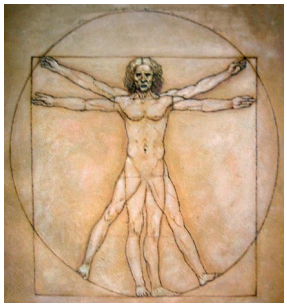
Big Lies of the Devil



Lie # 3 – You Need to Put Yourself First and Live for Yourself –

The Lie of HUMANISM

Matthew 16:21-28 and Selected Scriptures

8/8/10

I. SATAN'S ATTACK (Matthew 16:22-23)

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for ***thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*** ***Matthew 16:22-23***

The Instigator of Humanistic Philosophy:
*** Satan attacks because he abhors the things of God and adores the things of men (v. 23c)**

Humanism (Man is the measure of all things)

Manifestations of Humanism:

1) Hero Worship (movie stars, musicians, celebrities, sport figures)
2) Overconfidence in man (whether doctors, politicians, various gurus)
3) Selfish Lifestyles ….etc.
4) Ultimately, a rejection & denial of God

How is humanism being promoted today?



- **Through the philosophy of the "New Age Movement"**

- **By the educational system:**

II. SATAN'S DEFEAT (v. 24-26)

How to have victory over Satan's humanistic snare:

A. Say NO to self. . . *and say YES to God's will (v. 24a)*

B. DIE to self. . . *and LIVE for Christ (v. 24b)*

C. LOSE your self. . . *and FIND real life (v. 25-26)*

Psalm 100:3 - Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Have you believed the lie of humanism? Before you answer, answer this:
Do you live for Yourself or do you live for God?

Big Lies of the Devil

Lie # 3 – You Need to Put Yourself First and Live for Yourself –

The Lie of HUMANISM

Matthew 16:21-28 and Selected Scriptures

8/8/10

Introduction: **Matthew 16:21-28**

INTRODUCTION: Verse 21

Throughout the Bible God contrasts His view of things with man's (MacArthur, p. 35).

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."*

Prov. 14:12 -*"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

V. 21

"From that time" - this is the first time Jesus plainly mentions His death in Matthew's gospel.

After being declared the *"Christ"* (the Messiah), it was not an easy thing for the disciples to learn that the Messiah would have to die.

"He must go. . . and suffer" - the death of Christ on Calvary was not an accident; it was ordained by God (Is. 53; Dan. 9:26), and nothing could hinder its fulfillment! (Lk. 24:26)

Jesus had to die to fulfill Scripture (Ps. 16:22; Is. 53; Dan. 9:25-26) to shed His blood (Heb. 9:22) to atone for man's sin and to ransom us (Mt. 20:28).

"Raised again the third day" - this revelation of the resurrection definitely went over the disciples' head (or it went "in one ear and out the other") because their minds were blank to this promise until after Christ appeared to them after His resurrection (Jn. 20:9).

What Jesus reveals here did not fit in with Peter's ideas; it did not match his theology; it did not suit his taste; it did not thrill his soul; it did not square with what Peter anticipated.

I. SATAN'S ATTACK (v. 22-23)

Satan will often attack right after a great victory (v. 22a)

It's scary how quickly Satan can work on a person.

One minute Peter makes the most glorious statement (v. 16), and the next, he makes the biggest blunder with his mouth that he could ever make!

Peter, now with over-confidence, speaking as an acknowledged leader of the disciples (16:19), evidently puffed up with sinful pride, takes it upon himself to question (yea, deny) the words of the Messiah.

Satan often attacks through the well-intended advice of a believer who is not Spirit-filled (v. 22b)

"Then Peter took Him" - Peter grabbed hold of Jesus and took Him aside.

"Began to rebuke Him" - this same word *"rebuke"* is used of Jesus rebuking demonic spirits (Mt. 17:18; Mk. 1:25, 9:25).

"Be it far from thee" = lit. "May mercy be upon you!" (like our idiom: "May God have pity/mercy on you!")

Peter in total shock and bewilderment said something like: "May God be gracious to you!"

Peter addressing Jesus as ***"Lord"*** rings hollow, since he is placing his will over Christ's (MacArthur, p. 40).

"This shall not be unto Thee" - Peter uses a double negative (*ou ma*) to stress the absolute impossibility of such a thing happening.

Suffering and death for a mere mortal, yes. But not for the Christ!

Before you are too quick to judge Peter, how often have you (by your thoughts, words, or actions in life) contradicted the Lord's will for you?

The irrational actions and words by Peter show that a diabolical force was motivating and prompting him.

