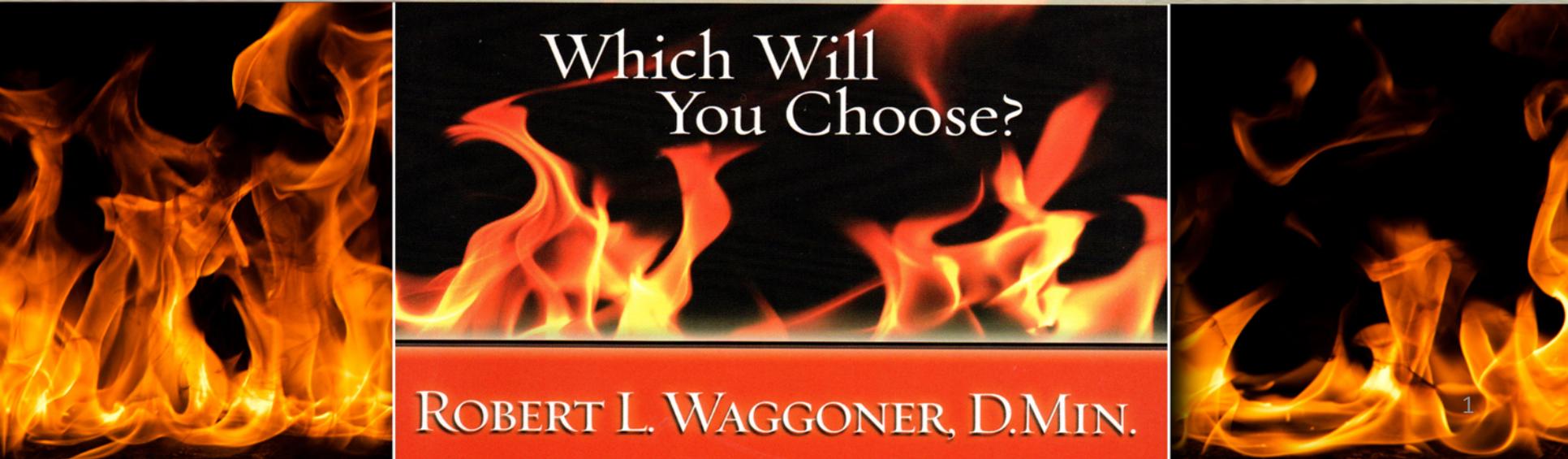


Lesson 1 Secular Humanism – An Overview

CHRISTIANITY

or

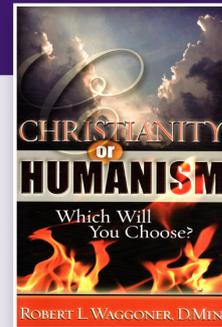
HUMANISM



Which Will
You Choose?

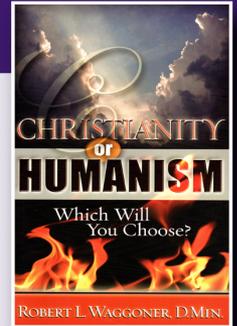
ROBERT L. WAGGONER, D.MIN.

Lesson 1: OUTLINE



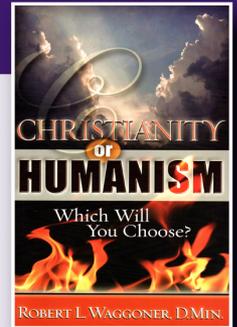
- Introduction
- Learning Objectives for this Study
- Definition of Key Terms
 - What do the Key Terms “Look Like”?
- Approach for this Study
- Selected Quotes from Relevant Documents which Further Illustrates What it Looks Like (in the time remaining)

INTRODUCTION



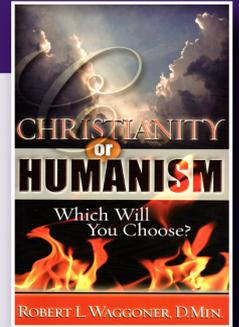
- A frequent message of the minor prophets (studied last quarter) was a call to the children of Israel to separate themselves from the sinful ways of neighboring nations, and return to keeping God's statutes and commandments.
- God had commanded them "*to walk in all his ways, and to love him and to serve*" him "*with all thy heart and with all thy soul*" (**Deut. 10:12**).
- God had commanded them that "*When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations*" (**Deut. 18:9**), yet contrary to this they repeatedly did just that.

