

Humanistic “Ethics” Cannot Possibly Create a Free and Just Society

“The least [initial] deviation from truth is multiplied later a thousandfold.” (Aristotle, On the Heavens)

“Humanism” and its pragmatic-synonym, “secularism,”¹ make similar bold social claims:

“Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.”²

While this treatise on “ethical” potential raises several questions, the one aspect of ethics I choose to contest is the humanist claim that we have an autonomous³ capacity to “lead ethical lives.” And my challenge is further heightened because the plan they envision entails not merely individualistic betterment; but overhauling a national order! Any claim that that goal can improve America solely by repudiating the “sins” of our Founders is utterly naïve.⁴ The fact that humanistic college academicians⁵ give a “pass” to the conduct of 20th Century-Marxists⁶ while vilifying Washington and Lincoln is, on its face, absurd. It is on the one hand true that secularism has tolerably coexisted alongside our republican democratic social order for a century. Nevertheless, in terms of social considerations, their “success” has occurred not as if they collaborated in a positive way, but because of their parasitic reliance on the social resources, drawn from a parent society, that are rooted in the Bible.⁷

My point is NOT to begrudge their free ride, but rather to highlight the reality that the promises cited in our Declaration of Independence have their source NOT in humanistic ideology, but in the principles that flow from a Christian worldview. Though secularists will undoubtedly mock this assertion by charging “those Christian sinners” (meaning “us”)... with “hypocrisy,” the points they miss include (1) the universality of sin in that everybody without exception breaks the golden rule, (2) in an absence of a universal moral code, societies will naturally degenerate into tyrannical-chaos,⁸ and (3) in a spirit of defiance of authority, the expected result can only be that law-breakers will loot the defenseless. In addition to the Covid19 onslaught, our society has recently suffered from devastating rioting over a hundred days, vis-a-vis the gross neglect by Leftist authorities to protect their citizens. According to Rom. 1:18f., such misery naturally results from their defiant denial of the moral law of God.⁹

Virtually a hundred million people were murdered in the 20th century; not by *enemy* armies, but their very own atheistic *despotic* leaders!¹⁰ How could such travesties happen? Were the culprits—not just the ones who plotted the horrific schemes, but also the underlings carrying them out—maladjusted or psychologically dysfunctional? No, not generally! They instead illustrate what people who are handed the power are capable of doing IF fear of punishment is removed as a perceived threat, either by government or the existence of a holy God.¹¹

¹ <https://www.secularism.org.uk/what-is-secularism.html>

² The Humanist Manifesto III, 2003 (boldface mine).

³ The term “autonomous” affectively means self-powered (pun intended). Think “*automobile*.”

⁴ John. M. Ellis. The Breakdown of Higher Education. (Encounter, 2020), p. 113.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 31.

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2017/11/07/lessons-from-a-century-of-communism/>

⁷ “That the founders of [our nation] believed in a religious basis for our society can be illustrated abundantly from their speeches and writings.” Russell Kirk. The Roots of American Order. (Regnery Gateway, 1991), p. 433.

⁸ Think of a society where each driver is permitted individually to abide by their own laws.

⁹ St. Paul writes, “*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap*” (Gal. 5:7).

¹⁰ Robert Conquest. “Reflections on a Ravaged Century.” <https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/asreview.htm>

¹¹ BIOLA University Prof., Clay Jones concludes from extensive study that they were mostly normal people shielded from threat of punishment.

Fictional character Mitya Karamazov, in the novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, ponders in casual conversation with another, “Without God and mortal life? All things are lawful then, they can do what they like?”¹² To state matters bluntly, deniers of “supernaturalism” have for decades recklessly sought to banish biblical values from our culture, the results of which are that morals are becoming increasingly loathsome in the eyes of humanistic cultural leaders. Consider examples of the common core issues behind this downward spiral:

- In 1947 Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black implied (without certitude) that Thomas Jefferson intended his “wall of separation,” to protect the State from the encroachment of the Church.¹³ Legal scholar Daniel Dreisbach challenges that claim by noting that it has “*become the **sacred...dogma** that champions a secular polity in which religious influences are systematically and coercively stripped from public life*” (boldface mine, notice the truthful irony of the uniting of the two words).¹⁴

- In the 1960s, on the basis of the US Constitution, homosexuals demanded (legitimately) both social toleration and equal treatment and access to the rights that it guarantees. But now the *traditional* concepts of both marriage and gender identity are not merely mocked, but bureaucratically banished so that new arrangements are both imposed onto society and enforced under the threat of judicial punishments. Concerning sexuality and morality in general, the question of a correlation between fidelity and social/societal health, British sociologist J.D. Unwin anticipated the present moral deterioration in our own day after studying the sexual morays of eighty “primitive” tribes and six civilizations across 5,000 years of history. He stated,

“In human records there is no instance of a society retaining its energy after a complete new generation has inherited a tradition which does not insist on pre-nuptial and post-nuptial continence.” In addition he wrote, “After a nation becomes prosperous it becomes increasingly liberal in regard to sexual morality and as a result it loses its cohesion, its impetus, and its purpose.”¹⁵

- In the 1960s the Free Speech Movement began (appropriately) as a protest movement to Lynden Johnson’s Administration’s refusal to engage with college students over the policies concerning the Vietnam War. Today by contrast, political Leftists (**PL**), from newscasters to social media outlets, suppress news and urge censorship of ideas they oppose to the end that they outright hijacked the recent Presidential election.¹⁶

- Despite claiming to be champions of science, PLs have betrayed an utter indifference to truth insofar as it hinders their dishonest agendas.¹⁷ For example, they have exhibited no curiosity at all about alleged, though documentable, massive voting irregularities. Indeed they resolutely refused to investigate sworn testimony, while having the gall to insist that Republicans trust the election blindly and outrightly.

