

## **Is Humanism Returning? (Slide 1)**

### **Christianity vs Humanism**

#### **Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

*Humanists* are *atheists* and just like what we commonly refer to as the atheist, they have a religion. Their religion is that they are a god of themselves and alone in the universe. The theory of evolution has paved the way for the humanistic/ atheistic point of view.

(Slide 2) The humanist absolutely must ignore all of scripture and in particular, Genesis 1-2, John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1-3, Psalm 19 and what Paul says in Romans 1 to name a few.

As we mentioned last week *humanists* and particularly *secular humanists* are opposed to any aspect of religion. *Humanists* believe that religion doesn't make sense and they adapt the concept of destroying what they cannot understand which is a basic carnal instinct that resides inside much of mankind.

## **1 Corinthians 1:18-19**

***18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.***

***19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.***

If it's different, destroy it! If it doesn't agree with my view, get rid of it! *Humanists* perceive religion and all its fundamental principles as harmful to mankind's progress. Afterall, religion does not elevate human beings but elevates a *Spiritual* being.

We have a clear understanding regarding humanism apart from religion. Yet, we have people today who try to answer complicated moral questions with their own blend of religion that is apart from the Word of God.

Paul warns the church at Colosse to be on guard for these people.

## **Colossians 2:8 (Slide 3)**

***8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.***

Now I believe that this verse includes others than just those of *philosophy*, that is; the *religious humanist*. The *god* that the *humanist* has built has come from their own small intellect. It is religion because the humanist is engaged in worship. He or she worships themselves.

Perhaps it would be advisable here to define *religion*: again there are several definitions depending on your source. This one is from Webster's dictionary:

(Slide 4) *Religion: a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith -ardor: passion/enthusiasm. Passion can be a driving force in how one carries out or lives their religion.*

Saul, before he became Paul, was passionate but wrong.

For the Christian: passion causes obedience, restraint, study, love for God, for Christ, for the Word, The Holy Spirit, and even for humanity.

For the humanist: passion causes indifference or violence to an opposing religion. This is so true when we consider what truly caused Jesus to be crucified. Perpetrators were those who were supposedly spiritually religious. They are indeed religious humanists.

What is religion coupled with humanistic concepts?

**Mark 7:6-9** (Slide 5)

***And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Slide 6) You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!”***

*Religious humanists* doom many who do not know the truth. It sounds good and feels good so it must be right.

The *religious humanist* is the most dangerous to true Christianity. To the unlearned and unprepared, the Pharisees of today are very subtle and appear to be sincere. Any doctrine that follows base human wants and desires rather than Godly morals is *humanistic*.

For example, many religions sanction acceptance of immorality that God condemns. They even give openly immoral people positions of authority in their religious denominations. Their human philosophy has adopted the point of view that it must be right because after all, we are

all God's children and He loves everyone. All can feel comfortable and welcome.

They allow women to usurp authority over men by making them deacons, elders, and ministers. Their religion is *humanistic* because it appeases and pleases the flesh, rather than God.

Sadly, the humanistic or shall we say, modern day pharisee philosophy has infiltrated Christ's church. It began slowly, but is now full scale in many churches that wear the name above their building as "*church of Christ.*"

Clear evidence that men and women have established their own vain philosophy apart from God's doctrine.

**2 Timothy 2:11-12 (Slide 7)**

***11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.***

Today's world is intent on emphasizing pronouns. For Christ's church let's emphasize pronouns the Apostle Paul used for bishops (deacons) and elders: that is "*he not she!!*"

When the apostles told the early church to select seven people to see to the daily needs of the people they said:

**Acts 6:3** (Slide 8)

***Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.***

*“Seven men, not seven women!”*

But the modern church believes they have their own revelation and apply it to their own religion. If we can't get it right today because we have let humanism slip into the church, can you imagine how the religious humanist worked in Jesus' time?

Those are the ones who made up the Sanhedrin. Composed of the two political, religious sects of the day. It parallels today's supreme court in that for the Jews, despite the Romans being the ultimate law of the land, they were the rule makers with their political pull and their supposed expertise in the Law of Moses. They used religion like a weapon to satisfy their own desires.

Even the two ideologies of the two sects weren't unified until the threat of Christ. He did unify them because they destroyed what they could not or did not choose to know.

John the Baptist saw right through these people. (Slide 9)  
***“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matthew 3:7)***

This is the group of *religious humanists* that incited the death of Christ. We should not be so naive to think that we aren't surrounded by those just like them.

Can we know when someone is a *religious humanist*, a modern day *pharisee*?

**1 Corinthians 2:12** (Slide 10)

***Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”***

***“Spirit who is from God!”***

What a blessing that Christians have to be able to expose an agenda so dark within the immoral landscape we find ourselves living in. We can, because of God's Holy Spirit discern good from evil whether it be subtle and now, today, unhidden, unashamed, embolden and unfiltered.

Though we are sheep in reference to following Christ, we should not be *“sheepish”* when confronting immorality.

The *humanistic* approach is meant to *wear us down*, *desensitize* our *moral compass* so that we will conform.

Just watch today's modern tv commercials and you will see the *secular humanistic* approach in action.

Humanism in the U.S. is a recognized religion. The humanists have a legally recognized manifesto that uses language declaring itself to be a religion. They have what would be parallel to a “*Christian Chaplain*” who speaks at various universities and other post-secondary institutions with the intent of recruiting young people into their fold.

How appropriate it is for the Christian today to hear and heed these words from our Savior:

(Slide 11) ***Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*** (Matthew 26:41)

Though He said this to His disciples prior to His death, I think this admonition applies to us in a variety of ways.

Humanist Summary from Paul

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16** (Slide 12)

***14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.***

*(Slide 13)* ***15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.***

Next week, Lord willing we will answer this question:  
*Is Humanism Returning?*

Invitation

*Today, if you haven't accepted the Gospel call; why wait?!! Hear the invitation, repent, confess your belief in Jesus as Christ, and submit yourself to that watery grave of baptism that will indeed bring you to Life. The Lord Himself will add you to His church.*

*If you have been baptized but haven't lived according to your commitment, may we pray for you and with you as you travel this journey in Christ on earth.*

*Until the Lord comes: make your wish known before He returns.*

**Reading:**

## **1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

***1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.***

***6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written,***

***"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,  
AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,  
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."***

***10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the***

***spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.***