

THE PROBLEM OF HUMANISM (Jeremiah 10:23)

I. Some definitions.

- A. We've already notice the definition of humanism given by various humanist groups.
- B. We can't confuse humanism with some other words like it.
- C. Such as:
 - 1. Humanitarian - having concern for or helping to improve the welfare and happiness of people.
 - a. Humanists are often benevolent but not because they can point to some philosophy that requires it.
 - b. Some oppose sending food to other nations which have, as one stated, "exceeded their biological carrying capacity."
 - c. It is humanitarian to open up children's hospital, soup kitchens, children's homes and the like.
 - d. Christians do those type things, or at least those who profess to be followers of Christ.
 - 2. The Humanities - the study of classical languages and classical literature.
 - a. The humanities, as a field of study, have been promoted on college campuses and in schools for hundreds of years, including colleges overseen by religious groups.
 - b. Humanists call conservative Christian people anti-intellectual.
 - c. Christians study these fields as well as non-Christians.
 - 3. Humane - characterized by tenderness, compassion, and sympathy for people and animals, especially for the suffering or distressed.
 - a. Is it humane to teach that those who have birth defects should be killed?
 - b. Is it humane to teach that those who have reached a state of physical decrepitness should be euthanised?
 - c. Is it humane to withhold aid to other nations unless they institute measures to control population?
- D. Long ago, Protagoras, a 5th century B.C. philosopher, said, "Man is the measure of all things."
- E. This is exactly what humanism believes and is attempting to spread.
- F. Charles Hartshorne wrote that humanism makes two basic, fundamental claims:
 - 1. It implies that man is evidently alone in the universe and depends for friendship on his own kind.
 - 2. It maintains that the recognition of this loneliness will aid rather than hinder the good life upon this earth.
- G. Those who believe these things have been active for thousands of years.
- H. In the 20th Century, the humanists came together to write what they called "The Humanist Manifesto."

1. This was first written in 1933 and is known as the Humanist Manifesto I.
 2. In 1973, humanists came together and wrote what is called Humanist Manifesto II, which is even more revealing of their true beliefs than was the first.
- I. One humanist writer stated, "We can, if we so choose, do virtually anything."
 - J. All of this goes to show us what humanism is all about: the uplifting of man as his own determiner of destiny.

II. Their beliefs.

- A. Humanists, for the most part, are either agnostic or atheist.
 1. There are some that believe in what is known as deism.
 2. Deism is the belief in a god who simply started the world up and sits back and has nothing to do with it.
 3. Notice this statement from the 2nd manifesto: "As in 1933, humanist still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-healing God, assumed to love and care for person...is an unproved and outmoded faith."
 4. Since they don't believe in God, they miss out on the true purpose of man's existence (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
 5. They miss out on the value of their souls, in which, incidentally, they don't believe exist (Matthew 16:26).
- B. The false theory of evolution is part and parcel of humanism.
 1. Humanists, for the most part, laugh at the thought of a being capable of creating the world and universe.
 2. They back every effort to teach evolution in our schools and fight every effort that is made to teach any form of creationism.
- C. They believe that there is no life after death.
 1. The Humanist Manifesto II states, "Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices."
 2. They believe that once you die, nothingness is the only existence.
 3. One of their writers stated "the humanist view rejects the idea of personal immortality and interprets death as the final end of the individual conscious personality."
 4. How does this help man in any way?
 5. It is a vehicle of no hope.
 6. Listen to what Jesus said...(John 14:1-3).
 7. Notice the words of Paul...(2 Corinthians 5:1-4).
- D. Humanism teaches that man is a free being able to do that which pleases him as an individual as long as what is practiced does not hurt others.
 1. From their 2nd manifesto: "Ethics is autonomous and situational...Ethics stem from human needs and interests.
 2. Abortion on demand, euthanasia, homosexuality and even incest

- are all acceptable according to humanism.
3. The humanist idea about sexuality is an alarming one:
 - a. Again from their 2nd manifesto: "Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their lifestyles as they desire."
 - b. One of their writers stated in an article: "I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently, assumed it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption...The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to prove there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do...For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom."
- E. What is scary, is that much of this can be found in the books used to teach our young people in the public school systems across America.
1. One of the goals of humanism is to have it taught to children.
 2. John Dewey, who is known as the father of the American education system, was a signer of the Humanist Manifesto I.
 3. In an article found in the Humanist Magazine, a writer named John Dunphy had this to say: "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 that spark of 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 educational level -- preschool day care 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, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor" will finally be achieved."
- F. We as parents and those Christians who are educators need to be aware of what the curriculum is and where it can lead.
1. I'm thankful we live in an area where this has not taken full sway.
 2. However, as you see the promotion of abortion and things like it, it

should remind us that this dangerous entity is real and near.

III. God's answer to humanism.

- A. The goals of humanism sound good.
 - 1. Let's have a better world that is more loving and kind.
 - 2. Let's improve the individual human being.
- B. Those things sound wonderful.
- C. The truth is: God's answer is the best for mankind.
- D. Both of those goals, the better world and the improved individual, are all accomplished through obedience to the gospel.
- E. Obedience to the gospel makes the world better.
 - 1. Love is accomplished through the gospel (John 13:34-35).
 - a. What is loving about permissive sexuality?
 - b. What is loving about abortion?
 - 2. Kindness is a by product of gospel obedience (Colossians 3:12-14).
 - a. What is kind about cutting off aid to nations?
 - b. What is kind about incest?
- F. Obedience to the gospel improves the individual human being.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
 - 2. The gospel changed those people in Corinth just as it has changed many of us here today.
- G. God's answer to humanism is found in John 10:10.
 - 1. Man can't make his problems any better on his own.
 - 2. We mess things up (Jeremiah 10:23).