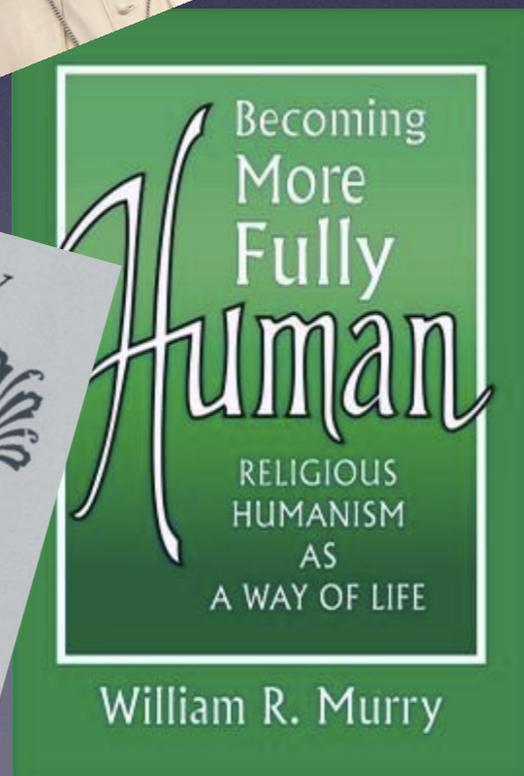
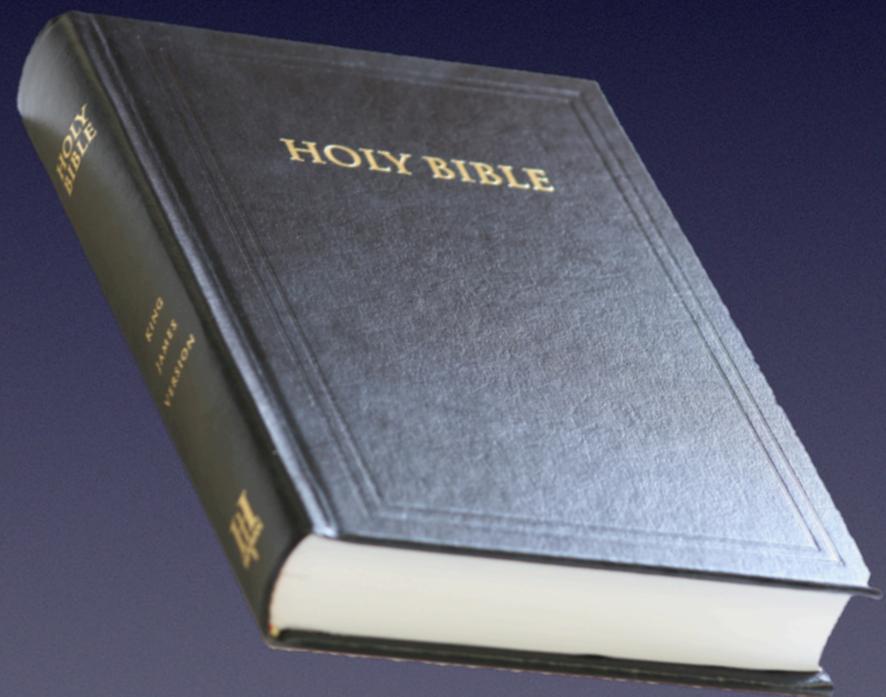


Arkansas September Gathering
2014

THE DOCTRINE OF HUMANISM



Versus



*“To the law and to the testimony:
if they speak not according to this
word, it is because there is no
light in them.”* Isaiah 8:20

- **Psa. 14:1** - *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”*
- **Proverbs 3:5-7** - *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct they paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*
- **Proverbs 14:12** - *“There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*
- **Isaiah 55:8,9** - *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*
- **Jeremiah 17:5-7** - *“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.”*
- **Jeremiah 17:9** - *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*
- **1st Cor. 1:19** - *“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent”*
- **Rom. 10:17** - *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
- **Hebrews 11:6** - *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
- **1st John 2:15** - *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

Defining Humanism

DEFINITION:

1. The doctrine that people's duty is to promote human welfare
2. The doctrine emphasizing a person's capacity for self-realization through reason; rejects religion and the supernatural. *(this is more specifically understood as "SECULAR HUMANISM")*
3. The cultural movement of the Renaissance; based on classical studies