What was Satan saying through Peter? "You deserve something better than God's will."

Satan had earlier offered Jesus a kingdom without a cross (Mt. 4:8-10).

Peter never expected this response from Jesus. In his mind, he thought such a remark to Jesus would show how much he cared for Jesus. (ILLUS: like the paster in Minnesota who told me I should not go to NYC because of all the crime in the city).

Apparently, Jesus was not looking at him when Peter rebuked Him. As they walked, Peter with his arm on Jesus' arm or shoulder, begins to rebuke Him, upon which Jesus turns around, looks Peter straight in the face, and says: ***"Get thee behind me, Satan."*** (ie.e. "Get away from my face, Satan!").

While Michael the archangel would not dare make a railing accusation against Satan (Jude 9), Jesus did not spare!

Satan cannot possess a Christian but <u>can attack the thought life</u> of a believer (v. 23a)

Mark 8:33 says that when Jesus turned around and *"looked on his disciples"* - He intended all of his disciples to hear what He was about to say. They, too, (not just Peter) no doubt had the same wicked thought as Peter. It's just that only impetuous Peter had the "quick draw" mouth to say something.

"Before Peter had a chance to finish his objections, Jesus abruptly cut him off and accused him of being the mouthpiece for His adversary, Satan." (MacArthur, p. 41).

"Satan" = adversary; opponent; enemy

"Said unto Peter" - *"He rebuked Peter"* (Mk. 8:33).

Satan on this occasion did <u>not possess</u> Peter, but he did influence Peter's thoughts (Satan cannot possess a believer, but he can put thoughts into our heads. This is why it is so important to continually flood our minds with God's thoughts-- the Bible!)

Satan's attacks are always with <u>a goal to thwart the cause of Christ</u> (v. 23b)

"Offense" = *scandalon* (Eng. "scandal") - a deceitful trap or snare; an obstacle designed to hinder or stop someone.

Although there was no way Satan could trap, snare, or stop Christ from fulfilling His mission of going through with the cross, the Devil tried his best (cp. *"Come down from the cross"* - Mt. 27:40, 42; Mk. 15:30).

Satan has no interest in God's cause at all. His doom is sealed; the eternal Lake of Fire awaits him (Rev. 20:10), and he will seek to do anything he can to thwart, disrupt, or de-rail the things of God.

"Savourest" = to have a mindset that is totally focused on one thing. To be mentally obsessed with something.

For Satan, his thoughts were (and are) not one bit for the divine cause of God, but for the things of lost, unregenerate, hell-bound men.

Satan passionately hates the things of God.

The Instigator of Humanistic Philosophy:

*** Satan attacks because he <u>abhors the things of God</u> and <u>adores the things of men</u> (v. 23c)**

These are all areas Satan attacks:

--The <u>Son</u> of God
Mt. 4:3 - *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*

--The <u>Word</u> of God
Lk. 4:4 - *"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."*

--The <u>will</u> of God
Mk. 3:35 - *"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."*

--The <u>church</u> of God
I Cor. 11:22 - *"What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."*
Gal. 1:13 - *"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it"* (cp. I Cor. 10:32; 15:9)

--The <u>kingdom</u> of God
Acts 14:22 - *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."*

--The <u>righteousness</u> of God
Rom. 10:3 - *"For they begin ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."*

--The <u>grace</u> of God
I Cor. 1:4 - *"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ"* cp. Titus 2:11

--The glory of God
I Cor. 10:31 - *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

--The man of God
I Tim. 6:11 - *"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith..."* (cp. II Tim. 3:17)

What things does Satan savor? What things of men (unsaved carnal humanity) does Satan love to promote?

--The glory of men
Mt. 6:2, 5

--The commandments of men
Mt. 15:9

--The traditions of men
Col. 2:8; cp. Mk. 7:8

--The heart of men
Mk. 7:21; cp. Jer. 17:9

--The praise of men
Jn. 12:43

--The ungodliness and unrighteousness of men
Ro. 1:18

--The wisdom of men
I Cor. 2:5

--The sleight (deceit) of men
Eph. 4:14

--The lusts of men
I Peter 4:2

--The elevation or exaltation of men
Rev. 13:13

Proponents of humanism:
Paul Kurtz
Carl Sagan
Humanist Manifestos I & II

Beliefs:
Belief in Man rather than belief in God;
Confidence in human nature;
Truth is based on man's experience;
Correlating beliefs: *atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism*

No God (evolutionism) leads to No Absolutes (Relativism and Antinomianism) which leads to Radical Individualism or Humanism (I am my own captain).

