

Landslide Part 3: Secular Humanism

Reviewing the series:

- Science reveals there is a God.
- History reveals which God: Christianity.
- Philosophy reveals a coherent, consistent answer to why there is evil.
- Landslide deals with different world views: Pluralism/Universalism, Moral Relativism.
- This week: Humanism—what is it?

There is a battle for our minds going on.

Colossians 2:6–8 (NIV) ⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

The Humanist Manifesto 1; 1933, 15 Principle statements: (American Humanist Association)

FIRST: Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.

SECOND: Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.

THIRD: Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.

FOURTH: Humanism recognizes that man's religious culture and civilization, as clearly depicted by anthropology and history, are the product of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural environment and with his social heritage. The individual born into a particular culture is largely molded by that culture.

FIFTH: Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values.

EIGHTH: Religious Humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist's social passion.

FOURTEENTH: The humanists are firmly convinced that existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.

Basic beliefs of secular humanism, and important distinctions:

- This philosophy thinks more universally—about what is good for the human race rather than for the individual.
- Real Life happens when humans decide for themselves. They believe the key to a satisfying human life is found in the material world. Each person and each society bases their goals for a satisfying life on the temporary human life.
- The devil, in a sense was saying, “Eve, this isn't real life. Life would be better when you do things your way, when you decide truth for yourself.”
- Humanism rejects the supernatural and says man determines his or her own standards and life.

Secular humanism unseats God as center/source of truth, and makes man the center.

- Remember last week: the devil is a liar and a murderer.
- The devil does not **hold** to the truth.
- Jesus says His disciples do **hold** to the truth.

Genesis 3:1–8

Jesus said real life (as He intended it) happens when you are connected to your spiritual Father and Creator.

John 8:31–32 (NIV) ³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you **hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:43–45 (NIV) ⁴³Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

John 14:6–7 (NIV) ⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Jesus is the life, He is the spiritual food for your spiritual life.

John 6:26–63

Truths to be embraced:

1. Jesus is clear. Life on planet earth, and eternal life, are dependent on Jesus in your life,

- If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; (**John 15:4-5**)
- the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience... (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

2. We have a choice, and most won't stick with Jesus.

John 6:66 (NIV) From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Within our Christian culture, many are seeking middle ground.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith by following deceitful spirits and things taught by demons.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

What does Humanism look like in our lives?

Humanism creeps into our lives in subtle ways. It happens when...

- We value the morals of Christianity, and yet we don't believe God has the power to change us or our circumstances.
- We believe in the power of reason, that we must solve our own problems devoid of God, and thus take control of a given situation.
- We say things like, "God has given me a brain, and therefore my common sense trumps the word of God when I feel like it, or when I need an outcome that makes me feel better."
- We are so driven by social causes and what's best for all that we compromise what God says about those issues. (homosexuality, gender identity, feminism, etc.)
- When our plans focus more on ourselves rather than on God, we've adopted a form of humanism.
- When we like Jesus as savior, but not Lord.
- Humanism creeps into the church when we think we come to Jesus on our own terms.

Take intentional steps:

- Acknowledge the enemy's presence and tactics, and reject his lies.
- Feed on God's word so you have spiritual food for your soul. We live on God's Word, His ongoing in-filling of Himself, and His spiritual direction through His word.
- Be a source of light for your family. (**Deuteronomy 6**)
- Stay in relationship with other believers for support. (**Hebrews 3:12-13**)

Matthew 4:1–4 (NIV) ¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Discussion questions for home, or Life Group:

1. After hearing the sermon, how would you describe "humanism"?
2. Where have you heard examples of humanism in conversations, or experienced its influence in your world?
3. Take a look at Proverbs 3:5-6 and Luke 9:18-26. In what ways can you tend to be more self-reliant (or human-reliant) rather than God-reliant?
4. How are you actively seeking God to be the one who determines the morals and ethics for your life? A) How does this impact your relationships with your family, fellow believers, and those in your world who do not yet follow Jesus?
5. We have looked at pluralism, relativism, and humanism. Which has most challenged your thinking or impacted your perspective? Share what is challenging or impacting you.