No place remains for religion in a society where science is sufficient to heal our diseases and provide for our needs. Since man is autonomous and needs no God, salvation is in his own hands. (For quotations proving these statements to be their true belief, read the *Humanist Manifesto I & II*, or *The Battle for the Mind* by Dr. Tim LaHaye.)

IV. WHAT IS MAN'S HIGHEST AUTHORITY?

A. According to the Bible, it is God's Word. The principle for conservative Christianity is this: *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* (Isaiah 8:20). Everything must be judged as right or wrong by the Bible.

We accept the authority of the Bible because of its nature. It is law, testimony, statutes, commandment, fear, and judgments. We accept the authority of the Bible because of its qualities. It is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true and righteous altogether. We accept the authority of the Bible because of its effects. It converts the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, and endures forever. That is the description of the Scripture given in Psalm 19:7-9. No wonder the passage concludes, *“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”* (Psalm 19:10).

B. According to the humanists, man's ultimate authority is himself. What one thinks is right is right for him. There is no ethical system which makes one “good” or “bad.” Everything is either “good” or “bad” depending on the circumstances under which it occurs.

Such a philosophy calls forth anarchy. It produces a society in which everyone does what is right in his own eyes. The end of that course is dictatorship where one person forces on other people what he thinks is right. We will have a return to conservative Christianity in our nation or we will end up in anarchy and eventual dictatorship. The influence of humanism is so strong now that we are moving rapidly in the wrong direction.

V. WHAT IS MAN'S PRESENT CHALLENGE?

There must first be a personal renewal of commitment to God by believing Christians. We must seek God in real revival if our nation is to be healed from the grievous wounds it has received from the humanist

influence (II Chronicles 7:14). We must remain silent against this evil no longer.

We must recognize humanism as an atheistic religion and get it out of the public school system. The United States Supreme Court has called humanism a “religion of secularism.” In spite of the influence of Christian teachers, it is being promoted widely through the public schools.

We must get conservative Christians engaged in the political process. They must register and vote for Bible-believing candidates in spite of their political party. They must run for political office themselves on local levels. It is possible to counter humanism's influence on government if Christians will act.

God has given us a breath of fresh air. On November 4, 1980, ten leading liberals who voted the humanist line were defeated for reelection to the national legislature. We must continue that process of political purging. The hope of our nation lies in a return to biblical Christianity.

Humanism is a man-centered religion. It plays down sin as a fact, thinks of humanity as self-sufficient without God, and substitutes human efforts for Christ's redemption. It has freed guilty criminals, produced prostitutes, approved murder by abortion, and destroyed the values on which this nation was founded. It is “intellectual insanity,” as someone has called it. We must oppose liberal humanism. It is contrary to the Word of God and will destroy our country.

QUESTIONS

1. What is humanism?
2. What is its basic doctrine?
3. How does that stand opposed to Christianity?
4. What is man's chief duty?
5. What is man's greatest problem?
6. How self-sufficient is man?
7. What is man's highest authority?
8. What can you do about humanism's challenge?
9. Why can no Christian be a humanist?
10. Where lies the hope of our country?