Results:
Situation Ethics; Denial of supernatural.
Human beings "may, and do, make up their own rules... Morality is not discovered; it is made."

Humanism's basic teaching: Man is the measure of all things

Manifestations of Humanism:
1) Hero Worship (movie stars, musicians, celebrities, sport figures)
2) Overconfidence in man (whether doctors, politicians, various gurus)
3) Selfish Lifestyles ….etc.
4) Ultimately, a rejection & denial of God

How is humanism being promoted today?

Through the philosophy of the "New Age Movement"

The New Age movement is not an organization; nor an established religion; The title "New Age" is not a Denominational tag; but the New Age Movement is a PHILOSOPHY that is spreading trough politics, ecology, education, psychology, nutrition, entertainment, science etc. This philosophy is a mystery of iniquity inspired by Satan which will prepare the world for a Global Unity, a New World Order, and the emergence of the Antichrist.

This New Age philosophy is really nothing new, but is a blend of Occultism and Hinduism (which started 2,000 B.C.)

Four tenets of Hinduism:

1. Monism - All is one
2. Pantheism - All is God
3. Maya - All is illusion
4. Reincarnation - All is recycling (to reach karma)

Why is the New Age Movement appealing to many today?

1) Christianity is perceived as a dead, impersonal religion (not attractive). The New Age offers "spiritual reality" to those seeking it.

2) Evolutionistic teaching in public schools has dulled people's dependency on God.

   Three results of the denial of God's existence:

   1) A deep-seated attitude of despair
      God created man with a need to have a personal relationship with Him. To fill this void (lack of purpose in life), people have turned to alcohol, immoral relationships, drugs, the occult, spiritism, astrology, T.M., yoga. *"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity"* without God. "I don't know if there is any meaning to life" (Paul Tillick).

   2) The denial of all moral absolutes
      Since there is no sovereign, moral God who holds man responsible for His moral law, there are no moral absolutes. They say: the Bible's moral absolutes were written by man, and therefore man can deny or change them. All is relative (situation ethics). Homosexuality, cheating, lying, etc. is now justified. They say: Here is how man can create a utopia: --We must admit that God is dead --All of us must reject Satanic morality (All that is taught by Bible and Judaism is Satanic morality). Romans 1 - When the knowledge of God (through creation) is rejected, God judges man by giving him over to moral wickedness).

   3) A tendency to deify man
      Since there is no God to worship, then the only logical thing left is some form of nature ("Mother Earth") and the most logically exalted part of nature is man. New Age: Man is divinity, but hasn't discovered it yet. This is all a pre-conditioning for Satan's deified man, the Antichrist.

3) Technological advances point to man's great strides and potential

4) The ecological concerns have placed an emphasis on this world

Appealing New Age concepts:

--Unlimited human potential

--Self-determined morality

Very appealing to the rebellious nature of man. There is no authority outside of self.

--Perfection through self-awareness

In the New Age Movement, the focus is not on a sovereign God nor even on others, but the focus is on self.

A. The NAMES of the New Age Movement:

The Aquarian Conspiracy
New Consciousness
New Gnosticism
Cosmic Humanism
Cosmic Consciousness
Human Potential Movement
Holistic Health Movement etc.

B. The SYMBOLS of the New Age Movement:

Yin & Yang	(The regenerating principle of life)
Rainbow	(A sign of world peace & unity)
Pyramid & triangle	
Crystal	
The Unicorn	
The Number 666	
The Swastika	
7 Rays of Light	
The Goats Head	
The Pentagram	
A Circle with a point in the center	

C. The BUZZ WORDS of the New Age Movement:

Awakening
Centering
Consciousness
Cosmic Energy
Enlightenment
Holistic
Human potential
Synergistic
Transcendental

D. The Key PHILOSOPHIES of the New Age Movement:

Four major tenets:

1. ALL IS ONE

(Monism - All things are ONE)

"All boundaries and dualism have been transcended and all individuality dissolves into universal, undifferentiated oneness." (Fritjof Capra, The Turning Point, p. 371)

Everything and everyone is inter-related and inter-dependent. Ultimately there is no real difference between humans, animals, rocks, or even God (Kerby Anderson).

2. ALL IS GOD

(The universe is god)

The New Age Lie about God:

God is the Cosmos
God is Energy (An impersonal Force in all of nature)
God is Ever-changing (in form & matter)

All of life (and even non-life), they teach, has a spark of divinity within.