INTRODUCTION



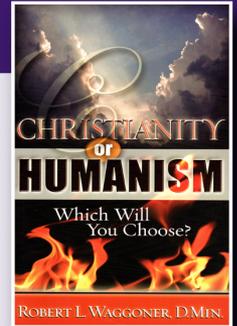
- **God’s people today are not immune to sinful influences from the people around them. God commands the same separation of his people today: “... *what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ... Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord...*” (II Cor. 6:14 -18).**

INTRODUCTION



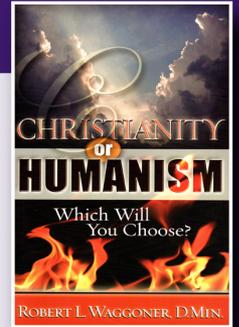
- The Old Testament prophets frequently pleaded with Israel to reject the sinful philosophies and desires of those nations around them.
- This same message needs to be repeated over and over again today.
- **II Peter 1:4** instructs us to grow as Christians, to develop in ourselves characteristics of God's nature/personality so that we can be sharers or partakers of his holy character or nature.

INTRODUCTION



- Since the garden of Eden, there have been false ideologies and false sources of information competing with God for the attention and obedience of men.
- **Deut. 18:9 – 14** specifically addresses this subject.
 - The children of Israel were not to learn to do after the abominations of the Canaanite nations whose land they were to conquer and possess.

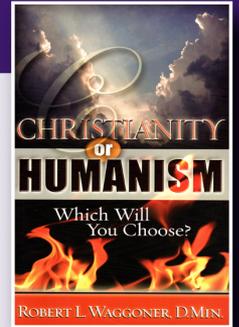
INTRODUCTION



Deut. 18:9 – 14 specifically addresses this subject.

- Nine specific sins of the Canaanites were listed which the children of Israel were to avoid:
 1. Passing their children through the fire (*to obtain an oracle from a god*);
 2. Using divination (*finding out what is the will of a god, what the course of future events will be and whether they concern an individual or a people*);
 3. Observing times (*using augury, includes astrology*);
 4. Using enchantments;

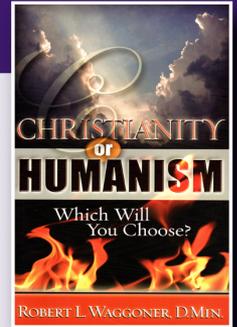
INTRODUCTION



Deut. 18:9 – 14 specifically addresses this subject.

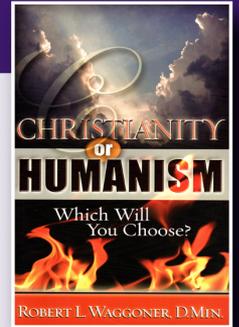
- Nine specific sins of the Canaanites were listed which the children of Israel were to avoid:
 5. Witchcraft (*sorceries, magicians*);
 6. Using charms (incantations);
 7. Consulting with familiar spirits;
 8. Wizardry; and
 9. Necromancy (pretended communication with the spirits of the dead).

INTRODUCTION



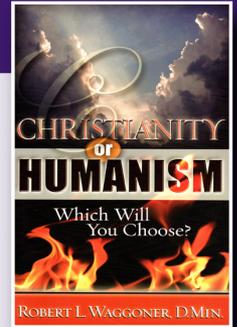
- All nine of these sins were heathen practices for obtaining (1) information about the future, (2) advice on how to conduct one's life, or (3) aid in making personal decisions.
 - Note that these heathen sources of information were from claimed spiritual sources or from the observation of certain physical phenomena.
- Regarding these false methods of acquiring information and advice, **Deut. 18:14** states: *“For these nations which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners; but as for thee, the LORD thy God hat not suffered thee so to do.”*

INTRODUCTION



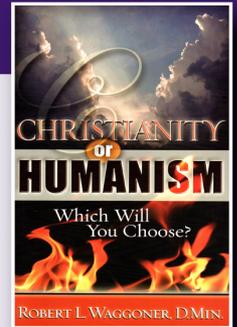
- In **Deut. 18:15 – 22**, God describes how the children of Israel would get information and advice on how to live their lives and to make day to day decisions – **from prophets that God would raise up among them.**
- **Jesus Christ would be the culmination of this prophetic system:** *“God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners, spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son ...”* (**Heb. 1:1,2**).

