

American Gospel: Christ Crucified, Chapter 9 Additional Notes & Scriptures

INTRODUCTION

What is Secular Humanism?

Christian perspective from ChristianAnswers.net:

<https://christiananswers.net/q-sum/sum-r002.html>

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. 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.” Not all humanists, though, want to be identified as “religious,”

What do Secular Humanists believe?

Theologically, Secular Humanists are atheists

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.

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. If God does not exist, then He cannot establish an absolute moral code.

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

Secular perspective from Psychology Today

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-secular-life/202002/what-is-secular-humanism>

Secular Humanism begins with denial or doubt concerning the existence of anything supernatural—including God—but then goes well beyond that secular stance by positively affirming and valuing the potential of human beings to be kind, enact justice, solve problems, and make the world a better, safer, greener, and more humane place.

Secular Humanism rests firmly upon the recognition that humanity’s ability to be cruel, selfish, deceitful, and violent is far outweighed by our more pervasive and dominant capacities to be humane, altruistic, cooperative, sensible, fair, and peaceful.

A Secular Humanist is someone who does not believe in the otherworldly tenets of religion, but does believe in the many noble and righteous things of this world, such as cooperation, reason, education, science, humor, inquiry, democracy, compassion, tolerance, imagination, open debate, human rights—and then some.

Rather than put faith in the invisible, unfathomable, and improbable, Secular Humanists put their faith in the visible, discernible, testable, and real: people’s ingenuity, stamina, talent, kindness, and thirst for the ethical.

Rather than rely on wishful thinking or prayer to cure disease or solve social problems, we look to experimentation, the scientific method, reliable medicine, sound social policy, and democratic ideals.

IX. THE PATH TO HUMANISM

GOSPEL ESSENTIALS: The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Redefining Words: FAITH

Richard Rohr claims faith means _____.

The true Biblical definition of faith is _____.

Matthew 13:24–30

1 John 2:19 (ESV) ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

APPLICATION: Discussion: legalism vs. faith

APPLICATION: be sure to always, always, always make it all about _____!

GRAPHIC: Gospel is _____. Law is _____.

APPLICATION: Campolo's words express the tension we live with and always will