

# **DANGERS OF HUMANISMUS**

## ***I. Introduction***

Humanismus comes from latin humanus which means human. It is a modern term, but important are the ideas covered by it.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines **humanism** among others as any system of thought or action based on the nature, interests, and ideas of man; specifically, a modern non-theistic, rationalist movement that holds that man is capable of self-fulfilment, ethical conduct, etc. without recourse to supernaturalism.

The people who embraced humanism are on all levels of our society, from bottom to top, beginning with ordinary citizens and ending with politicians who transform their humanistic ideas into laws that govern whole society, whether laws legalizing murder of yet unborn human beings, or laws legalizing homosexual partnership, or laws legalizing voluntary suicide and helping voluntary suicide, etc.

You can find humanists in every sphere of life and often they have influence on other people and especially on children. Few examples.

Medical doctors: When Tami was pregnant with our second child and had a positive blood test showing possible genetic defect of baby, the gynecologist's spontaneous and surprised reaction was "surely you are not going to keep it?!" All of a sudden it was not a human being in whose welfare he should be interested, but it was it. He thought he could help us by advising us how to get rid of it. How many women "helped" by such doctors had their children murdered?

Media people: I heard on BBC a Czech reporter reporting from Great Britain how sad and shameful it is that terminally ill Brits have to travel with their close ones to Switzerland to die in assisted suicide there for it is illegal in GB.

Teachers: Far as I can remember my school history, all that teachers taught was about achievements or failures of humans or human society. If God was ever mentioned then only in negative sense e.g.: Our primitive ancestors afraid of elements of nature came up with gods who were behind the natural elements and by worshipping these gods they were trying to gain their favor. Or : Religion is a means of manipulation with people, means of political and economical power over them and source of religious persecutions and wars throughout human history.

As we can see, humanism is quite dangerous to humans, because it makes humans the center of universe and persuades them that they can and should direct their own lives independently on God and His moral laws. That is a tragic mistake with grave consequences for individual people and human society.

By contrast God's Word teaches that it is not in man to direct his steps: "the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23) From our own mistakes we know how true is this statement.

## *II.*

### *Poses humanismus danger to Christians?*

You may ask why am I talking about humanism and its dangers to people who believe in God, study God's Word and try to live in harmony with it? It is because we all are daily exposed to dangers of humanism, for all of us are bombarded with its propaganda without even being aware of it. Humanism is lurking in advertisements, on TV, in music, in books, even in books with Bible stories and manuals for teaching children Bible class. Those who are the most vulnerable to snares of humanism are children and teenagers. Few examples:

Advertisement: We often come across with advertisements depicting young people and targeted at young people promising them immediately and without any obligations great product that will enable them finally start living their own life. They are accompanied with slogans like: do not get bound, be unbind, or my life, my world, etc. Message of humanism in advertisement is that humans are the center of the universe and sure winners in this world with the advertised product.

By contrast God's Word teaches that humans are wretched and without humbling to God, they are eternal losers: Ro 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? {the body...: or, 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

TV: Tami and I do not have a TV and are quite happy without it, but when we visit my parents or Tami's parents we do get to watch TV from time to time. The example I would like to mention is from USA. Past winter on one US TV channel was showed a computer animated musical "A Miser Brother's Christmas". It was about mother nature and her selfish children called Miser Brothers, who were mutually competing elements of nature like snow, heat, north wind, etc. Each of them was represented by a different character. These Miser Brothers had feuds among themselves. Heat wanted to have everything hot. Snow wanted to have everything cold. The North Wind who wanted to have Christmas under his control, masterminded sabotage of Santa Claus' super sleigh. Santa got hurt and was not able to deliver Christmas gifts to nice children. Mother nature then assigned Heat and Snow duty of running toy factory and Mrs. Claus convinced them to work together. Their history is revealed that they were on Santa's naughty list from their childhood because they did not treat each other nicely. However The North Wind was able to turn them against each other and while they were fighting together he attacked Santa in his flying sleigh to take control over Christmas, but Heat and Snow saved Santa in the last moment. For acting so nicely they earned their place on Santa's nice list, while The North Wind was punished by mother nature. For children this must have been a thriving story giving them lessons that mother nature has all elements under her control and that the children need to act nicely to one another to get on Santa's nice list. Message of humanism in TV programs is that mother nature is all that exist.

By contrast God's Word teaches that it is foolish to reject God's existence and it has grave impact on humans who do so. : Ps 14:1 ¶ <<To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.>> The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. It is self evident truth that people who left God out from their life end up corrupt with sin committing bad things.

Music: Maybe you heard of Sheryl Crow or Jon Bon Jovi. Sheryl Crow sings in one of her songs: "If it makes you happy, It can't be that bad." Bon Jovi sings in one of his songs: "It's my life, It's now or never, I ain't gonna live forever, I just want to live while I'm alive (It's my life), My heart is

like an open highway, Like Frankie said, I did it my way, I just wanna live while I'm alive, It's my life. Message of humanists in music is: it is your life, one day you will die, so you better enjoy it while you live, do what makes you happy.