*“Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost. God-manifestation, not human salvation, was the grand purpose of the Eternal Spirit. The salvation of a multitude is incidental to the manifestation, but it was not the end proposed. The Eternal Spirit intended to enthrone Himself on the earth, and in so doing, to develop a Divine Family from among men, every one of whom shall be spirit because born of the Spirit; and that this family shall be large enough to fill the earth, when perfected, to the entire exclusion of flesh and blood. In elaborating this purpose, upon the principles revealed in the Bible, a far greater production of human kind occurs than is necessary. Hence vast multitudes are swept off by disease, war, and so forth, and the multitude left are of but little more use than to keep the world a going until the Divine Family shall become complete. **God will take out from the human race as many for His Name as His purpose requires.** If He chose to make apostolic demonstrations every two hundred years, He could doubtless obtain a hundred fold more for the kingdom than upon the present system; but He does not so operate. It is fair, then, to conclude that His purpose does not demand so many, and that, therefore, He only employs means adequate to what He desires.” John Thomas*

*H*umanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism and other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.



“Humanism is a philosophy of joyous service for the greater good of all humanity” Linus Pauling

“LIVE A GOOD LIFE. IF THERE ARE GODS AND THEY ARE JUST, THEN THEY WILL NOT CARE HOW DEVOUT YOU HAVE BEEN, BUT WILL WELCOME YOU BASED ON THE VIRTUES YOU HAVE LIVED BY. IF THERE ARE GODS, BUT UNJUST, THEN YOU SHOULD NOT WANT TO WORSHIP THEM. IF THERE ARE NO GODS, THEN YOU WILL BE GONE, BUT WILL HAVE LIVED A NOBLE LIFE THAT WILL LIVE ON IN THE MEMORIES OF YOUR LOVED ONES.”

- MARCUS AURELIUS



“I am a humanist, which means, in part, that I have tried to behave decently without any expectation of rewards or punishments after I’m dead.”

-KURT VONNEGUT
1992 HUMANIST OF THE YEAR

Areas we will try to cover:

- A brief history and its manifestation in the spirit of “democracy”
- Education - the primary promotional tool of humanist through “science” and “psychology” and its impact on morality.
- Modern day religion and its role as a vehicle for humanism
- It’s impact on the Ecclesia
- And humanism in our personal lives

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefit of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every Stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Not have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connection and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

"we hold these truths (?) to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

TRUE LIBERTY

Galations 5:1 - “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” - In reference to the yoke of the Law of Moses and the attempts of the Judaizer influences to impose select ordinances of the Law upon the Faithful.

James 1:25 - “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continuity therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” In reference to our Constitutional status of being “In Christ” and under the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.

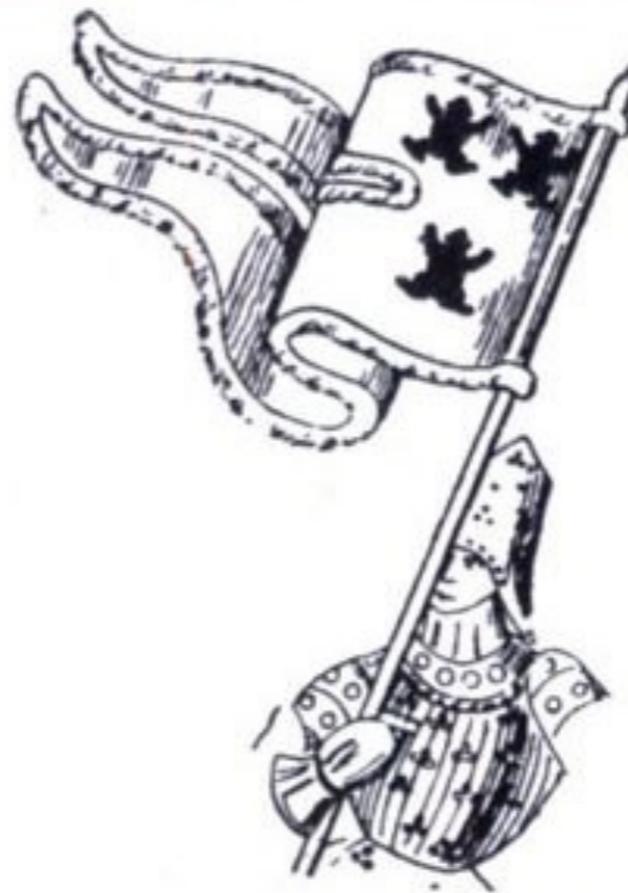
Romans 8:21 - “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” In reference to the “redemption of the body” (vs. 23) that will be granted to the Faithful at Christ’s return.

