

Is Humanism Returning? (Slide 1)

Humanism Defined

Reading: Romans 8:5-11

Finding an accurate and true definition today can be difficult. Word definitions have often been changed to fit a particular narrative or viewpoint. So the researcher must use caution when determining the correct meaning.

Definitions can often be proven by observation. We don't need someone else to analyze the circumstances of any topic when we can observe it in action or in the wake of its result.

Cause and Effect (Slide 2)

Causation is what triggers an event. For example, an exertion of force from a hammer on a nail causes the nail to be driven into wood. Of course, there are different reasons for using a hammer and a nail and different levels of significance for humanity. A house that is built provides shelter and most often temporary security. Our Savior nailed to the cross provides opportunity for eternal life.

A Biblical example is the cause and effect of sin. Case in point, Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 18:20-33 (Slide 3)

20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. 21 I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

(Slide 4) ***22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. 23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"*** (Slide

5) 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, (Slide 6) so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." (Slide 7) 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes. 28 Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" (Slide 8) And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." 29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it on account of the forty." 30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" (Slide 9) And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." 31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the twenty." 32 Then he said, (Slide 10) "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten." 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

The cause of the destruction of Sodom and Gommarah was the fact that 10 righteous people could not be found. Including Lot's soon to be son-in laws. The effect was their destruction!!

It's hard to believe, homosexuality, the cause of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, is a controversial subject in the United States. Even when weighed with the effect of disease, suicide and dysfunction.

This can be attributed, not to a change in the definition of morality because it remains the same. Rather, to who indeed is allowed to set the moral standard. It is the effect of allowing men and not God to set the standard for morality.

Worldview: (Slide 11)

All of us have a worldview. However, the difference between people is what has shaped our worldview. As we work toward defining Humanism, let's consider the condition of being afraid that is; having fear.

Babies aren't born with fear. They have desires and natural instinctive needs but are typically not afraid of the dark. The real development of fear is the result of being taught to be afraid. (Now I believe there are certainly things we need to be afraid of) Perhaps as they get older they are taught or influenced by a sibling or even from their parents at times to have certain fears.

Worldview is most often developed the same way. Someone has taught, influenced, or set the example of it and it is difficult to break this ingrained impact. A worldview that is a (Slide 12) *Secular Humanistic* view of all aspects of life, is narrow, void of empathy and a narcissistic view. It allows no space for other possibilities and in particular; faith.

Whereas the Christian worldview has a much broader and spiritual scope. Yet, the Christian is fully aware of the worldview of flesh and blood. In fact, since Christians battle the flesh all day long, one might say that the Christian relationship with human existence is based on an intimate knowledge of natural desire.

The *Secular Humanistic* view, the most dangerous for Christians, does not have this scope. In fact, this view is vehemently opposed to any religion. These live in a bubble of their own making. How sad and lonely they are or will one day be.

So what is meant by *Secular*? (Slide 13)

First of all, Secular means to be engaged in life experiences devoid of any Spiritual or Religious acknowledgement. This is the driving force of much of today's liberalism.

Is it any wonder that Christianity is being pushed out? Afterall, Christianity has boundaries and *mores* that limit what one can engage in and how one must recognize human relationships and the doctrine that applies to the Christian engagement in those specific relationships.

(Slide 14) Christianity is bound by "*Thou Shalt Nots*" and "*Commands based on Love*" and the like. Christianity is based upon and governed by the Doctrine of the chosen apostles of Jesus and His own words and actions on our behalf. I can't do what my flesh desires to do because I'm a Christian. In a sense, Christians are ruled by their understanding of cause and effect.

(Slide 15) As a Christian, a great deal of the refraining from engaging in certain activities is not because of the impact or effect it will have on us, but the impact and effect it will have on others. Namely, our God and Christ Jesus.

The Humanistic view is devoid from that understanding because it cannot establish a relationship based on faith nor can it see beyond itself and into the hearts and minds of others.

Humanism summary definition: (Slide 16)

I have read several definitions from many sources including the internet and two ministers in our brotherhood. I want to define it in a very straightforward way. I want us to also see the subtle way in which it is defined so that it seems to many to be very appealing.

Humanism declares that God is dead and that the center for anything and everything is man. In fact, *Humanism declares to those who believe in God that you are wasting your time because God isn't real but the world is and therefore should be everyone's central focus.* It entices a liberal lifestyle

and should be accepted because each person is developing that is; growing and maturing through lived experiences. It is not limited to rational thought but accepting of radical ideology.

Not hard to see why we in this country have gone from our founding Christian principles to where we are now.

The Humanists declare this to be good as long as you follow what I believe.

Secular Humanism goes a step further. It is a philosophy that not only believes that the Spiritual realm doesn't exist but opposes the very idea of God, Of Christ, Of the Holy Spirit. In fact, it opposes Heaven and Hell.

Even in some religious organizations concepts of Humanism can be observed. The idea that God wouldn't condemn anyone to Hell could easily have been born from this philosophy because it states that man is too important for God to ever destroy humanity. In other words, I'm too important!!

We might think that as Christians were immune to the impact of *Secular Humanism*. Obviously, when this *Humanistic Philosophy* causes physical action to impose its beliefs, the effect will be devastating to Christians.

The *Humanistic* approach has affected the church when its members become neither Hot or Cold. Because they have become uncommitted and therefore, follow what is pleasing, selfish or easy on them.

Revelation 3:14-18 (Slide 17)

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. (Slide 18) 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not (Slide 19) know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, (Slide 20) and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

The Humanistic view is clothed in indifference while trying at times and in some cases to look and feel religious. *"It's not my responsibility, why should I care?!"* or *"It doesn't affect me so I won't get involved!!"*

So many people attend a *"church service"* to placate the flesh. They'll sing and dance around and shout in order to do their best to obtain a feel good, worthwhile experience. They miss the point. Attending a church service is not about you or me, it is to honor, please and to draw closer to God!! It is about *The One and Only Holy Father, God our Savior!!*

Romans 8:5-7 (Slide 21)

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, (Slide 22) but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Worldly, fleshly thinking in worship opposes the very tenants of worshiping in Spirit and Truth. It isn't spiritual worship with a central focus on God, rather, it is worship of the flesh. This is not something that is exclusive to what we have deemed *"Holy Rollers"* or rigid, stoic and dictated ceremony, but it often creeps into *Christ's* church.

Anytime something comes into the church that isn't authorized nor follows Biblical examples of the early church service is meant to please the flesh. God says through His apostle the result will be death.

We must remember:

Romans 8:9a (Slide 23)

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

If we ever want to be sure we are worshiping in Spirit and truth, analyze our worship. Is our aim to please God or ourselves.

Certainly, I enjoy worship. I enjoy and love the word. I love my God. If He is pleased, I am satisfied.

There is a lot more to say about this subject as we move through these lessons in the coming weeks. Lord willing.

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:

Romans 8:5-11

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9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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