INTRODUCTION

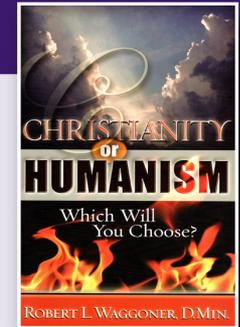


- Because *“the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (**Jer. 10:23**), *“Where there is no vision”* (revelation from God) *“the people perish...”* (**Prov. 29:18**), God therefore:
 - raised up prophets among the children of Israel; and
 - has also given divine instruction and guidance for us today.
 - **II Peter 1:3** states: *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

INTRODUCTION

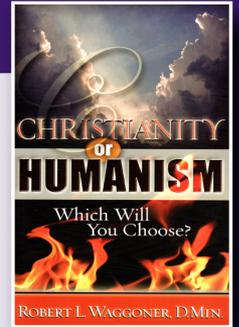


- **II Peter 1:3:** Through the knowledge of Christ (by His word), he has given us all things that pertain to:
 - Life – the blessing-filled spiritual life on earth which leads to eternal life after physical death; and
 - Godliness – the right attitude toward God and things divine, the attitude which gives God the place he ought to occupy in life and in devotion.
- As during the times of the OT prophets, today there are false ideologies, false sources of information competing for the attention of men, drawing them away from God's way and His revelation.



CURRENT MAJOR IDEOLOGIES OR WORLDVIEWS COMPETING FOR THE MINDS OF MEN

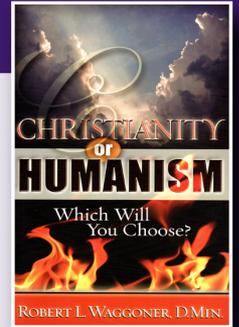
- **New Testament Christianity**
 - Non-naturalistic
 - **Moral relativism**
- **Denominationalism**
 - Calvinism, Roman Catholicism, Pentacostalism
- **Eastern Mysticism/New Age**
 - Pantheism (spirit in everything)
- **Islam**
- **Post-Modernism**
 - **Atheistic**
 - Anti-realism
 - Cultural relativism
 - Socially-constructed selves.