A Brief History of the rise of Humanism

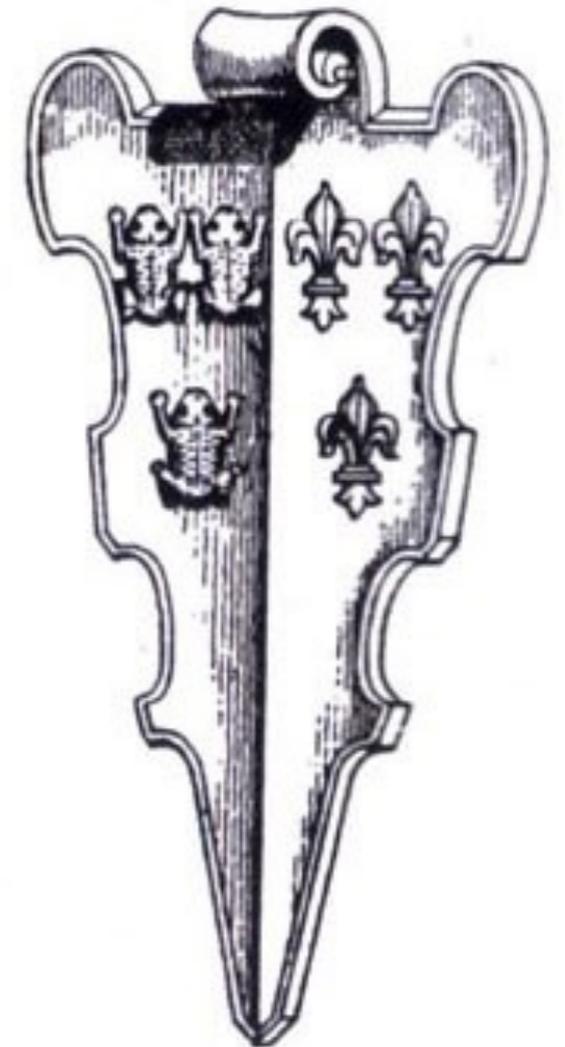
- The Greek Philosophers (around 300 B.C.)
- The influence of the Gnostics upon the early Ecclesia - 1st century through 3rd century A.D.
- A period of dormancy for centuries with the rise of the Holy Roman Empire.
- The fall of Constantinople in 1453
- The Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation
- Fuel for the Frog-Like Spirit of Democratic Revolution and “Liberty, Equality & Fraternity” that continues to this day.



Clovis
466-511 AD



Upper Left: Banner showing Three Frogs. From ancient tapestry in the Cathedral of Rheims, depicting the battles of Clovis. He is said to have been baptized there. Lower Right: Shield of Clovis, first Christian king of France. In the Franciscan Church of Innsbruck, there is a row of 23 bronze figures of distinguished personages of the House of Austria, bearing shields. Among them is Clovis showing Three Frogs on his shield. Upper Right: Device of Three Frogs, said to have belonged to Pharamond, first king of the Franks, A.D. 420. The emblem of Three Frogs was the old arms of France. Three Frogs were the original arms of the Bourbons. Bourbe means Mud. Louis VI (the second king of the Bourbon dynasty) showed the device of a Frog on his coins with the inscription: "Mihi terra lacusque" (Either land or lake-dweller). An old French writer, in designating the Frog as the arms of France, said: "Le Crapaud designe les marais dont sortaient les Francs" ("The frog indicates the French coming out of the swamp.")



