

Counterfeit Christs

A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24

Counterfeit Christs

The Counterfeit Christ of Humanism

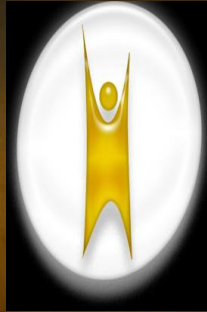
"Using technology wisely, we can control our environment, conquer poverty, markedly reduce disease, extend our life-span, significantly modify our behavior, alter the course of human evolution and cultural development, unlock vast new powers, and provide humankind with unparalleled opportunity for achieving an abundant and meaningful life."
- Humanist Manifesto II

Ever since God made man in His image, man has been trying to return the favor.
- Voltaire

What is Humanism?

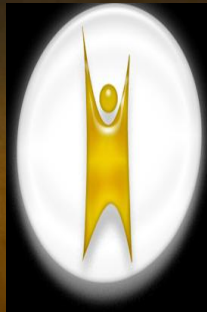
Humanism is a religion where man is the measure of all things. In Humanism, there is:

- No Creator
- No Creation
- No God Given Absolutes



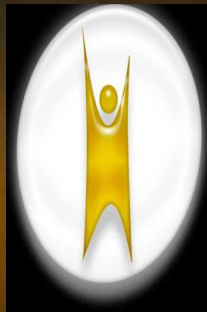
What is Humanism?

“Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created. Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values.”
 - Humanist Manifesto I, pg. 8



The Fall of Humanistic Moral Dominoes

- A materialistic view of reality with chance as its only force yields only silence as a response to values or any basis for law. There is no way to ascertain the “ought” from the “is”. God and sin against God are gone. There is no need for Christ & a cross
- Human law, and the courts, become the primary vehicle to force humanistic thinking upon the population



Humanism's Downward Spiral

Humanism pushes for "freedom" but has no consensus or means to contain it.



Result is chaos and lawlessness because people exercise their freedom in an excessive manner.



Result is authoritarianism and slavery under state / political rule.

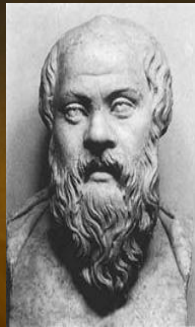
In the end, the individual does not matter; only the state and society.



How did we get here?

Protagoras

Protagoras (c. 481 – 411 B.C.) is credited with coining Humanism's mantra: "Man is the measure of all things, of those that are, of those that are not that they are not" (Protagoras, Fragment 1). Agnostic and skeptic Bertrand Russell says, "This is interpreted as meaning that each man is the measure of all things, and that, when men differ, there is no objective truth in virtue of which one is right and the other wrong."



Renaissance

From Augustine to the Reformation, the intellectual aspects of Western civilization and the concept of truth were dominated by theologians. Beginning with the Renaissance (a French term meaning 'rebirth' or 'revival') periods of the 14th – 17th centuries, thinkers began to elevate humankind to the center of reality, with one other noted trait being the rejection of Aristotelian thought in favor of Platonism and mysticism, which is not unlike the postmodernist stance seen today.

Rene Descartes

Rene Descartes (1596-1650) believed in God but either knowingly or unknowingly moved the center of epistemology about God and things in general from divine revelation to man himself. Descartes, with his "I think, therefore I am" pioneered the concept of methodological doubt. The only thing he couldn't doubt was that he was doubting, and since this was true, reality actually existed. Made error in thinking man's mind was not effected by the Fall and sin.





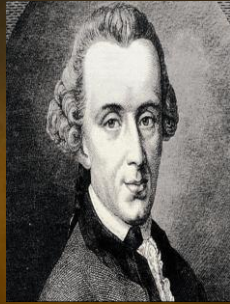
But the Enlightenment – also sometimes referred to as the Age of Reason and pegged by historians as developing between 1600 and 1800 – more fully replaced the intellectualism of theology that started in the Renaissance with that of humanity on the stage of human history. Enlightenment thinkers attributed much greater intellectual prowess and moral abilities to humans than had prior history's theologians. The famous statement commonly attributed to Anselm – "I believe in order that I may understand" was discarded and replaced with "I believe what I can understand". The Enlightenment's goal was to elevate reason over what it considered to be superstition, with the end result being that pure reason replaced revelation as the arbiter of truth.