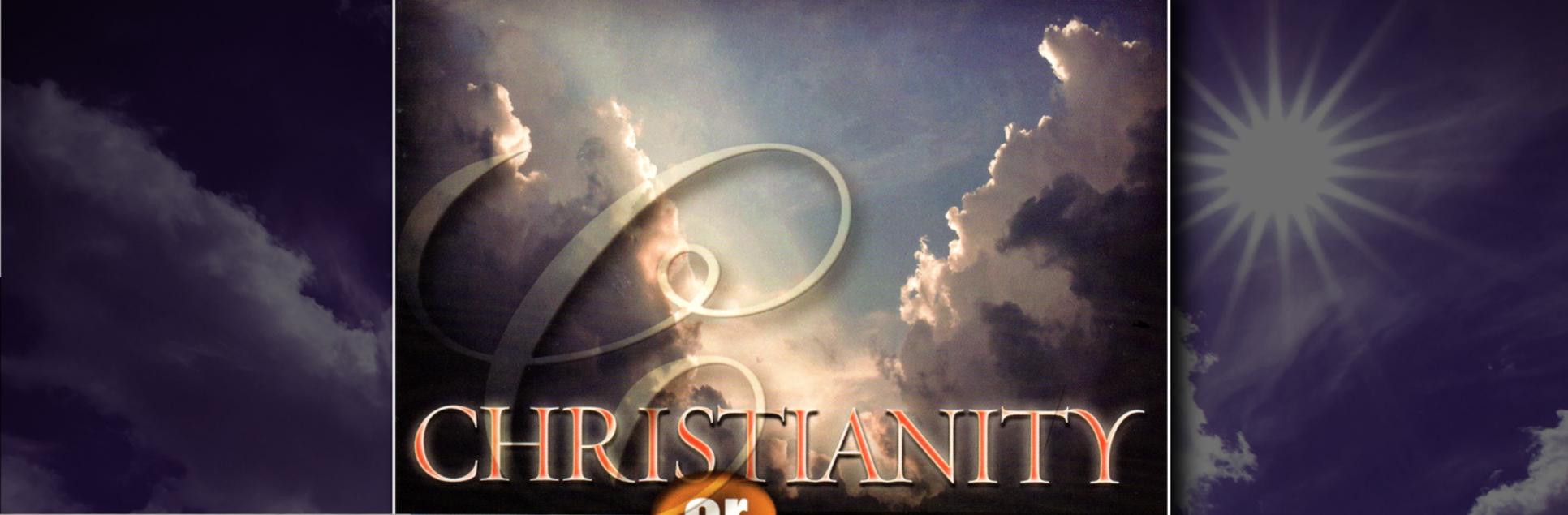
CURRENT MAJOR IDEOLOGIES OR WORLDVIEWS COMPETING FOR THE MINDS OF MEN

- **Marxism**
 - **Atheistic**
 - **Materialistic**
 - **Statist**
 - **Classless society**
- **Secular Humanism**
 - **Atheistic**
 - **Naturalistic**
 - **Moral relativism**
 - **Self-actualization**
 - **Statist**

CURRENT MAJOR IDEOLOGIES OR WORLDVIEWS COMPETING FOR THE MINDS OF MEN



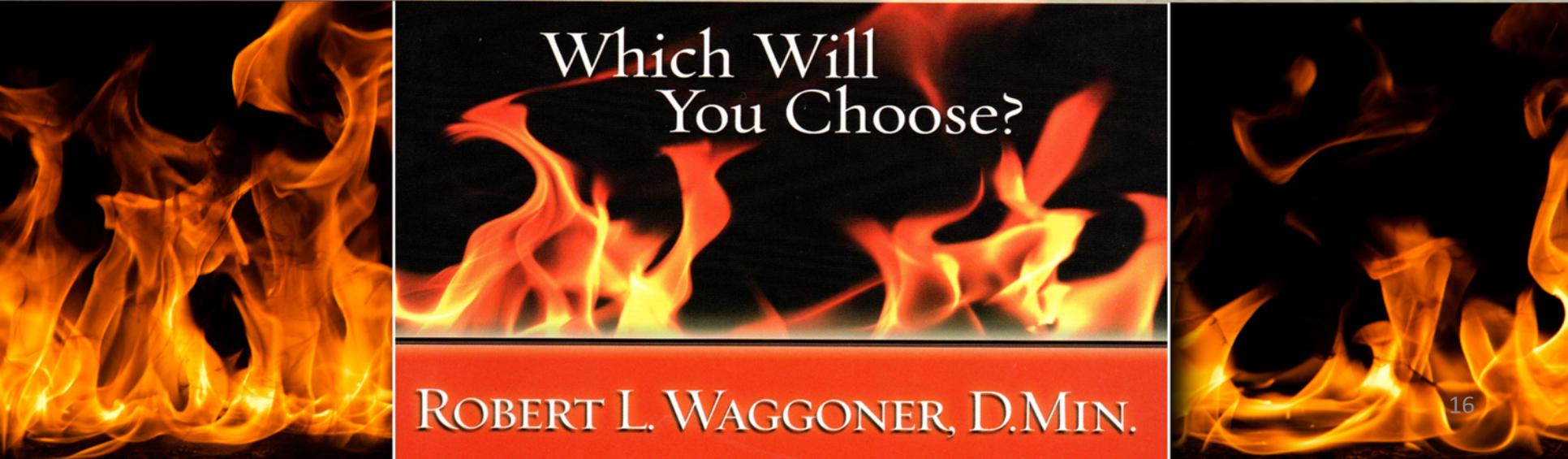
This lesson series will focus on Secular Humanism vs. Christianity.