Revelation 16:12, - "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up (the shrinking of the Ottoman Empire dominance over the Middle East, including the Land of Israel), that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared (The kings of the sun's rising - or in other words the appearance of Christ and the Saints upon the political scene). And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs (the humanist/democratic spirit of LIBERTY, EQUALITY and FRATERNITY rising out of the French Revolution) come out of the mouth of the dragon (Russia), and out of the mouth of the beast (Europe), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (The Papacy). For they are the spirits (teachings or influence) of devils (which is a spirit of madness that will overtake the nations) , working miracles (or signs - the signs of the times), which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Humanism and Education

- *“(Our) great object was to get rid of Christianity, and to convert our churches into halls of science. The plan was not to make open attacks on religion...but to establish a system of state schools, from which all religion was to be excluded...and to which all parents were to be compelled by law to send their children. For this purpose, a secret society was formed and the whole country was to be organized.”*
Orestes Brownson (1803-1876) Originally an intellectual/humanist later turned staunch Catholic.

Humanism and Education

- *“What the church has been for medieval man, the public school must become for democratic and rational man. God would be replaced by the concept of the public good.”* **Horace Mann (1796-1858)**

Humanism and Education

- *“There is no God and there is no soul. Hence, there is no need for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural law or moral absolutes.”* **John Dewey** (1859-1952), the “Father of Progressive Education;” co-author of the first Humanist Manifesto and honorary NEA president.

Humanism and Education

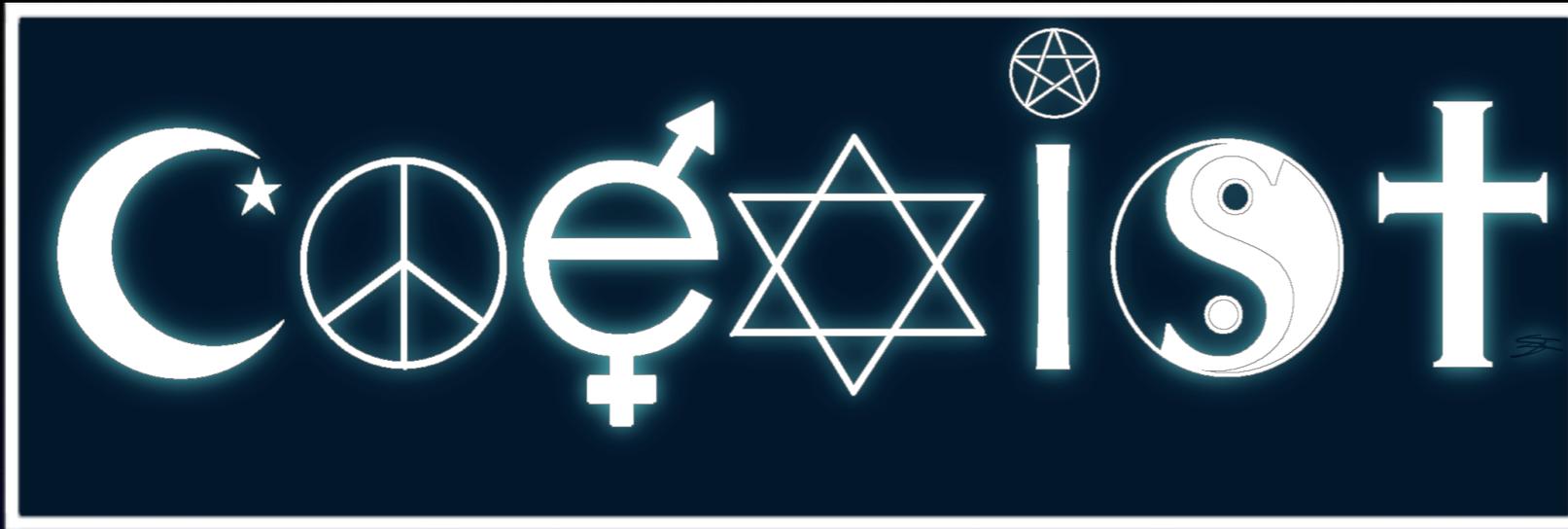
- *“Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill, because he comes to school with certain allegiances toward our founding fathers, toward our elected officials, toward his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural Being, toward the sovereignty of this nation as a separate entity. It is up to you teachers to make all these sick children well by creating the international children of the future.”*
Chester M. Pierce, Harvard Professor of Education and Psychiatry, 1984

Ten primary doctrines of the "open classroom"

