

What Is Secular Humanism?

Secular Humanism is a term which has come into use in the last thirty years to describe a world view with the following elements and principles:

- A conviction that dogmas, ideologies and traditions, whether religious, political or social, must be weighed and tested by each individual and not simply accepted on faith.
- Commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence, and scientific methods of inquiry, rather than faith and mysticism, in seeking solutions to human problems and answers to important human questions.
- A primary concern with fulfillment, growth, and creativity for both the individual and humankind in general.
- A constant search for objective truth, with the understanding that new knowledge and experience constantly alter our imperfect perception of it.
- A concern for this life and a commitment to making it meaningful through better understanding of ourselves, our history, our intellectual and artistic achievements, and the outlooks of those who differ from us.
- A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct, judging them on their ability to enhance human well-being and individual responsibility.
- A conviction that with reason, an open marketplace of ideas, good will, and tolerance, progress can be made in building a better world for ourselves and our children.

Accurate definitions are difficult to come by. When one hears the word “humanism,” several different ideas may come to mind. For example, Mr. Webster would define humanism something like this:

"any system or mode of thought or action in which human interests, values, or dignity predominate." [1]

Others may think of a liberal arts education. Both of these are well and good, but what we are seeking is a definition of the worldview known as Secular Humanism.

First, Secular Humanism is a *worldview*. That is, it is a set of beliefs through which one interprets all of reality—something like a pair of glasses. Second, Secular Humanism is a *religious* worldview. [2] Do not let the word “secular” mislead you. The Humanists themselves would agree that they adhere to a religious worldview. According to the *Humanist Manifestos I & II*: Humanism is "a philosophical, religious, and moral point of view." [3]

Not all humanists, though, want to be identified as “religious,” because they understand that religion is (supposedly) not allowed in American public education. To identify Secular Humanism as a religion would eliminate the Humanists' main vehicle for the propagation of their faith. And it is a faith, by their own admission. The *Humanist Manifestos* declare:

"These affirmations [in the *Manifestos*] are not a final credo or dogma but an expression of a living and growing *faith*." [4]

What are the basic beliefs of Secular Humanism? What do Secular Humanists believe?

Theologically, Secular Humanists are *atheists*. Humanist Paul Kurtz, publisher of Prometheus Books and editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine, says that "Humanism cannot in any fair sense of the word apply to one who still believes in God as the source and creator of the universe." [5] Corliss Lamont agrees, saying that "Humanism contends that instead of the gods creating the cosmos, the cosmos, in the individualized form of human beings giving rein to their imagination, created the gods." [6]

Philosophically, Secular Humanists are *naturalists*. That is, they believe that nature is all that exists - the material world is all that exists. There is no God, no spiritual dimension, no afterlife. Carl Sagan said it best in the introduction to his *Cosmos* series: "The universe is all that is or ever was or ever will be." [7] Roy Wood Sellars concurs. "Humanism is naturalistic," he says, "and rejects the supernaturalistic stance with its postulated Creator-God and cosmic Ruler." [8]

Secular Humanist beliefs in the area of biology are closely tied to both their atheistic theology and their naturalist philosophy. If there is no supernatural, then life, including human life, must be the result of a purely natural phenomenon. Hence, Secular Humanists must believe in *evolution*. Julian Huxley, for example, insists that "man ... his body, his mind and his soul were not supernaturally created but are all products of evolution." [9] Sagan, Lamont, Sellars, Kurtz—all Secular Humanists are in agreement on this.

Atheism leads most Secular Humanists to adopt *ethical relativism* - the belief that no absolute moral code exists, and therefore man must adjust his ethical standards in each situation according to his own judgment. [10] If God does not exist, then He cannot establish an absolute moral code. Humanist Max Hocutt says that human beings "may, and do, make up their own rules... Morality is not discovered; it is made." [11]

Secular Humanism, then, can be defined as *a religious worldview based on atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism*. But this definition is merely the tip of the iceberg. A more complete discussion of the Secular Humanist worldview can be found in David Noebel's *Understanding the Times*, which discusses (in detail) humanism's approach to each of ten disciplines: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics and history.