CHRISTIANITY

or

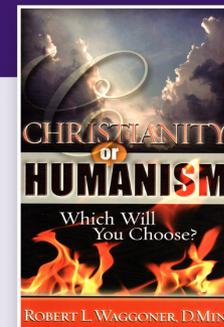
HUMANISM



Which Will
You Choose?

ROBERT L. WAGGONER, D.MIN.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SERIES of LESSONS



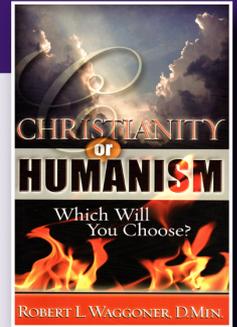
1. To understand what Humanism is; and
2. To be able to recognize Humanism and its far reaching influence in society and in daily life.

- Why do we need to learn this?

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them** which cause divisions and offences” (stumbling-blocks) “contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **avoid them.**” (Rom. 16:17).*

*“And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them ... be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**” (Eph. 5:11, 17)*

What is Secular Humanism?



American Humanist Association

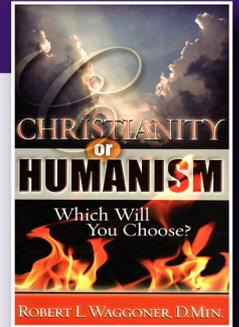
Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, **without theism** and other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives or personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

Paul Kurtz

Secular humanism has **two dimensions**:

- The critical negative dimension, **the free-thinking dimension of atheism, criticizing religion**, the pseudoscientific, and paranormal; and
- **A philosophy of life**, an ethic, political, and social framework for a better and more just world in which individuals can flourish and be happy.

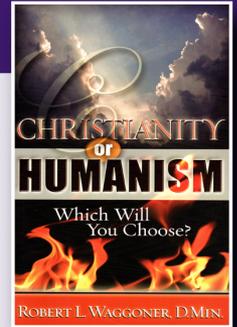
What is a Secular Humanist Worldview?



Worldview Defined

- A **worldview** is the framework from which (or lens through which) we view reality and make sense of life and the world.
- A **personal worldview** is a combination of all you believe to be true, and that becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from **philosophy** to **science**, **theology** and **anthropology** to **economics**, **law**, **politics**, **art** and **social order** — **everything**.

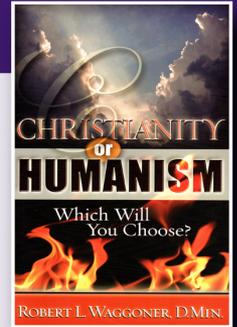
What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?



It shares some tenets of Post-Modernism and Marxism. In a Secular Humanist worldview:

- **There is no God, no self-existing being. There is no revelation from God or a god.**
- **There is no spirit. People are highly evolved animals, but do not have immortal souls. There is no life after death.**
- **There is only this physical world; the here and now. Nature/matter is self-existing.**
- **It claims that only those things which can be proved through the scientific method (experimentation) is accepted as true. Science is in essence a god.**

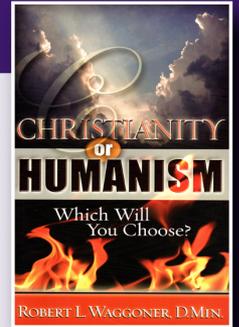
What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?



In a Secular Humanist worldview:

- **Religion (belief in God, belief in the spiritual) is viewed to be harmful, suppressing individual freedom, and is therefore aggressively opposed.**
- **Morals are based on human experience and needs, not on revelation from God. Morals are situational and not absolute.**
- **All forms of sexual expression between consenting adults are acceptable.**
- **Abortion for any cause and euthanasia are acceptable.**
- **Self-realization is the highest goal of each human.**

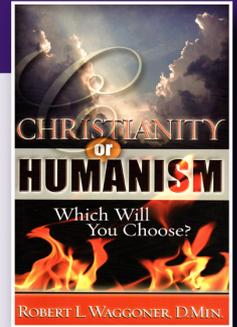
What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?