3. MAN IS GOD

Beware of:

The human potential emphasis (in movies, songs, literature, business seminars)

The human goodness emphasis (The reality of sin & its effects is ignored)

If "all is one" and "all is god," then "we are gods."

We are, according to New Agers, ignorant of our own divinity. We are "gods in disguise." The goal, therefore, of the New Age Movement is to discover our own divinity.

Shirley MacLaine's spirit guide, her "Higher Self," explains, "Each soul is its own god. You must never worship anyone or anything other than self. For, you are God. To love self is to love God." (Shirley MacLaine, Dancing in the Light, p. 358).

The New Age philosophy comes from Satan and resembles Satanism in many ways. The essence of Satanism is explained as follows:

> "And he must---as a Satanist knowing this, realizing what his human potential is---eventually (and here is one of the key points of Satanism) attain his own godhead in accordance with his own potential. Therefore each man, each woman is a god or goddess in Satanism."
>
> (Anton LaVey, the High Priest of the Church of Satan)

"I am my own redeemer" (fourth chapter of the Book of Satan).

"Do what thou wilt is the whole of the law" (Alister Crawley).

4. Man needs a CHANGE IN CONSCIOUSNESS to discover His Deity

In the New Age Movement, there is much talk of the "Christ Consciousness." They teach that you don't need Christ as a person; you simply need the awareness of the Christ within you. You need to become conscious that you are a "Christ."

Various methods are employed for man to achieve an altered state of consciousness so as to realize his "true human potential."

All methods are designed to "shift normal brain function"; to "drop beliefs and dogma; to bypass critical thinking and judgments so as to awaken the individual to new awareness" (Doctrines of Demons).

New Agers ignorantly open themselves up to the spirit realm of demons through altered consciousness.

Some methods:

Hypnosis (A trance to reach the subconscious mind so as to bypass critical thinking)

Channelling (with Spirit Guides) (Direct contact with spiritual entities)

Yoga ("Yoga" = To YOKE with "the ALL")

T.M. (Transcendental Meditation)

Visualization (ex. "imagine yourself filled with light")

EST (Erhard Seminars Training) (Psychology & Eastern metaphysics for self help & better business management etc.)

Astral Projection (Out of the Body experiences)

Subliminal Persuasion (ex. Self-hypnosis tapes which reach the unconscious mind)

Biofeedback (Instruments for self-monitoring)

Floating (In tanks of water at relaxation centers)

Tarot Cards

Visualizing or Imaging (The ability to manipulate objects, people, or events by your own will or mind)

Repetitious Chanting (To repeat a "Mantra" - the name of a Guru or god over & over again)

SEE: Deuteronomy 18:9-12

The Biblical use of your mind:

1. Never surrender or lose control of your mind or thought processes

   "Be sober" - sound in thinking

2. Never stop critiquing everything you see and hear

   "Prove [test] *all things"*

3. Never open up yourself to any spirit except God's

   (EX: the man who swept his life clean, and then had seven demons take over)

4. Fill your mind continually with God's Law (truth)

   Our minds should be transformed (Rom. 12:2) by God's Word, not conformed to the spirit of this world.

E. The GOALS of the New Age Movement:

Since the New Age Movement is a loosely structured network of organizations, without any particular human leaders heading it up there is no provable human conspiracy per se. However, since New Agers all share common values (based on mysticism and monism -- the world view that "all is one") and a common vision (a coming "new age" of peace and mass enlightenment, the "age of Aquarius") there is an agenda. This agenda is produced by the "spirit of Antichrist" (the spirit of Satan) and it includes:

1. A New World Order (New political structures)

2. Global Unity & Peace
   (Including elimination of those who oppose such unity of world governments; eliminate those who are “intolerant”)

3. Ecumenism
   (A global unity & syncretism of all religions)

In the New Age movement:

--The Bible has been replaced by self-awareness.

--God has been replaced by man's deity.

--The Holy Spirit has been replaced by spirit guides

--Ministering angels have been replaced by demons (who appear to be angels of light - II Cor. 11:14)

--Right and wrong has been replaced by gray relativism

--Truth has been replaced by personal experience

--Individual uniqueness has been replaced by cosmic oneness

All of us have been influenced by humanistic philosophy and philosophies!

Who is influencing you?

The Stranger

A while ago, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?.... .. .

We just call him 'TV.'

He has a wife now....We call her 'Computer.'
Their first child is "Cell Phone".
Second child "I Pod"
New born child "Face Book"

Author Unknown

The Twenty-Third Channel

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want.
It makes me to lie down on the sofa.
It leads me away from the Scriptures.
It destroys my soul.
It leads me in the paths of sex and violence for the sponsor's sake.