1. Subjectiveness: It is best to make statements about yourself and how you feel, rather than statements about other people. This is because we cannot be sure about the accuracy of our perceptions....
2. Relativism: There is no absolute Truth, or at least nobody know what is true
3. Narcism: Focus on the importance of one's self/ or if someone does not like the humanistic approach it means that there is either something wrong with the person that they have some kind of internal hangup or they just don't understand.
4. Anti-intellectualism: against critical thinking, logic is considered the enemy and considered as something that men stand behind to disguise real feelings. (Such relies on emotionalism)
5. Flexibility: it is considered important to remain open to change
6. Individualization: if all students are doing the same thing at the same time it is viewed that their individual needs are not being met (creating chaos in the classroom)
7. Anti-Pre-Planned-Ground-Covering: detailed lesson planning by the teacher violates the student's right to pursue his own interests, and leads him to become submissive to authority.
8. Meet the Needs of the Child: The teacher should place primary emphasis upon identifying and satisfying the student's expressed wishes and felt needs.
9. Students Responsible for their Own Learning: the student should choose what, how, and when he wants to study
10. Democracy: the school, or at least the individual class, should operate democratically.

Adapted from - Kenneth R. Conklin, "What's Wrong With Humanistic Education?"
FOCUS ON LEARNING, X, 2 (Fall, 1984), pp. 58-68





“the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, ‘Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.’” Jer. 16:19



“...I will turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one consent.” Zeph. 3:9



- From a news report clipping: *"Blending a call for increased aid to developing nations, support for global governance with "real teeth," alarm at the "unregulated exploitation" of the environment, and staunch opposition to population control programs, Pope Benedict XVI today sketched what he called a "Christian humanism" for the globalized age."* July, 2009

Quotes from the current pope (Francis);

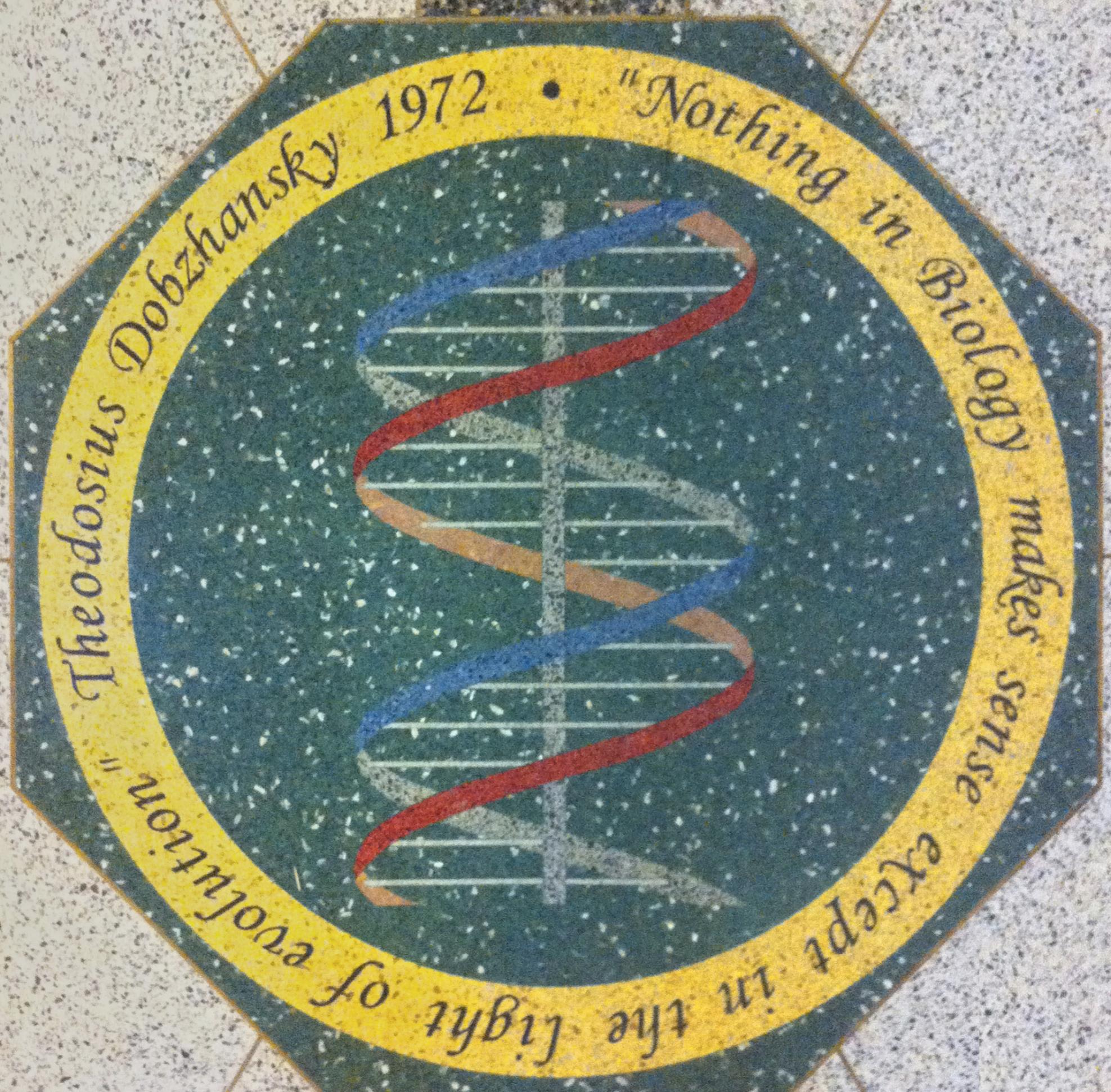
- *"If one has the answers to all the questions - that is the proof that God is not with him. It means that he is a false prophet using religion for himself. The great leaders of the people of God, like Moses, **have always left room for doubt.** You must leave room for the Lord, not for our certainties; we must be humble." - Pope Francis*
- *"Truth, according to the Christian faith, is God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Therefore, truth is a relationship."*
- *"Each of us has a vision of good and of evil. We have to encourage people to move towards what they think is good... Everyone has his own idea of good and evil and must choose to follow the good and fight evil as he conceives them. That would be enough to make the world a better place."*
- *"If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge? We shouldn't marginalize people for this. They must be integrated into society."*