Immanuel Kant

“Have courage to use your own reason’ – that is the motto of enlightenment”

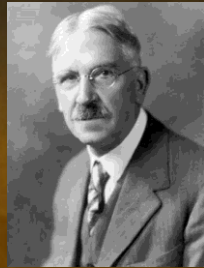
-Immanuel Kant

“What is Enlightenment” in *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals and What is Enlightenment?*



John Dewey

John Dewey (1859-1952) wrote the marching orders for the contemporary humanist movement in his book “A Common Faith”, published in 1934. Concerning humanism, Dewey said: “Let’s take it and make it the militant religion of the public schools.” “Here are all the elements for a religious faith that shall not be confined to sect, class, or race. Such a faith has always been implicitly the common faith of mankind. It remains to make it explicit and militant.” (A Common Faith, 87).



Julian Huxley

Julian Huxley (1887-1975) was an agnostic, evolutionary humanist philosopher. In 1927 he produced his book “Religion without Revelation” in which he predicted that Evolutionary Humanism would become the dominant religion in the not-too-distant future. He believed that only man armed with the scientific method could find truth. There is no supernatural being or world that exists apart from this one.



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IRS Defines Secular Humanism as a Religion

7.25.3.6.5 (02-25-1999) Religious Belief Defined:

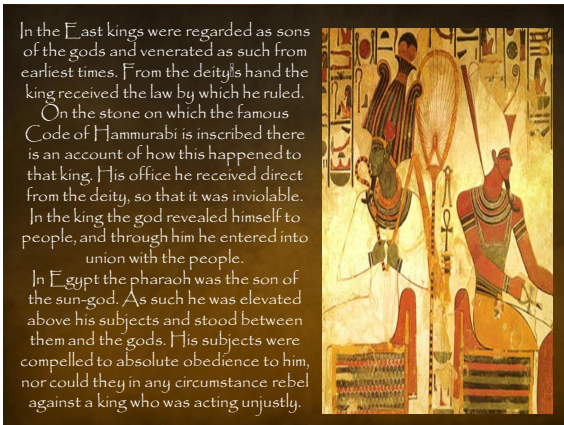
The term "religious" as used in IRC 501(c)(3) is not subject to precise definition. The leading interpretation of the term was made by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Seeger*, 380 U.S. 163 (1965), in which the Court interpreted the phrase "religious training and belief" as used in the Universal Military Training and Service Act, 50 USC section 456 (j), in determining an individual's eligibility for exemption from military service on religious grounds. The Court formulated the following definition: "A sincere and meaningful belief which occupies in the life of its possessor a place parallel to that filled by the God of those admittedly qualifying for the exemption comes within the statutory definition."

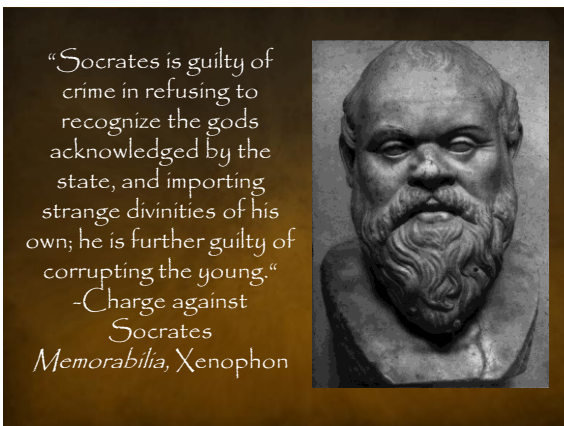
The Court elaborated upon the Seeger definition in *Welsh v. United States*, 398 U.S. 35 (1970), stating that "[i]f an individual deeply and sincerely holds beliefs that are purely ethical or moral in source and content but that nevertheless impose upon him a duty of conscience to refrain from participating in any war at any time, those beliefs certainly occupy in the life of that individual a place parallel to that filled by... God in the lives of traditionally religious persons." *Thus, religious beliefs include many beliefs (for example, Taoism, Buddhism, and Secular Humanism) that do not posit the existence of a Supreme Being in the conventional sense.*

“In essence, much (if not all) of the value of humanism is derived from the Christian character of its premises or presuppositions. In this moral sense, Western humanisms are often in effect non-theistic Christian cults.”
- Norman Geisler
Introduction to Philosophy, 366-7









Through his conquests, Alexander the Great came into contact with the oriental concept of the divine kingship. When he visited the famous oracle of the god Ammon at the oasis of Siwa in Egypt to enquire about the future, the high priest greeted him as the son of Ammon, which to the Greek mind meant "son of Zeus". From then on he allowed himself to be regarded as the son of the supreme god. After his death he was buried in Alexandria, where a priest was installed for him as the founder of the city and as the son of Ammon. People began to revere him in cultic fashion, not only in Egypt but in other parts of the East, so that in Asia Minor and even in Athens itself temples were erected for him. The Greeks were used to the idea that gods could appear on earth and that divine men could do marvelous things, but up to this point they had never bowed before a ruler as the epiphany (appearing) of a deity.

