

The Threats Of Humanism #2

Introduction. In the previous lesson, we examined the definition of humanism, the development of humanism and the prevalence of humanism. Humanism has encroached itself upon every phase of American life in its well-organized plan to absorb the entire world into its godless philosophy. In this lesson, we will examine the areas of the threat and what Christians can do about this insidious and evil influence.

I. ***The Areas Of The Threat***

A. Humanism threatens our religious freedoms.

1. The purpose of humanism is to absorb into its philosophical system all religions and transform them into humanist organizations. The *Humanist Manifesto I* says, "Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows in order to function effectively in the modern world."
2. Humanism has accomplished this to a large degree in at least three ways:
 - a) Philosophically.
 - (1) Much of the liberal thought we see in religion today is the result of humanist influence. Classic liberalism, modernism, situation ethics and the social gospel all find their roots in the humanist philosophic structure.
 - (2) Humanistic influence upon religion is evident in its treatment of sin as a social error. Humanists state that social errors can only be corrected by psychological counseling. So sin is sin only if you think it is. Your guilt will disappear when your humanist counselor overhauls your thought process.
 - (3) The ultimate proof of humanist influence in religion is seen in many of the liberal denominations' acceptance of homosexuals among the laity as well as among the clergy.
 - b) Organically.
 - (1) Today there are religious organizations that are overtly and admittedly humanistic. The Unitarian Universalist Church is probably the leading one in this country. There were 261 signatories of the *Humanist Manifesto II*, and approximately one-half of them were clergymen, most of whom are of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

(2) Lester Mondale, brother to Walter Mondale, is president of The Fellowship of Religious Humanists. The Quakers, both organically and philosophically, are allied with humanism. Even most people would be surprised to learn the extent to which the Catholic Church is on the humanist bandwagon.

c) Legally.

(1) Since World War II, humanism has been methodically executing a well-laid plan to eliminate God from government, government institutions and government expression. The ACLU, the powerful legal arm of the humanist movement, has provided free legal counsel for every humanist and communist cause since the notorious "Scopes Monkey Trial."

(2) John C. Whitehead, a respected Constitutional lawyer, commented, "Secular humanism poses a serious constitutional quandary because its purpose is to eliminate traditional theism as a significant aspect of reality by forcing traditional theism from the arena of public discourse and American institutional life."

B. Humanism threatens our public school system.

1. From the earliest moment of the humanist movement in America, the public education system has been its prime target. Humanists educate the teachers, write the textbooks and occupy many of the administrative positions that determine educational policies, and the National Education Association, the largest organization in the world representing professional teachers, is humanist to the core.
2. The National Education Association said, "If schools are to move toward humanism, then humanism must become important to all of us, students, teachers, administrators and the general public. Everybody is in favor of it, but not everybody is committed to it. If humanism is to take its place as a prime objective of education, that fact must be spelled out in our procedures and practices. If humanism is to be given the kind of central position this volume calls for, then a careful, systematic search of our goals and practices is needed to weed out those whose effects are destructive to our values."
3. Charles Francis Potter stated, "Education is the most powerful ally of humanism, and every American public school is a school of humanism. What can the theistic Sunday Schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?"
4. In the interest of "diversity" and "tolerance," our elementary students are being forced to study non-Christian religions such as Islam. They are restricted from sharing the gospel with friends at

school, but are learning about Muhammad and the Quran. They are being subjected to moral relativism that teaches that what is "bad" to one person, is good for another person based on differences in cultural background. In the interests of "tolerance," they are told not to judge these people, and recognize that calling something wrong or immoral is being intolerant.

5. Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, stated, "We have virtually eliminated from public schools any effort to teach the values of integrity, truth, personal accountability and respect for the rights of others."

C. Humanism threatens our families.

1. Humanism is a mortal enemy to the home as God would have it. Humanists constantly denigrate and castigate marriage and the home as God ordained them. Humanism views marriage as a human arrangement rather than as a divine one.
2. Joseph P. Fletcher, infamous author of *Situation Ethics, The New Morality*, said, "The personal commitment, not the county clerk, sanctifies sex ... A couple who cannot marry legally or permanently but live together faithfully and honorably and responsibly, are living in virtue -- in Christian love."
3. By means of evolution, the public schools have taught a generation of people that man is just a graduate beast. Through sex education, they have taught people how to live immorally. Through "values clarification," they have taught them how to rid themselves of any guilt feelings.

II. **What Can We Do?**

A. Pray.

1. The principle still stands that the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).
2. Even though it seems as if we are overpowered, the power of God can overcome any threat that man has devised (1 Kings 19:9-10, 18).

B. Make the home and the church everything God wants them to be.

1. The first lines of defense are the home and the church. We need to make both all that God wants them to be.
2. The home and the church must always be places where error is exposed and truth is taught (Ephesians 5:27).

C. Be informed.

1. As a parent, you need to know what your children are being taught in school, what they are watching on television, what kind of music they listen to and what kind of movies they go to see. Get to know your children's teachers, read textbooks and sit in on classes.

2. Most important of all, know your Bible. Know how to defend the fundamentals of scripture such as the fact that God exists, the Bible is His revelation to man, the fact that truth is absolute and the role of men and women in the home and in the church.

D. Teach and train our children.

1. Accept the fact that the primary responsibility for your child's education rests on you and not the government, the public school system or even the church (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4).
2. If the public schools will not respect your parental rights and your children are being harmed spiritually, take them out of the public schools and put them in a private school or teach them at home.

Conclusion. Communism has always boasted that it would conquer us without firing a shot. They have said they would do it by corrupting us from within. We have too often sat back in our easy chairs and looked upon that as an idle boast as we have gone about our materialistic ways. But sensible people realize that they are tampering with the most precious possession we have in this world, the minds of our children. The saying goes, "To the victor go the spoils," and in this case, how great are the spoils!

When your son or daughter comes home and announces they are going to cohabit with someone in lieu of marriage or live the life of a homosexual, we will then regret our apathy and shortsightedness, but your concern will be too little too late. Children do not grow up in a vacuum. If you do not train their minds, someone else will. Edmund Burke has well said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."