Brussels - October, 1970

- A Jesuit priest, Gomez Caffarena, stated - *"among the many types of humanism that I have met in human history, I have found that of Jesus of Nazareth particularly attractive, although remote in time and open to completion by many more recent cultural elements. It is a humanism of universal, unselfish, brotherly love."*
- At the end of the meetings a noted humanist stated, *"after several hours of discussion on the first day, we looked at one another with some amusement and observed, The Catholics sound like humanists and the humanists sound like Catholics!"*

Methodist “Revised Report on Human Sexuality”,
1980

“The words we have in our Bible cannot be directly equated with the words of God”, and the report eventually concluded that “The quality of homosexual attraction is thus to be assessed by the same basic criteria which are applied to heterosexual relationships.”



Theodosius Dobzhansky 1972

"Nothing in Biology makes sense

except in the light of evolution"

Humanism & Christadelphians

Democracy in the Ecclesia?

"Such an admission is doubtless a concession to the evil principle of democracy: but there is no other practicable alternative that may work out beneficial if subordinated to the commandments of Christ, which are all-prevailing with his true disciples" (Robert Roberts, Ecclesial Guide, p. 10)

"remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There is never a democracy that did not commit suicide." And added to this, ***"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*** (John Adams)

"Our present system was disapproved of by Dr. Thomas, who thought we ought to aim at a nearer conformity to the apostolic system of perpetual elders with authority. He was afraid the constant appeal for the ecclesia's sanction by vote, would open the door for turbulent spirits, and put in their power to interfere with ecclesial peace. I erred from too great confidence in human nature, on the side of too great conformity to the republican spirit of the age. Experience has proved Dr. Thomas right in the matter, and my own views at the beginning crude and unsuitable." The Christadelphian, 1897, p. 508

Humanism & Christadelphians

- Liberty - “we have the right to express ourselves.” Contrast with **2nd Peter 2:15-18**.
- The beliefs and ways of our early brethren are “outdated” and not applicable to our times. **Heb. 13:8,9** - “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”
- The rise of professional, centralized “outreach” and charitable organizations within the Brotherhood.
- Affinity with charitable organizations/efforts of the world.