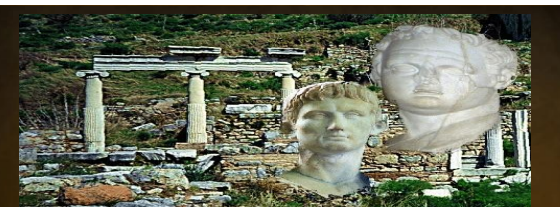




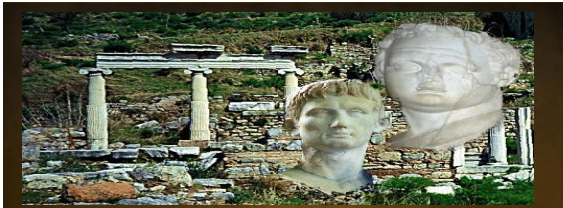
Coins of Antiochus IV. Reverse shows Apollo enthroned. The Greek inscription ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ means ("of Antiochus, God Manifest, Bearer of Victory").

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (born c. 215 BC, died 164 BC) ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC. He was a son of King Antiochus III the Great and the brother of Seleucus IV Philopator. His original name was Mithridates; he assumed the name Antiochus after he assumed the throne.

He assumed divine epithets, which no other Hellenistic king had done, such as Theos Epiphanes (Greek: ΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΗΣ means "God Manifest") and after his defeat of Egypt, Nikephoros (Greek: ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΣ mean "Bearer of Victory").



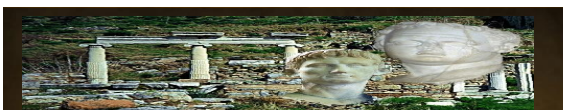
Worship of the Roman emperors began at Ephesus in 29 B.C., when a temple was built to the deified Julius Caesar and the goddess Roma near the city's administrative buildings. Later, space for a cult of the emperor Augustus and the local goddess Artemis was set aside near the chambers of the city council. Linking Augustus to Artemis impressed on people that benefits came from the divine cooperation of Rome and the Ephesians' patron deity. The provincial temple for the Flavian emperors was dedicated in Ephesus in A.D. 89 or 90. From this time on, Ephesus boasted that it was the "temple keeper" (neokoros) for Artemis and the emperor.



In the East, Octavian permitted the deifying of his person as long as it did not affect Roman citizens. But the Romans who lived in those parts were allowed only to build a temple for Rome and for Divus Julius (= divine Julius), namely Julius Caesar, who had adopted him. **By this conniving a beginning was made with the emperor cult in the provinces.** In the year 27 BC, Octavian assumed the title Augustus, a name which found an echo in the East, with the result that many temples were erected for Rome. In Egypt, Augustus was immediately recognized as a god. The Roman authorities acceded to this, but also took account of the Greek population, with the result that the new ruler **was revered as sōtēr (saviour) and euergetēs (benefactor).**

Tiberius took the same line as Augustus, except that he prohibited the provinces from venerating his person in this way. But with the reign of Caligula there came a radical change. He considered himself the incarnation of all the gods and in Rome **allowed himself to be worshipped officially as a god.** The emperors who came after him did not all attach the same value to emperor worship; some like Vespasian did not take it seriously, while a man like **Domitian demanded to be addressed as Dominus et Deus (Lord and God),** basing the legitimacy of his reign on the emperor's divinity.

Once a year each person had to appear before an official 'priest' and swear allegiance to Caesar. The oath would be witnessed by a signed certificate and sometimes an animal sacrifice.



"Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar, and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; and Jason has welcomed them, **and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.**"
(Acts 17:1-7, emphasis added)



Polycarp was born in A.D. 70 and was a disciple of John. He was put to death for refusing to proclaim "Kaiser kyrios", or "Caesar is Lord". When put forward in the stadium, he was asked to make the statement "away with the atheists" meaning the Christians, who Rome referred to as atheists because they would not recognize the gods of Rome or the emperor as a god. Instead, he looked to the crowd and motioned, saying "away with the atheists" meaning the Romans who worshipped false gods. Polycarp was then, at 86 years of age, burned and then run through with a sword.

"Political ambition, intoxicated by success, finds it an easy step from self-glorification to self-deification, and the popular infatuation as easily passes from the abject adulation of the tyrant to the adoration of the god."
-Arthur Pink
The Antichrist

Who said this?