In a Secular Humanist worldview:

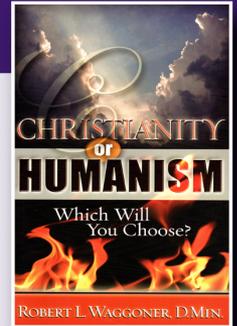
- Humans are viewed as inherently perfectible.
- Religion and the environment in which one lives, especially society and the roles cast on him, are viewed as preventing people from fulfilling their full potential.
 - Secular Humanism is therefore very antagonistic towards religion.

Secular Humanism from a Biblical Perspective



- Man becomes a god to himself where he defines what is right and wrong.
 - “*in the day that ye eat thereof ... ye shall be as gods...*”
Gen. 3:5.
 - “... every man did that which was right *in his own eyes*”.
Judges 17:6, 21:25.
- “*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft*” (Heb. divination) “*and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...*” **I Sam. 15:23.**
 - When men rebel against God, when they stubbornly resist living in accordance with God’s will, they become their own false source of information on how to live, analogous to the *divination* and *false gods* condemned in **Deut. 18.**

Approach for this Study



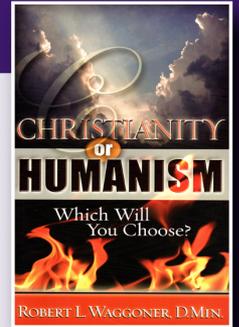
Because Secular Humanism is a philosophy of life, a worldview, **affecting every aspect of life**, using an approach similar to bro. Waggoner's book, the following lessons will be taught:

- (1) to show its impact on today's culture and individual worldviews, and
- (2) to contrast it with God's word.

Lessons 1 – 2: Adult and middle/high school combined.

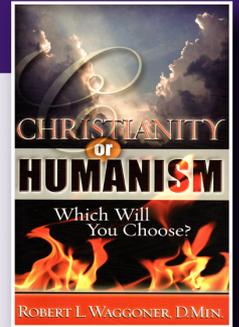
Lessons 3 – 13: Same subject matter but separate adult class and middle/high school class.

Approach for this Study



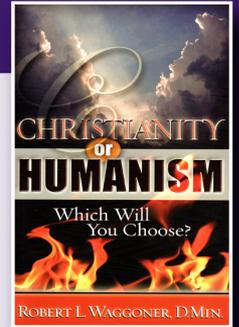
- Lesson 2: *The Pervasiveness of Humanism and its Unperceived Influence on Christians* – Brett Pharr.
- *A Brief History of Secular Humanism – How did We get Here?* - Jeff Trotter, Sunday PM Sermon
- Lesson 3: *The Religion of Humanism* – Eric Bitting.
- Lesson 4: *The Philosophy of Humanism: Exceeding the Limitations of the Scientific Method* –Rocky Thompson.

Approach for this Study



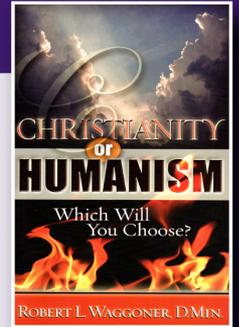
- *The Philosophy of Humanism: Rejecting Divine Revelation* – Steve Miller, Sunday PM Sermon.
- Lesson 5: *The Ethics of Humanism* - Steve Miller.
- Lesson 6: *The Philosophy of Humanism in Medicine* - Tommie Washington.
- Lesson 7: *The Philosophy of Humanism in Psychology* - Keith Franklin.
- Lesson 8: *The Philosophy of Humanism in Sociology* - Eric Bitting.

Approach for this Study



- Lesson 9: *The Philosophy of Humanism in Biology* - Chad Garrett.
- Lesson 10: *The Philosophical Foundation of Law according to Humanism* – Brett Pharr.
- Lesson 11: *The Political Philosophy (Politics) of Humanism* – Jeff Trotter
- Lesson 12: *The Economics of Humanism* – Mark Inness.
- Lesson 13: *The Philosophy of Humanism in Public Education* - Dave Beels.