- *“Several years ago when I was in South Africa, we travelled early one morning to a very poor settlement where the men gathered each morning by the side of the road to offer themselves as day laborers. We set up a barbeque to cook sausages for these very poor and hungry men. As we were in the midst of our cooking, a priest came out from a local church and informed us that we were trespassing on his church’s property. We explained what we were doing and apologized having no idea that we were on his property. He told us to hold on and came back after about ten minutes with a big pot of tea. We finished the morning working side by side feeding these hungry men. I wonder what would have happened if the shoe were on the other foot. If we came one morning to our ecclesial hall and found a priest on the front lawn cooking for the poor, how would we respond? Would we go get a pot of coffee and work side by side or run them off? We don’t see other Christians as partners but as competitors. Too often we use condescending terms in reference to other Christians if not openly hostile terms”. WCF, “Thought for the Week”, “Reformation Part 2”, March, 2012*

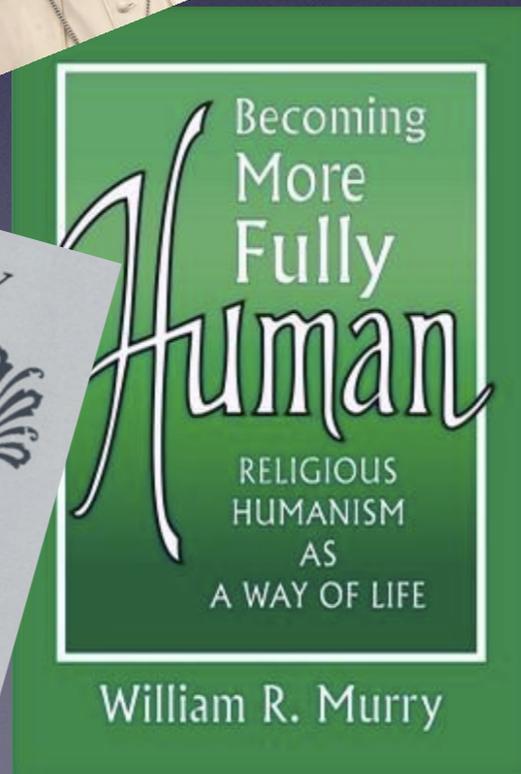
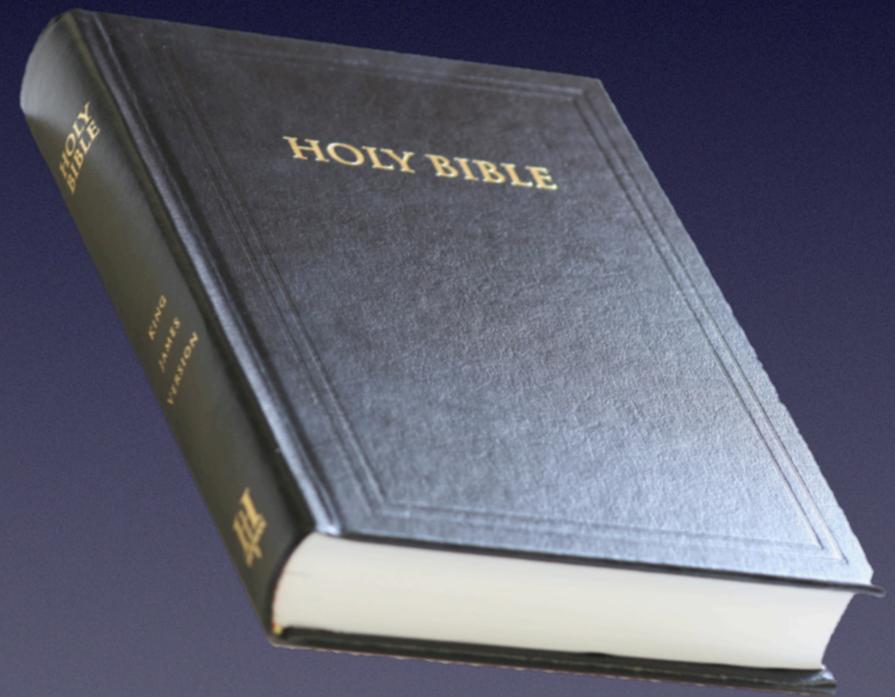
Humanism & Christadelphians

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- Affinity with charitable organizations/efforts of the world.
- “Mended Christadelphians”
- “One Voice”
- Evolutionary Theory/Theology

THE DOCTRINE OF HUMANISM



Versus



*“To the law and to the testimony:
if they speak not according to this
word, it is because there is no
light in them.”* Isaiah 8:20

*"Great and marvelous are **THY WORKS**, Lord God Almighty; just and true are **THY WAYS**, thou king of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgements are made manifest."*

Revelation 15:3