

B. What kinds of responses are appropriate for an individual Christian? For a Christian church?

1. For an individual Christian

(referring back to page 56 -- VII. A.)

a. "Christians can use all lawful means"

This raises the question whether Christians have the right (or sometimes the duty) to respond to unjust laws or ordinances with civil disobedience or non-violent resistance or protest, in order to change those laws and ordinances.

If a Christian lives in a society in which it is illegal to possess a Bible, or to witness for Christ, or to meet for worship, is he or she disobeying God if he or she breaks these laws, since God says we should be in subjection to the governing authorities? (Romans 13:1-5)

If a Christian lives in a society in which laws can be changed through the courts, is a Christian disobeying God if he or she breaks unjust laws in order to test them in the courts? Could such disobedience be construed as a form of witness?

Do Christians have the right to use violence in their response to unjust laws?

b. "Christians can faithfully witness to those who are non-Christians, using both the Law and the Gospel as tools"

Of course, in a culture becoming increasingly secular, it may be necessary to give more attention to pre-evangelism or apologetics, if we are going to present the Law of God as a body of absolute values and standards, and if we are going to present the gospel as a body of absolute truths.

c. "Christians can try to enlighten others to the concepts and goals of Secular Humanism, and raise their consciousness to the inroads Secular Humanism has already made in their culture."

Here we are speaking primarily of education. What means of educating others are appropriate? Sharing with others by word of mouth? Sharing in small group settings or in Bible studies in homes?

What about the use of literature, using Manifesto II or A Secular Humanist Declaration, with appropriate critique? What about distribution of such literature in places to which we have access?