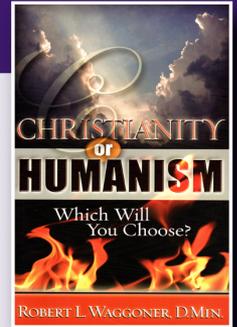
Approach for this Study



Each lesson will be posted on the church website:

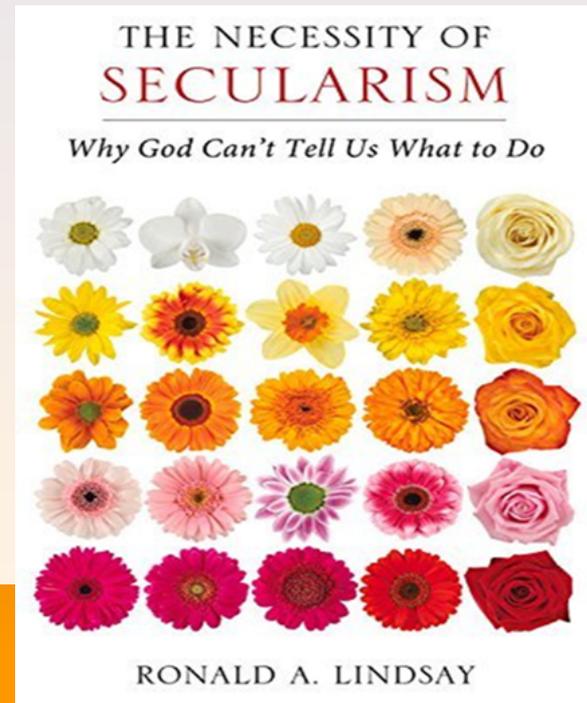
- **Power Point presentation.**
- **Video recording of the class or sermon.**

What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?

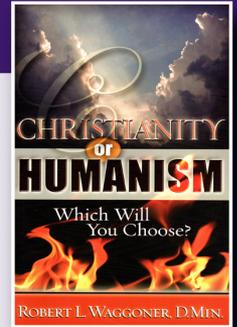


Secular Humanists claim:

For the first time in human history, a significant percentage of the world's population no longer believes in God. This is especially true in developed nations, where in some societies nonbelievers now outnumber believers.



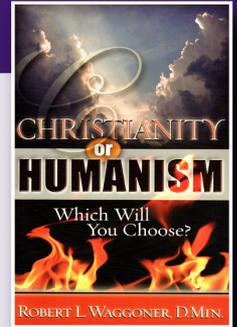
What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?



- Over the past century, Secular Humanists have published six different declarations or manifestos (and numerous books and articles) which describe their man-centered and man-made religion/worldview.
 - Humanist Manifesto I (1933)
 - Humanist Manifesto II (1973)
 - A Secular Humanist Declaration (1980)
 - A Declaration of Interdependence (1988)
 - Humanist Manifesto 2000
 - Humanist Manifesto III (2003)

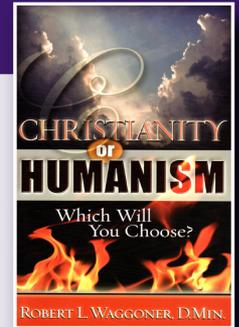
Manifesto = a public declaration of principles or intentions, especially of a political nature.

What does a Secular Humanist Worldview Look Like?



- All of these declarations can be found on the internet. **Humanist Manifesto II (1973)** in particular should be read completely and compared to the current society/culture we live in today to determine how successful Secular Humanists have been.
- In the time remaining, a few excerpts from Humanist Manifestos II and III will be examined to better illustrate *what Secular Humanism looks like*.
- Note in the following excerpts the arrogance of the Humanist authors, and their contempt toward those who believe in and serve God.

