

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## **The Bible vs. Humanism**

**From Hebron Lane Herald**

Humanism's basic tenet is that man has all the answers. Man is the greatest and worst being in existence and carries the burden of solving all of life's problems. It is futile, humanists say, to seek a higher power, something greater than ourselves.

The humanistic philosophy is taught in all public schools to one degree or another. It is promoted in the media and entertainment industries and is ensconced in many of our nation's laws. Still, it is an utter failure. Rather than elevating man, it denigrates him. Instead of solving problems, it multiplies them exponentially.

Thankfully, we have the Word of God to clear our minds and give us direction. When humanism is examined in light of the Bible, its errors are plainly seen. Too, the Scripture gives us hope; hope that there is something beyond this life with all of its heartaches and troubles.

The *Humanist Manifesto II* says, "As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature no deity." The Bible describes this person as a fool (Psa. 14:1). In other words, this person who thinks he is so wise, is actually devoid of common sense; the evidence for God's existence is too overwhelming to miss (Rom. 1:20-23).

Though humanist claim to have a superior ethic, it falls far short of what God teaches. "We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction" (*HM II*). Thus, Hitler was arguably right in exterminating Jews and striving for a "master race." Terrorists have a valid point that the only way to

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advance their cause is by slaughtering innocent men, women, and children.

In contrast to this corrupt philosophy, the Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Moral values are not in man, they come from an Almighty God. They are constant, not ever changing with the whims of men from one generation to the next or one situation to the next.

Humanists see nothing wrong with sexual promiscuity. In the 1976 January/February issue of *The Humanist* magazine it said, "For the first time in history, there need be no fear of unwanted pregnancy or venereal disease, if proper precautions are taken." Really? Have unwanted pregnancies risen or fallen since 1976? Has venereal disease increased or decreased? The answers are so obvious they need not be given.

The same article said, "Although we consider marriage, where viable, a cherished human relationship, we believe that other sexual relationships are also significant...human beings should have the right to express their sexual desires and enter into relationships as they see fit, as long as they do not harm others or interfere with their rights to sexual expression." Here we see the desire to promote every form of sexual perversion. This is the foundation for the homosexual agenda. It will serve as the basis for pedophiles to push their grotesque views on society. After all, what is wrong with a 13-year-old boy having sex with a 45-year-old man as long as he is consenting? Do not doubt that some are working to have the "legal age" for sex dropped below 18.

## **Atheism – Is It The Church's Fault**

**A Selected Article**

The following two paragraphs are from an article addressing the failure of churches to adequately address questions of some young people. Our comments follow.

[Anthony] Horvath, who has taught religion to middle school and high school students, explained that some of the recurring questions young adults struggle with but churches often

fail to address include the formation and development of the Bible, the presence of evil and suffering in the world, and the question of inspiration and inerrancy.

In large part, it happens when the church leadership is completely unaware that their members – and not necessarily just the young members – have questions at all,” explained Horvath to The Christian Post. “And [they] continue merrily along thinking that to retain the youth they just need to be entertained.

(Christianpost.com, full article).

Mr. Horvath is viewing this issue from the perspective of a denominationalist. Still, his points are valid. Young people have questions that need to be addressed. Old people too.

We cannot assume that because someone grows up going to church every Sunday and Wednesday that they automatically have an unshakable believe that God created the world, Jesus is the Christ, there is a heaven and hell, the Bible is true, etc. (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:29; Matt. 25:46; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17). They need to be thoroughly instructed in such issues, including learning arguments against the truth so they can weigh the evidence, come to their own conclusion, and answer challenges (Deut. 6:6-9; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15). If this does not happen, they will not have their own faith, but that of their parents or others. No one will get to heaven on someone else’s faith.

The bottom line: If we fail to address these issues in the pulpit and classes, then, yes, the church is guilty of making atheists by default.

Further, Mr. Horvath is right about churches seeking to keep young people by entertaining them. This is a major problem in denominations and liberal churches of Christ. Sadly, it is becoming more of a problem among conservative churches too.

Entertainment does not build faith. The Word does (Rom. 10:17). When entertainment is used, people eventually tire of it or find something better. It is an emotional high, but spiritually shallow. We recently read an article about a Baptist church in Hot Springs, AR, that sponsored a Pro-Fishing event to draw men in (read the article). Why have many men stopped attending denominations and need to be brought back with bait? Because

they were raised on entertainment religion that became boring. Now something more “relevant” and “interesting” needs to be offered. The thing is, the bait comes with a hook.

Let us stick with the Bible. Allow the message of the cross be that which draws men (Jn. 6:44, 45; 12:32). If we do not, we will dishonor God and do a disservice to man.