- The Democrat Party (DP) betrayed its’ multi-faceted moral-duplicity over the nightly rioting this past Summer. It was DP Mayors (**DPM**) who stood idly by as damage mounted, even as they armed

¹² Constance Garrett, tr. Fyodor Dostoyevsky. *The Brothers Karamazov*. (Signet, 1999), Pt. 4, Bk. 11, ch. 4, p. 557

¹³ <https://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/the-mythical-wall-separation-how-misused-metaphor-changed-church-state-law>.

¹⁴ Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/danburybaptists>.

¹⁵ J.D. Unwin. *Sex and Culture*. (Oxford, 1934). The text can be found at <https://archive.org/details/b20442580/page/n5/mode/2up>

¹⁶ See my essay, “The Blind Array of Cowardly Ploys the Left Employs,” at my blog, offensivechristianity.blogspot.com, 12/26.2020.

¹⁷ See my essay, “Leftism’s Claim to be Champions of Science is a Gigantic Fraud,” at my blog, *Ibid*, 11/10/2020. and protecting the innocent. So also, like-minded news shows refused to either air their deeds or tie the devastation to DP purposes.

the rioters, while by contrast, restraining police from halting obvious culprits.¹⁸ At the same time the “alphabet” news outlets and internet social media were also complicit in this same cover up.¹⁹

In sum, Humanists 1) relentlessly distort our Constitution, 2) belittling morality, 3) suppress and censor facts they deem distasteful, and 4) enable thuggish tactics in order to cling to power. All the while, they offer no semblance of a blueprint of their vision. They also despise the values necessary even to merely maintain the blessings we have inherited because of our forefathers. Consequently, their prospects for attaining a better future are nil. Their ploys are equivalent to shooting a standard arrow away from the target and expecting to hit a bull’s eye. So the only path to a society which unites in freedom an *entire* population in which all of us are literally sinners, is assured only by recovering that vision which 250 years ago laid that very foundation which we are in danger of throwing away. Since secularism (**SEC**) by definition (top) denies a “super-natural” law-giver which alone can validate morality as an undeviatingly-valid concept, all that SEC is left with is a *pragmatic* body of “do’s and don’ts” useful only to those controlling the crowds. Since these “few” cannot rationally claim to be any less sinful than the masses they judge, they have no grounds at all for us to trust in the self-acclaimed “enlightened” minds who are intent on denying the history that gave us all the gift of freedom.²⁰

Addendum

Just recently I received the following notice from the *Family Research Council*:

“A recent post-election survey by renown Christian pollster, Dr. George Barna, revealed troubling numbers.

“His polling found that the majority of those who voted for President Joe Biden were less likely to have a biblical worldview. **And 75 percent of the president's base thinks there is no absolute moral truth.**

“Barna responded to the findings, saying, ‘The more the United States puts distance between itself and its moral and spiritual moorings, the less likely we are to have an effective, vibrant government and a healthy and vibrant way of life.’

“This message rings all too true as American institutions succumb to moral degradation, **including public schools.**

“California recently demonstrated how far they would go to not only reject a Christian worldview but replace it with what looks like idol worship, *encouraging chants and prayers to Aztec gods!*”²¹

Rev. Gary Jensen © January 7, 2021
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (NALC), Berlin, PA, USA

¹⁸ Indeed the only benefit their “useful idiot,” Antifa, served was to divert overt attention from DPM’s connection to the terrorizing of people and demolishing of property.

¹⁹ See my essay, “Fox News Alone Visually Connects Rioting with the Democrat Party,” at my blog, 09/09/2020, Op.cit. (16).

²⁰ “It’s not just the concentration of one political viewpoint [in particular] that corrupts academia. Making politics of any kind central to campus life must be damaging because the habits of mind of academic teachers are in so many ways the exact opposite of...political activists. First of all, political motives will always stunt intellectual curiosity. In any worthwhile college education a student’s mind must have the freedom to think afresh and to follow wherever facts or arguments lead. But that freedom...is constrained when its conclusion is fixed in advance by a political agenda. Students will never learn to think for themselves if their thought processes must always [fit] into a predetermined belief system.” Ellis goes on to analyze four other negative intellectual consequences of current trends in academics. Op.cit. (4), p. 39.

²¹ <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGkXSTfLNzPVKBDRhPSrkSTRfTm> (May 19, 2021).