Yea, though I walk in the shadow of my Christian responsibilities
There will be no interruption;
For the TV is with me.
Its cable and its remote control they comfort me.

It prepares a commercial before me
In the presence of my worldliness.
It anoints my head with humanism.
My coveting runneth over.

Surely laziness and ignorance shall
Follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house watching TV forever.

1 Timothy 2:5
John 14:6

By: Marcus Carris

How is humanism being promoted today?

By the educational system:

Humanism and public education

By Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Back in 1849, when the organized Protestants of Massachusetts debated whether or not to support the public school movement, which was then being strongly promoted by the Unitarians, they decided in favor of support, but with some very thoughtful reservations.

"The benefits of this system, in offering instruction to all, are so many and so great that its religious deficiencies -- especially since they can be otherwise supplied -- do not seem to be a sufficient reason for abandoning it, and adopting in place of it a system of denominational parochial schools," they wrote.

"If after a full and faithful experiment, it should at last be seen that fidelity to the religious interests of our children forbids a further patronage of the system, we can unite with the Evangelical Christians in the establishment of private schools, in which more full doctrinal religious instruction may be possible."

No one can doubt that for the last 150 years the public schools have had that full and faithful experiment, and that the spiritual effect on Christian children has been disastrous. In several schools around the country, Christian children have even been murdered by fellow students possessed by satanic beliefs. How much worse can it get?

In fact, during the last 20 years, thousands of Christian parents, without knowledge of the debates that took place in 1849, have removed their children from the public schools and have either placed them in private Christian schools or are home-schooling them. They have done this despite the fact that many well-known Christian leaders have not yet sounded the alarm and, in many instances, have urged Christians to stay in the public schools and work to reform them.

But the simple fact is that the present government education system has as its foundation an anti-Christian philosophy known as Secular Humanism. All one has to do to confirm this is read the two Humanist Manifestos. The first, written in 1933 by young Unitarian ministers, asserted that the spiritual power of orthodox religion was in decline and that it should be replaced by a rational, man-centered, non-theistic religion.

"Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values," they wrote. "Religious humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. ...

"Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world."

In other words, humanism is the only religion in America that has as its purpose and program the reconstitution of the institutions, rituals, and ecclesiastical methods of other religions. This is an overt declaration of war against biblical religion.

Forty years later, Humanist Manifesto II stated, "As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. ... No deity will save us, we must save ourselves."

In the January/February 1983 issue of The Humanist magazine, a young scholar by the name of John J. Dunphy expressed the aim of humanists in education with these very blunt words:

"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects that spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of educational level -- preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor" will finally be achieved."

Mr. Dunphy did Christian parents a great service by telling them exactly what humanists want to accomplish in the public schools. Humanists are forever paying lip service in asserting the separation of church and state when it comes to keeping Christianity out of the schools. But when it comes to humanism, they are strangely silent. As a result, humanism has become the establishment religion in our schools, and no one in the federal government or the Congress has seen fit to do anything about it.

Obviously, from a Christian point of view, the experiment of government education has been a colossal failure. In place of God, the public schools offer evolution, multiculturalism, transcendental meditation, situational ethics, drug education, death education, sex education, sensitivity training, gay studies, condoms, whole language, behaviorism, magic circles, and other humanist teachings.

These programs are creating the new nihilists, the amoral barbarians and the followers of Satan that are devastating the lives of thousands of families. There is hardly a Christian family that has not had to cope with a child lost to drugs, promiscuity, abortion, venereal disease, and pure unadulterated devil worship.

What will it take for the majority of Christian parents to realize that the public schools have become a spiritual danger for their children? Those Christian children who are strong in their faith still have to contend with the Satanists among the student body who may wish to harm them. The parents at Columbine could not conceive of the notion that perfectly normal American kids could become murderers, killing for the sake of pleasing Satan. That sort of stuff is supposed to belong in horror movies, not in middleclass, suburban families.

This is something that has never happened before in America, and it is the result of a spiritual disease called moral relativism which teaches that everyone is entitled to their beliefs, no matter how weird or anti-social, and that no one can judge anyone or anything else. That is why no one at Columbine High felt morally obligated to stop the future killers from expressing their views as wildly and openly as they wished. No one at Columbine took them seriously, because no one there believed that the pure power of evil could take hold of the lives of normal kids.

