

## CLASS NOTES

### Secular Humanism

#### Preliminary Considerations

##### A. Why should we concern ourselves with Secular Humanism?

1. Because Secular Humanism as a world view has permeated almost every educational institution and discipline of knowledge in our society and culture.
2. Because Secular Humanism threatens to wipe out all absolute concepts and standards in our society and culture, particularly in the realms of reality, thought, and value, thereby opening the door for the development of a materialistic, agnostic, and hedonistic world view, with all of its implications.
3. Because Secular Humanism is diametrically opposed to all forms of formal religion in general, and to Christianity in particular.

##### B. What general topics will be covered in this course?

1. What is Secular Humanism?
2. What are Secular Humanism's beliefs and goals?
3. What does the Bible teach concerning the basic attitude of Secular Humanism?
4. Does the Christian have a responsibility to try to change the character and conduct of non-christian members of his or her society?
5. Does the Christian have a responsibility to try to stop or slow down the secularization of his or her culture and society?
6. What is the place of Christian moral values and standards in a pluralistic and largely secular society?
7. What specific things can Christians individually and corporately do to combat the evils of Secular Humanism in their society?

#### I. What is Secular Humanism?

##### A. What is humanism?

When we speak of humanism in this study, we must define what we mean, both negatively and positively.

First, we must not confuse humanism with humaneness. Humaneness is the quality of compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals.

Second, we must not confuse humanism with humanitarianism, a point of view which attempts to promote human welfare and social reform.