"The streets of our country are in turmoil; the universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting; Communists are seeking to destroy our country, and the Republic is in danger - yes, danger from within and without. We need law and order! Without law and order our nation cannot survive!"

History says that 80% of evangelical German Christians voted for Hitler in the 1930's.

"Germany has been transformed into a great house of the Lord where the Führer as our mediator stands before the throne of God."
- Joseph Goebbels



"Silent night! Holy night! All is calm.
All is bright. Only the Chancellor
steadfast in fight Watches o'er
Germany by day and by night
Always caring for us.

"Silent night! Holy night! All is calm.
All is bright. Adolf Hitler is
Germany's wealth, Brings us
greatness, favor and health. Oh, give
us Germans all power!"
- Nazi Silent Night Revision

"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

(Romans 13:1-7)


"Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."
(1 Peter 2:17)

But when does 'honor the king' go too far and start down the wrong path...?



Hello, Mr. President we honor you today!
For all your great accomplishments, we all doth say "hooray!" Hooray, Mr. President! You're number one!
The first black American to lead this great nation!
Hooray, Mr. President we honor your great plans
To make this country's economy number one again!
Hooray Mr. President, we're really proud of you!
And we stand for all Americans under the great Red, White, and Blue!
So continue — Mr. President we know you'll do the trick
So here's a hearty hip-hooray —
Hip, hip hooray!
Hip, hip hooray!
Hip, hip hooray!

Mmm, mmm, mmm!
 Barack Hussein Obama He said that all
 must lend a hand
 To make this country strong again
 Mmm, mmm, mmm!
 Barack Hussein Obama
 He said we must be fair today
 Equal work means equal pay
 Mmm, mmm, mmm!
 Barack Hussein Obama
 He said that we must take a stand
 To make sure everyone gets a chance
 Mmm, mmm, mmm!
 Barack Hussein Obama
 He said red, yellow, black or white
 All are equal in his sight
 Mmm, mmm, mmm!
 Barack Hussein Obama
 Yes!
 Mmm, mmm, mm
 Barack Hussein Obama



“The extraordinary fact is that emperor
 worship was not imposed on the Roman
 Empire from above; it grew from below.”
 -William Barclay
The Revelation of John



What does the Bible say about
 Humanism and human saviors?

1. The desire to become God is satanic in nature

"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; *I will make myself like the Most High.*"

(Isaiah 14:12-14, emphasis added)

1. The desire to become God is satanic in nature

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil."

(Genesis 3:1-5, emphasis added)

"This is a time of humanism, instability, war and false prophets and Christs, The rejection of God's rule which started for man in the Garden of Eden seems to be reaching a frenzied pitch. Man is determined to prove that he can rule the world in an orderly, meaningful way without God. He asserts that the ultimate purpose of everything is the glory and exaltation of man. His man-centered mania not only makes him refuse to submit to the rule of God but also renders him incapable of submitting (Rom. 8:7)"
- Renald Showers

2. Man is not naturally good, but bad

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- Humanist Manifesto II

"There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"; "Their feet are swift to shed blood, Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
(Romans 3:10-18)

"We have conjured up all manner of devils responsible for our present discontent. It is the unchecked bureaucracy in government, it is the selfishness of multinational corporate giants, it is the failure of the schools to teach and the students to learn, it is overpopulation, it is wasteful extravagance, it is squandering our national resources, it is racism, it is capitalism, it is our material affluence, or if we want a convenient foreign devil, we can say it is communism. But when we scrape away the varnish of wealth, education, class, ethnic origin, parochial loyalties, we discover that however much we've changed the shape of man's physical environment, **man himself is still sinful, vain, greedy, ambitious, lustful, self-centered, unrepentant, and requiring of restraint.**"
- Barry Goldwater



3. Man cannot save himself

"Humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival."
- Humanist Manifesto II, pg. 13

"But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving, That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord."
(Jonah 2:9)

"and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
(Acts 16:30-31)

"Yet I have been the Lord your God
Since the land of Egypt; And you were
not to know any god except Me, For
there is no savior besides Me."
(Hosea 13:4)

4. The world is being prepared for the last human emperor

"By forcing on mankind more and more lethal weapons, and
at the same time making the world more and more
interdependent economically, technology has brought
mankind to such a degree of distress that we are ripe for the
deifying of any new Caesar who might succeed in giving the
world unity and peace."
- Arnold Toynbee, Historian

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A study of false saviors and false salvation

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