

In I Timothy 2:1-4 we are exhorted to pray to the end that external order and peace and justice and civic morality be maintained so that we might have the greatest possible opportunity to proclaim the gospel. Proclaiming the gospel includes the carrying out of its social implications, including giving to the poor, providing for widows and orphans, and in general helping to alleviate the temporal results of sin.

Here there is no conflict between the seeking of civic morality and the proclamation of the gospel. We are to pray for one so that we can freely carry out the other.

Let us, then, seek to change the spiritual character and moral conduct of non-Christian members of our society, and let us seek to influence the culture of our society away from Secular Humanistic principles and toward biblical principles.

Let us do this by the proclamation of the Law and the Gospel, and by the retrieval of the principles of the Bible, so that the drift of our culture away from those principles may at least be slowed down, and our society be the most orderly, peaceful, safe, and just it can be, to the end that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness, and may have the greatest possible freedom for the proclamation of the gospel and of the entire Word of God!

VIII. What Considerations Can Help Us Formulate Specific Practical Responses to the Challenge of Secular Humanism?

(Note: These considerations are intended to elicit and facilitate discussion leading to the articulation of appropriate responses. The outcomes will be a unique expression of the backgrounds, expertise, wisdom, and involvement of the members of the class)

A. What areas of concern are appropriate for Christian involvement and response?

1. Abortion?

What principles need to be established from Scripture?

Wilful destruction of human life is serious sin
Unborn children are human
Human life is a gift from God and is sustained by God
Each human life has the right to be regarded as a person
Human government (civil authority) has a God-given responsibility to protect human life

2. Homosexuality?

Is it genetically based or learned (or both)?
If a result of the Fall, does it still have moral significance?