

Humanly Speaking

by Wayne Goff

It won't be a shock to anyone to know that they are *human*. But let's think for a moment about what all that can mean.

Human: *a human being*, as opposed to God, animals or machines, especially in being susceptible to weaknesses. “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). “*O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps*” (Jer. 10:23).

Humanly: *with human feeling or kindness*. This term is largely archaic today. “*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you*” (Eph. 4:32). We can love one another for Christ's sake.

Humanity: *human beings collectively*; the human race. We are all connected by this bond, and we stand or fall together. “*And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings*” (Acts 17:26). Each one of us is made in God's image. Each one of us is related to the other, no matter how *distantly*. Mankind should feel the *dignity* of his humanity, and *benevolence* toward each other should be felt.

Humanitarian: *one who promotes human welfare and social reform*. “*So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’*” (Acts 17:27-28). There is no better reform than for man to return to his Maker. If everybody acted like a Christian should act, what a wonderful world it would be.

Humanism: *a devotion to the humanities: literary culture*. This is preferred over the word *humanism* which means *a philosophy which rejects supernaturalism and promotes self-realization through reason*. “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’*” (Ps. 14:1).

HUMAN. What does it mean to you?

263501