The lesson is painfully simple: When a nation abandons moral absolutes, it opens the door to unbridled evil.

http://www.ritalindeath.com/Education/humanism-and-public-education.htm

Secular Humanism - Excluding God from Schools & Society
Secular Humanism is an attempt to function as a civilized society with the exclusion of God and His moral principles. During the last several decades, Humanists have been very successful in propagating their beliefs. Their primary approach is to target the youth through the public school system. Humanist Charles F. Potter writes, "Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every American school is a school of humanism. What can a theistic Sunday school's meeting for an hour once a week and teaching only a fraction of the children do to stem the tide of the five-day program of humanistic teaching?" (Charles F. Potter, "Humanism: A New Religion," 1930)

John J. Dunphy, in his award winning essay, *The Humanist* (1983), illustrates this strategic focus, "The battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: A religion of humanity -- utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to carry humanist values into wherever they teach. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism."

Is this what's happening? John Dewey, remembered for his efforts in establishing America's current educational systems, was one of the chief signers of the 1933 *Humanist Manifesto*. It seems the Humanists have been interested in America's education system for nearly a century. They have been absolutely successful in teaching children that God is imaginary and contrary to "science."

Secular Humanism - Main Tool is Evolutionary Thought
Secular Humanism is manifested in Evolutionary Theory. To satisfy the fundamental question of "Where did we come from?" children are taught the doctrine of Evolution. The first plank of the *Humanist Manifesto* states: "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created." The second plank states: "Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process." Certainly, the public school system propagates the Humanist doctrine (clearly an atheistic "religion"), and thus, condemns the concept of God. This is an amazing irony. Creation Science has been successfully kept out of the public schools by organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (A.C.L.U.) on the grounds that Creation is religious, and the government should not support religion in any fashion. "In fact, evolution became in a sense a scientific religion; almost all scientists have accepted it, and many are prepared to 'bend' their observations to fit with it." (H. S. Lipson, FRS, Professor of Physics, University of Manchester, UK, "A Physicist Looks at Evolution", *Physics Bulletin*, vol. 31, May 1980, pg. 138).

Yet Evolution has not been proved. Sir Arthur Keith, a famous British evolutionary anthropologist and anatomist, confesses, "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it only because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable." In fact, it seems that the Theory of Evolution is contrary to established science. George Wald, another prominent Evolutionist (a Harvard University biochemist and Nobel Laureate), wrote, "When it comes to the Origin of Life there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!" ("The Origin of Life," *Scientific American*, 191:48, May 1954).

Secular Humanism - Some Historical Warnings
The primary focus of Secular Humanism is to exclude God from the potential answers in life. Is this doctrine a good idea for a free society? The Founding Fathers of the United States of America seem to think not, and warned us against this type of philosophy.

In his farewell address to the fledgling nation of the United States of America (September 19, 1796), George Washington declared, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable supporters. Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that our national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Noah Webster, a Founding Father and educator, wrote, "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

John Adams wrote, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry would break the strongest cords or our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Daniel Webster wrote, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but if we neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how soon a catastrophe may overcome us, and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

Patrick Henry wrote, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians -- not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Secular Humanism - Heed the Warnings and Speak Up
Secular Humanism has risen to the forefront of American thinking. And yet, curiously, American theists remain strangely silent as they slowly lose their children to an atheistic doctrine. Winston Churchill commented on the results of such a lack of resistance, "If you will not fight for the right when you can win without bloodshed, if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not so costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no chance of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves."

Cultural Relativism: Truth Is Relative
Cultural relativism is the view that no culture is superior to any other culture when comparing systems of morality, law, politics, etc. It's the philosophical notion that all cultural beliefs are equally valid and that truth itself is relative, depending on the cultural environment. Those who hold to cultural relativism hold that all religious, ethical, aesthetic, and political beliefs are completely relative to the individual within a cultural identity. Relativism often includes moral relativism (ethics depend on a social construct), situational relativism (right or wrong is based on the particular situation), and cognitive relativism (truth itself has no objective standard).

Cultural Relativism: A Misguided Movement Towards Pluralism & Tolerance
Cultural relativism, like moral relativism, pervades today's world. As long as we don't "hurt" anyone, anything goes. Absolute truth has been discarded along with God. We live in a society of pluralism and tolerance. We reject the idea of universal right and wrong. With a diminishing list of objective standards, our legislative system is having a harder time defining the laws, and our court system is having a harder time interpreting them. In just a few decades, our entertainment industry has pushed the "acceptance" of lewdness and indecency to levels we never imagined. Our children are losing their moral compass and lashing out in violence like never before. Our schools teach that we are an accident of evolution. Our institutions teach that we must accept all types of lifestyles or be deemed "intolerant," or worse, "hate mongers." Relativism encourages us to accept pornography in the media and fornication in our colleges and universities. Many things that were deemed a "sin" only a few years ago are now either accepted or promoted in our culture. According to the relativists, all points of view are true except for those that teach absolutes -- absolute truth, absolute right or wrong, or an absolute God.