FOOTNOTES

1. *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1989), p. 691.
2. For detailed proof that Secular Humanism is a religion, see *Clergy in the Classroom: The Religion of Secular Humanism* by David A. Noebel, J.F. Baldwin and Kevin Bywater (Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Press, 1995).
3. Paul Kurtz, in the preface to *Humanist Manifestos I & II* (Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973), p. 3.
4. Kurtz, *Humanist Manifestos I & II*, p. 24. Italics added.
5. "Is Everyone a Humanist?" in *The Humanist Alternative*, ed. Paul Kurtz (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1973), p. 177.
6. Corliss Lamont, *The Philosophy of Humanism* (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing, 1982), p. 145.
7. Carl Sagan, *Cosmos* (New York: Random House, 1980), p. 4.
8. Roy Wood Sellars, "The Humanist Outlook," in *The Humanist Alternative*, ed. Paul Kurtz (Buffalo: Prometheus, 1973), p. 135.
9. Julian Huxley, as cited in Roger E. Greely, ed., *The Best of Humanism* (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1988), pp. 194-5.
10. David A. Noebel, *Understanding the Times: The Religious Worldviews of Our Day and the Search for Truth* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1991), p. 200.
11. Max Hocutt, "Toward an Ethic of Mutual Accommodation," in *Humanist Ethics*, ed. Morris B. Storer (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1980), p. 137.

Secular Humanism — From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Secular humanism is a humanist philosophy that espouses reason, ethics, and justice, and specifically rejects supernatural and religious dogma as the basis of morality and decision-making. Like other types of humanism, secular humanism is a life stance that focuses on the way human beings can lead good, happy and functional lives.

The term "secular humanism" was coined in the 20th century, and was adopted by non-religious humanists in order to make a clear distinction from "religious humanism." Secular humanism is also

called "scientific humanism." Biologist E. O. Wilson claimed it to be "the only worldview compatible with science's growing knowledge of the real world and the laws of nature."

Tenets of Secular Humanism

Secular humanism describes a world view with the following elements and principles:^[2]

- **Need to test beliefs** – A conviction that dogmas, ideologies and traditions, whether religious, political or social, must be weighed and tested by each individual and not simply accepted on faith.
- **Reason, evidence, scientific method** – A commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence and scientific methods of inquiry, rather than faith, in seeking solutions to human problems and answers to important human questions.
- **Fulfillment, growth, creativity** – A primary concern with fulfillment, growth and creativity for both the individual and humankind in general.
- **Search for truth** – A constant search for objective truth, with the understanding that new knowledge and experience constantly alter our imperfect perception of it.
- **This life** – A concern for this life and a commitment to making it meaningful through better understanding of ourselves, our history, our intellectual and artistic achievements, and the outlooks of those who differ from us.
- **Ethics** – A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct, judging them on their ability to enhance human well-being and individual responsibility.
- **Building a better world** – A conviction that with reason, an open exchange of ideas, good will, and tolerance, progress can be made in building a better world for ourselves and our children.

A "Secular Humanist Declaration" was issued in 1980 by The Council for Democratic and Secular Humanism (CODESH), now the Council for Secular Humanism (CSH). It lays out ten ideals:

- 1) Free inquiry as opposed to censorship and imposition of belief.
- 2) Separation of church and state.
- 3) The ideal of freedom from religious control.
- 4) Freedom from jingoistic government control (i.e., aggressive foreign policy).
- 5) Ethics based on critical intelligence rather than that deduced from religious belief.
- 6) Moral education.
- 7) Religious skepticism.
- 8) Reason.
- 9) Belief in science and technology as the best way of understanding the world.
- 10) Evolution and education as the essential method of building humane, free, and democratic societies.

My comments:

It becomes very clear where this is heading toward a new world order, and why the United States has been so weakened by the infiltration of this "religion" into our post-Christian culture. All is setting the stage for a future generation of young minds indoctrinated to receive the coming world ruler [the antichrist] who will rise upon these lies of socialism, the ideology of communism. Please read the notes of the 1963 Communist Goals of taking out the United States and Judeo-Christian ethics once part of the western civilization. Check off every point that has been successfully accomplished.