



No. 3

SECULAR PSYCHOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Man vs. God

Humanism has no final say about what is right and wrong. For a humanist the universe is neutral and silent about right and wrong. Humanism has no way to provide absolutes. Thus for morals and good life principles, humanism has no concept. It will be dictated by the drives of the human being without love, dignity, order or divine wisdom. Humanism begins with rejecting the source of life (God) and ends with death itself. One of the most dangerous statements is, 'what is "natural" is morally good'. For example, sex is natural, but when out of order, is very destructive. The world was perverted at the Fall such that the sinful nature now drives people, and even more so, when they are without God.

Throughout the ages, the universal Church has violated God's principles in many ways; the sad reality is the world has influenced the church far more than the church has influenced the world. By not following Jesus's example, religious authorities have discredited His church.

The process of mankind's decay through humanism, and away from God's divine guidance, happened as follows:

After Christianity was adopted as the official religion in Rome by Emperor Constantine, the decay started:

- 1) **Religion**
Established in Rome and expanding geographically and politically, the abuse of power and lack of consistency with Scripture brought the Church to an estate of discredit. (Approx. 500 A.D.)
- 2) **The Renaissance**
A reaction to the double standards of the Roman Church happened ironically in Italy, where the Renaissance began. The renaissance had influence from the Greek philosophers, and its aim was to get away from the wrong patterns and practices of the Church, and to build a new world starting and ending with mankind: humanism. (Approx. 1400-1600 A.D.)
- 3) **The Reformation**
Martin Luther also stood against the wrongs of the Roman Church, but this time to redirect the Church to God's ways. Luther did not intend the separation, but it happened due to the inflexibility, and desire to maintain power, of the Roman Catholic Church. (1500-1600 A.D.)
- 4) **The English Revolution**
With the reformation's basics, i.e. with God's principles as a foundation, this revolution happened without bloodshed. (Approx. 1700 A.D.)
- 5) **The Enlightenment / The Revolution** (Voltaire, Rousseau)
Contrary to the England transition, this was the renaissance in full maturity; the initial tendency towards humanism was now taken all the way, the result was the French and as a consequence of the French, the Russian bloody revolutions. The repercussions of these revolutions are still present both in France and more extreme in Russia. (Approx 1700 A.D.)

- 6) **Modern Science**
In the same way a reaction to the Roman Catholic Church occurred in Italy, a reaction to the German Reformation also happened in Germany. Humanistic philosophers influenced (as still happens today) governments (1800 A.D.)
- 7) **The Breakdown of godly Philosophy and Science**
The acceptance of the theory of the law of “the strong remains, the weak must go” with its roots in Darwinism inspired the Nazi movements in Germany. Martin Luther was a known anti-semitist and Hitler took advantage of this to justify persecuting and killing Jews.
- 8) **Modern Philosophy and Modern Theology**
The decay of morals, arts, music, adoption of anti-God’s beliefs. The distortion of beauty and harmony is still happening today.
- 9) **Self enthronement**
Materialism, drugs, new age practices, self-centred religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Eastern Philosophies, seeking self-fulfillment.
- 10) **Religious Liberalism**
The Sadducee humanistic spirit gaining more territory in the churches, the church adopting world’s standards, divorce, re-marriage, abortion, immorality, homosexuality, etc.
- 11) **Personal peace and affluence**
In the western modern society, the individual now seeks only his own interest, disregarding the interest of the country. Materialism has become the new god, and the problems of others are to be taken care of by the state. The average modern westerner lives for himself, and is not concerned about others, seeking comfort and financial prosperity. Escape from self-responsibility.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This be constantly knowing, that in the last days difficult times will set in, for men shall be fond of themselves, fond of money, swaggerers, haughty, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, lacking self-control, savage, haters of that which is good, betrayers, headstrong, besotted with pride, fond of pleasure rather than having an affection for God, having a mere outward semblance of piety toward God but denying the power of the same. And these be constantly shunning

- 12) **Apostasy**
More than ever before, the veracity of the Scripture is challenged, but now not only by the world, but also by the church. The supernatural is questioned and doubted in many Christian circles. Many world church leaders, and consequently many people under their authority are deceived by rejecting the virgin birth the resurrection, in other words, the supernatural. They also say the Bible is old-fashion. **The Bible is supernatural.**

This is where we are today. The Bible has foretold these events. These are signs to be considered as well as the natural signs (earthquakes, famines, etc.) to understand the end times. The believer has to build his or her life on the rock of Jesus and His Word to avoid being deceived.

Putting ourselves “on the throne” instead of Jesus causes us to carry all the burdens, to sustain ourselves, to protect ourselves, to provide for ourselves, to heal ourselves, to save ourselves, to comfort ourselves, to counsel ourselves, to rely on self for everything. Us being on the throne and at the same time professing to be Christians will not work, this is religiosity of no value. WE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION, LET’S LIVE IT, ACT UPON IT, LET’S ENJOY IT!

PSYCHOLOGY and the BIBLE

Psychology points man to self, the Bible points man to God

Christianity, the spiritual realm

Secular Psychology, the natural realm

<p>Sees man as a special creation of God, made in His moral image (John 14:6)</p>	<p>Views man as the end result of billions of years of random events,</p>
<p>Believes that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and the only absolute source of truth (2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)</p>	<p>Believes, truth is where you find it and that man's mind is the final judge.</p>
<p>Claims to have explanations for man's questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? How can we change? What is our future?</p>	<p>Claims to have even deeper answers for these ultimate questions, which can only be revealed by therapists who have had years of formal training.</p>
<p>Claims to reveal the motives of the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)</p>	<p>Claims to explain the unconscious drives of the human mind.</p>
<p>Claims that we can be transformed by the miraculous and mysterious power of God (Rom. 12:2)</p>	<p>Claims that man can develop by understanding, accepting and loving himself.</p>
<p>Says that man is by nature a sinner, separated from the life of God (Rom. 3:23)</p>	<p>Says that man is essentially good and needs to recognize his full potential</p>

Psychology and the Bible Diagram (continued)

Christianity	Psychology
The Bible says that man is lost and that Christ is the only way (John 14:6)	Says it can help man find his own way
Says that without Christ, man is hopeless (Luke 19:10)	Says that man is limited <u>only</u> by his imagination.
The Bible calls sin by name (Rom. 6:23)	Says that man suffers from disorders
Says that God's people must not conform to the world (Rom. 12:2)	Secular instructors say that we must follow man's philosophy
The Bible says that each person is responsible for his own choices Says that man can be forgiven, cleansed and healed (1 John 1:9)	Says that each person is a victim of his environment, of society Says we must return to our past, embrace our pain, and explore our inner self
The Bible's answer for guilt is man's repentance and God's forgiveness Acts 3:19)	It's way is for the conscience to be desensitised.
Says that we must crucify self (Rom. 6:6)	Says that we must actualis e self.
The Bible says that our battle is spiritual (2 Cor. 10:4)	Says that the battle is plain emotional, behavioural, the spiritual is ignored
The Bible points man to God (John 3:16)	Psychology points man to self.