Humanist Manifesto II on Religion



Preface

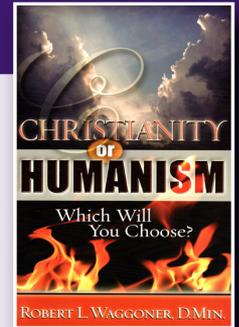
As in 1933, humanists still believe that **traditional theism**, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to live and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, **is an unproved and outmoded faith**. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as **harmful, diverting people with false hopes** of heaven hereafter. **Reasonable minds look to other means for survival.**

... today it is our conviction that humanism offers an alternative that can serve present-day needs and guide humankind toward the future.

Humanism can provide the purpose and inspiration that so many seek; it can give personal meaning and significance to human life.

... we submit **this new Humanist Manifesto for the future of humankind**; for us, it **is a vision of hope**, a direction for satisfying survival.

Humanist Manifesto II on Religion

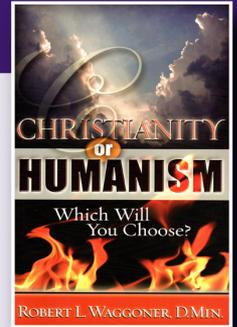


First Declaration

We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence; in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so...

We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity.

Humanist Manifesto II on Religion



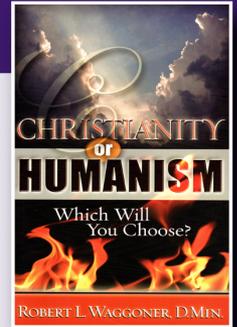
First Declaration

... we reject those features of traditional religious morality that deny humans a full appreciation of their own potentialities and responsibilities. **Traditional religions** often offer solace to humans, but, as **often**, they **inhibit humans from helping themselves or experiencing their full potentialities**.

- **Note the similarity of this argument to the one Satan used with Eve:** *“Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* Gen. 3: 4,5. **God was preventing Adam and Eve from experiencing their full potentialities by forbidding them from eating the fruit.**

...**we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species**. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. **No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.**

Humanist Manifesto II on Religion



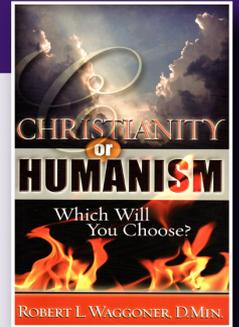
Second Declaration

Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices. **Modern science discredits ... the "separable soul."**

... science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. As far as we know, the total personality is a function of the biological organism transacting in a social and cultural context. **There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body.**

Humanist Manifesto III adds: *Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change. Humanists recognize nature as self-existing. We accept our life as all and enough, distinguishing things as they are from things as we might wish or imagine them to be.*

Humanist Manifesto II on Ethics



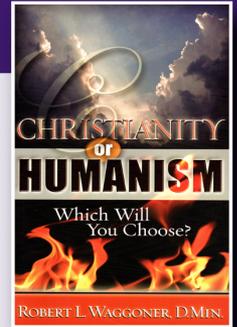
Preface

Traditional moral codes ... fail to meet the pressing needs of today and tomorrow.

Humanity, to survive, requires ... We ... extend the uses of scientific method, not renounce them, to fuse reason with compassion in order to build constructive social and moral values.

Humanism is an ethical process through which we all can move, above and beyond the divisive particulars, heroic personalities, dogmatic creeds, and ritual customs of past religions or their mere negation.

Humanist Manifesto II on Ethics



Third Declaration

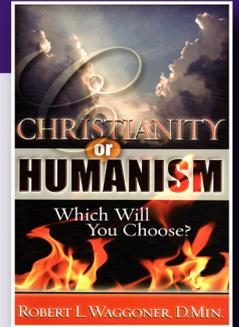
... moral values derive their source from human experience. **Ethics** is autonomous and situational **needing no theological or ideological sanction**. Ethics stems from human need and interest.

... **Human life has meaning because we create and develop our futures.**

... We strive for the good life, here and now.

Humanist Manifesto III states : *Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience. Humanists ground values in human welfare shaped by human circumstances, interests, and concerns and extended to the global ecosystem and beyond.*

Humanist Manifesto II on Ethics



Fourth Declaration

Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses.

... But reason must be tempered by humility, since **no group has a monopoly of wisdom or virtue.**

... Yet **critical intelligence**, infused by a sense of human caring, **is the best method that humanity has for resolving problems.**