

13 - COUNTERING FALSE IDEOLOGIES

This chapter is a little different.

It consists of a list and description of just a few of the many false philosophies that teach a view of reality and truth that is contrary to what is clearly revealed by natural revelation (Creation) and special revelation (Scripture). Its purpose is to educate - and in educating, to arm believers against them.

These philosophies and ideologies are examples of both man's intentional rebellion and simplistic ignorance of the knowledge of God. Our intention is not to rid the earth of these philosophies. These false worldviews are never going to go away completely, any more than the sin nature of mankind is going to disappear.

It is a biblical principle that false philosophies and their deceptions will continue to grow and increase as the end draws near. Jesus explained in Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 that an enemy has sown "weeds" - defined as people who have accepted false doctrines and the corrupt philosophies of Satan. In the parable, when someone asks if the weeds should be pulled out of the field (i.e., the world) the answer given is, "No, because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest."

Paul tells us even more clearly that near the end there will be a vast manifestation of "all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in

order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

The goal of righteous people cannot be to end false philosophies but to expose them. We must fortify our soul against deception and to be ready to make a strong defense that supports our faith. There is no place in reality or truth for the censorship of opposing opinions or the extermination of those who hold false ideologies.

Rather we are told to:

Expose Error - *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”* (Ephesians 5:11)

Fortify Our Soul with Truth - *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* (Romans 12:2)

Defend Our Position - *“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”* (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Here, then, is a short list of some of the false philosophies we must be prepared to battle.

SECULAR HUMANISM

Secular Humanism is a religious worldview that believes the universe to be self-existing and not created. It is a philosophy based

on naturalism in which man slowly emerged through a continuous process of evolution. It teaches that the perfect realization of human personality (i.e., everything related to being a human person) is the purpose of life. We must seek our own personal fulfillment right here right now, because once a person dies their “human personality” will be gone forever.

Since humanity is simply an anomaly that sprang up randomly in a pointless universe, our lives have no real, objective purpose. Thus, the greatest good is our own personal fulfillment in this life.

Any behavior accepted by law is ethical. Which also means that any behavior not accepted by law must be harmful to the common good. A culture’s ethics are the foundation for social law, and are established by those who control society’s communication systems - such as public schools, media, entertainment, and whoever has a voice able to influence the masses.

How is secular humanism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (that is, by Reality)?

The “Humanist Manifesto I” was written in 1933 with an eye on human and social perfection. The word “religion” or “religious” was used 28 times in the work. The Manifesto states:

Today man’s larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion.... While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age.

These lofty but impossible goals of the 1933 manifesto were ad-

dressed exactly 40 years later in 1973 by the next generation of humanists (in the “Humanist Manifesto II”), who admitted that “events since 1933 make that earlier statement seem far too optimistic.”

One of the signers of this 1973 document was the world-renowned atheist Antony Flew. Thirty-four years later in 2007 Flew wrote the book, “There is a God”, with the subtitle “How the world’s most notorious atheist changed his mind.” In 2006 Flew added his name to a petition calling for the inclusion of intelligent design theory into the UK science curriculum.

Flew described his conversion from atheism to a form of deism like this:

I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite Intelligence. I believe that this universe’s intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God. I believe that life and reproduction originate in a divine Source. Why do I believe this, given that I expounded and defended atheism for more than a half century? The short answer is this: this is the world picture, as I see it, that has emerged from modern science. Science spotlights three dimensions of nature that point to God. The first is the fact that nature obeys laws. The second is the dimension of life, of intelligently organized and purpose-driven beings, which arose from matter. The third is the very existence of nature.... This was a consequence of my continuing assessment of the evidence of nature.... ‘We must follow the argument wherever it leads’ ... the origin of life cannot be explained if you start with matter alone ... I must stress that my discovery of the Divine has proceeded on a purely natural level, without any reference to supernatural phenomena. It has been an exercise in what is traditionally called natural theology.

(Flew, Antony. “There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind”. 2007, HarperCollins Publishers, NY, NY, chapter 4 – “A Pilgrimage of Reason”, pp.88-93)

As we see so often in human intercourse, a strong opponent becomes a strong ally.

How is secular humanism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (that is, by Truth)?

As you might expect, Scripture is overflowing with truth that shows the tenets of Secular Humanism to be false. Here are just a few of them.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

– Genesis 1:1

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

– Romans 11:36

“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

– Colossians 1:10

“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

– Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

“There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

– 1 Corinthians 8:6