Of course, cultural relativism is appropriate in some respects. For example, food, clothing, language, and driving rules are different within cultures, and it's important that these relative differences remain. However, these are not issues of universal "right" and "wrong." These are not matters of mathematical certainty. These are not issues of "truth." In a relativistic society, we have no right to judge or punish anyone. Right and wrong are now defined by socialization. Society changes and morality becomes a moving target. In truth, if the standard of right and wrong is based on relativism, then society has no standards at all.

Cultural Relativism: Illogical Conclusion
Cultural relativism is the philosophical belief that all cultural views are equally valid. However, if you test this position under general rules of logic, you soon discover that relativism is illogical and self-defeating. If relativism is true and all points of view are true, then the assertion that relativism is false, is true. Is this contradictory? Yes. Is truth contradictory? No.

Relativists believe that all truth is relative. Therefore, the statement, "All truth is relative," would be absolutely true. If this statement is absolutely true, then not all things are relative and the statement is false.

Relativists declare that "there are no absolute truths." However, this is an absolute statement, which is supposed to be true. Therefore, it is an absolute truth and the statement is false.

According to the relativist position, I can have my own version of truth. Therefore, a truth for me is that relativism is false. Based on the relativistic rules, I have just established that relativism is false. Of course, the relativist will say "no" to my logic, but then what is true for me is not really true, and, again, I have proven the philosophy of relativism false.

Give it some thought…

A CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

THE ABSOLUTE STANDARD FOR TRUTH IS THE SCRIPTURE (The Bible)

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the Source of all truth. All truth is God's truth, and there is no truth that exists apart from God. He has revealed Himself (and the truth) to man through creation in a general way. He has revealed Himself (and the truth) most specifically through the Bible (John 17:17).

The Bible, God's special revelation, is infallible and inerrant. It provides the criterion for truth. The facts of natural revelation (creation) must be seen in the light of special revelation (the Bible).

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Christian education of children is primarily the responsibility of the home. God has ordained that parents be responsible for the education of their children (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:7; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; II Tim. 1:5, 3:15). Therefore, any formal training of children outside of the home should be with the consent of the parents, under the supervision of the parents, financed by the parents, in cooperation with the parents, and accountable to the parents.

SCHOOL(an extension of the home - to fulfill the parent's desires for assistance with the formal education of their children)

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 - "And these words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

Ephesians 6:6b - ". . . Bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

ALL TEACHING MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A <u>BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE</u>

The Christian school, therefore, seeks to build in the child a Christian world and life view. In other words, it must guide the youth in discovering a Christian perspective on all areas of life.

Therefore, it is the task of teach teacher to analyze and interpret his/her subject area through God's special revelation, the Bible. God belongs in the center of education:

--In Science, we want the children to know they're studying God's laws for the universe

--In History, we want them to see the unfolding of God's plan through the ages and the redemption of His people

--In Literature, we want them to be able to test other writers by Christian standards so that they will appreciate that which is good and true and beautiful

--In Civics, we want them to know that true government is ordained of God and requires their prayers, loyalty and support

II. SATAN'S DEFEAT (v. 24-26)

How to have victory over Satan's humanistic snare:

A. Say NO to self. . . *and say YES to God's will (v. 24a)*

"If any man will come after Me" - "If any one desires (wishes) to follow me" - This does not refer to the means to salvation, but to sanctification; not relationship with Christ, but fellowship with Christ.

"Deny himself" - (*aparneomai* - a strengthened form of *arneomai*) - meaning to utterly say "no" to oneself; to turn away from your own self-centered ways; to totally disregard one's own selfish ways.

When a conflict of wills occurs (God's will vs. our old nature's) and we by the power of God's Spirit under the direction of God's Word choose to say "No" to selfish impulses, we have denied self.

When our flesh screams out for gratification (outside of God's ordained boundaries) and we don't give in but rather disregard temptation's cry, we have denied self.

True Christian maturity is not when we do right because we feel like it, but when we do right when we don't feel like it.