By contrast God's Word teaches that our life was given to us by God and we are accountable to Him for how we lived it: Ec 12:1 ¶ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; Ec 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Ec 12:13 ¶ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. {Let...: or, The end of the matter, even all that hath been heard, is} 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Books with Bible stories and manuals for teaching children Bible class: I will use observations of Bob and Sandra Waldron. In one their book (A Generation That Knows Not God) they wrote that workbook after workbook used by brethren tells the story of Jesus feeding the 5 000 (John 6:1-14) by emphasizing how nice it was for the little boy to share his lunch and teaching that we ought to share with one another, while the real lesson in God's Word was that Jesus who looked like an ordinary human was in reality the Creator of universe and could take a handful of food and make it increase to feed more than 5000 people. Diety was standing there. This is why the Holy Spirit included the story in Bible. The lesson that Jesus is God children need to learn even today. Another Waldrons' observation pertains to the story of Noah (Genesis 6-9) where much of the time is spent on naming all the animals that went on the ark. Children have fun, and they like the story of Noah, not because they learned about a great man of faith, but because they could play with all the (plastic, paper, etc.) animals. Peter used the story of Noah to teach lesson that God will come in judgement against wicked, that God keeps his promises (2. Peter 3:2-12) and that God can punish the wicked and save the righteous at the same time. (2. Peter 2:4-9). These are the lessons that Holy Spirit regarded important. Another Waldrons 's observation pertains to story of Balaam (Numei 22-24) where the emphasis was that he was sorry he mistreated his donkey and that we should treat our pets kindly, instead of teaching the real lesson of man's rebellion against God's message and how he kept trying to circumvent God's will. Children need to learn lesson that when God speaks, we obey, even we do not like what God says. Another Waldrons 's observation pertains to Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem on Sunday before his death on Friday (Mathew 21:1-11). Jesus rode into the city as the King, but publications tell the story of "The Donkey Jesus Remembered" and it focuses on what was donkey thinking. In like manner the story of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (Numei 16-17), which is story of rebellion against God's authority and against God's appointed leaders, workbooks retell as story of people who were not kind to their friend Moses and that we should be kind to our friends. Another Waldrons 's observation pertains to a video cartoon film of the story of Daniel (Daniel 6). Instead of telling the story of a righteous man who served his God in face of severe persecution and was preserved by God through a miracle, it is the story of a man, who once was kind to a lion and to whom lion repaid kindness by stopping other lions from harming Daniel, etc. Message of humanists in Books with Bible stories and manuals for children Bible class is: share, be helpers, kind to your friends and pets because it is good, not because we love God and obey His will to share, be helpers, kind and good.

By contrast God's Word teaches that our first obligation is to love God, keep His commandments in our hearts and teach them diligently to our children: De 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. {teach: Heb. whet, or, sharpen}

Can you see how humanism shifted the focus from God's Word to human philosophy?

Teaching children to do good, to share, to be kind to their friends just because it is GOOD

or

teaching children to do good, to share, to be kind to their friends because it is THE WILL OF LOVING GOD (who loved us so much that He died for us on the cross) contained in His Word

are two different philosophies, two different religions, two different value systems.

The first one is the false philosophy of humanism and the second one is Christianity.

While in humanism the value system comes from imperfect humans, in Christianity, it comes from eternal, almighty and perfect God, the Creator of humans. While humanism does not condemn humanists if they decide not to do good, but to be selfish and evil, God who gave Christianity condemns those who do not do His will to love God and neighbour. While humanism is human philosophy, religion (worshiping humans and their achievements) and value system without God, Christianity is philosophy, religion and value system given by God to humans.

Children who are taught ideas of humanism in Bible class are taught that they can do without God in their life.

### ***III. Origin of humanism***

Humanism is a very dangerous philosophy that turns people away from God and puts emphasis on humans, their needs, their wisdom, their freedom, their rights, their ethics. Where did the humanism come from?

Humanists lived in Paul's time, although they did not call themselves humanists:

1Co 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. {after...: or, to speak after the manner of men}

The same kind of people lived in Isaiah's time:

Isa 22:13 And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die.

The same kind of people lived in Noah's time:

Mt 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Actually the very first time humans put their will above God's will, we encounter with the idea of humanism. That was in the garden of Eden and the spiritual father of humanistic ideas was satan.

#### ***IV. Conclusion***

Let us be careful that we do not fall into trap of humanism, do not teach humanistic ideas and protect our children from the devastating effects of humanism. The best way how we can do it is by studying the God's Word and using it as the only standard to discern good from evil as well as by teaching its true lessons to our children and helping them to uncover the true face of humanism that is attacking them from advertisements, TV, music, books, in schools etc.

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