B. DIE to self. . . *and LIVE for Christ (v. 24b)*

"Take up - the imperative anticipates willingness to do so. You must decide or choose to take it up.

The "cross" to which Jesus refers is not a physical handicap nor a "nagging wife" nor a "domineering mother-in-law" (MacArthur, p. 48).

"His cross" - Each one of us must take our own cross, our own instrument of death.

Each must die to self for oneself!

Such cross bearing is to be *"daily"* according to Luke 9:23.

In response to Peter's repulsive remark against suffering and dying (v. 22), Jesus tells him that unless He is willing to suffer, he cannot be a true disciple of Christ.

The "cross" was a common symbol of death. Many were hung on them, but none of their own volition. The purpose of the cross was not to bear it, but to die on it.

Jesus calls upon us to radically abandon our life for the purpose of living for Him! To die to our own plans, our own ambitions, our own desires, our own goals, our own praise and glory, our own fame and fortune. . . all for the purpose of fulfilling His plans, ambitions, desires. . .

Gal. 2:20 - *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

"The only good Christian is a dead Christian" (dead to self, that is).

"And follow Me" - Jesus is not calling upon us to deny self and die to self for no purpose. Our purpose is to free us from that which keeps us from following Christ.

How well you follow Christ can be measured by how often you choose His ways over yours!

C. <u>LOSE</u> your self. . . *and <u>FIND</u> real life* *(v. 25-26)*

"For" = Because. Jesus gives a reason why we must be willing to die to self.

The reason is simple: Those whose sole interest is to preserve one's life will end up losing his life.

The greatest test of verse 25 will come in the future Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21), when the test will be: "Take the mark 666 or die" (Rev. 13). Those who do take it show by doing so their allegiance to Satan and his diabolical "Antichrist." They think they will live, when in reality, they will die for eternity! (Rev. 14:9-11).

"For My sake" - Our sacrifice of self is not in vain. It is for Jesus. Everything we do should be for Him.

"For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21)

"Soul" - the immaterial part of man (used synonymously with *"spirit"* in this verse).

The soul is the inner real you. it is that aspect of you which will exist forever, even after death (Rev. 6:9).

What do you gain if you acquire the whole world (with all its temporary gold, luxury, pleasure, fame, etc.) and yet lose your soul forever!

"Give in exchange" - What would you trade for your soul? There is nothing as valuable, important, vital, or precious to you as your own soul!

Many have forfeited their "soul" for a cheap, temporary, brief, fleeting moment of happiness

--for the foolish farmer it was his self-sufficiency and material security (Lk. 12:20)
--for the rich man it was his sumptuous living (Lk. 16)
--for Judas it was a bag of 20 pieces of silver
--for those who receive the mark of the Beast, it will be to *"buy and sell"* (to keep their business open) (Rev. 13)

So many sell out so cheaply!

--For many today it's a sexual encounter that leads to AIDS. . . it's a drug high that leads to an overdose and death. . . it's a bottle that leads to a car crash. . . .

Christ's REWARDS (v. 27-28)

"The glory of His Father" = the same glory (brilliant brightness) the Father has.

For the Son to share the glory of God, He must be equal with God, because God said He would not share His glory with another (Is. 42:8).

"With His angels" - cp. Mt. 24:31 - *"And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

"Then He shall reward" - Christ rewards his people (those who were willing to deny self and die to self and follow Him) at the moment of the Rapture.

"Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me."

"Every man" = i.e. every man who has a reward coming! There are no rewards for the unsaved, only punishment.

"According to his works" - The rewards are based on your practice, your over-all life emphasis, your selfless conduct.

Conclusion:

Ps 100:3 - Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

a. God created man to glorify Himself. "I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Is. 43:7).

To glorify God basically means to make Him shine; to bring deserved credit, honor, and praise to the Lord.

God creates, redeems, yes, even judges so that He will receive the credit, honor, and praise He so rightfully deserves (cp. Ps. 139:14).

Even mankind's sin against God gives God the opportunity to display His unconditional love, grace, and mercy and thus glorify Himself.

b. Basically, all of creation is intended to bring glory to God (Ps. 19:1; cp. Luke 19:37-40).

1) God created all things to glorify Himself (Ps. 19:1).
2) "All things were created by Him, and for Him" (Col. 1:16).
3) "We are His people" (Ps. 100:3).

c. Man's purpose, therefore, is to live for and do all for God's glory! (I Cor. 10:31; I Pet. 4:11; cp. Eph. 2:10).

Have you believed the lie of humanism? Before you answer, answer this:
Do you live for Yourself or do you live for God?