

## Chapter 23

### **IS YOUR MINISTER A HUMANIST?**

#### *Wolves In Sheep's Clothing*

Approximately fifty percent of the signers of *Humanist Manifesto I & II* claimed to be Christian ministers! Joseph Fletcher, signer of *Humanist Manifesto II* and author of *Situation Ethics—the New Morality*, is a good example. He is a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

The first chapter of *The Humanist Evangel* (Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books, 1982) by Humanist writer Lucien Saumur, brags that humanists have infiltrated Christian churches in order to subvert them:

Humanists could pretend to be Christians and to work within the Christian context. They were not above using Christianity as a disguise or as a camouflage for their endeavors. They argued about religion, defending those aspects of religion which served to promote humanism against those aspects which threatened it. They subverted the graphic arts, where religious themes became mere pretexts and where the wretched bodies of the Middle Ages were replaced by the beautiful bodies of the Renaissance. This denial of the Christian ideal of suffering was not recognized as such by the contemporary Christians. It is only in retrospect that the humanist ploy is evident.<sup>414</sup>

That this infiltration and subversion has indeed happened—and is still happening every day—is obvious to anyone schooled in philosophy. Not only do humanists claim to be Christians, they also claim to be Christian preachers and Bible scholars. This being the case, it is important to know how to spot a humanist wolf in sheep's clothing.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits (Mat. 7:15-16).

One way to determine if a minister is a humanist is to listen carefully to how he defines God.

Corliss Lamont, an atheist, a signer of *Humanist Manifesto II*, and at one time Honorary President of the American Humanist Association, Chairman of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, and a director of the American Civil Liberties Union, wrote the following in “Equivocation on Religious Issues” which was published in his book *A Lifetime of Dissent* (Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books):

Most important of all among questions of religious belief I consider those of the existence of God and the existence of immortality. And by God I mean a personal God and by immortality I mean personal immortality, survival of the individual after death....It is possible to make a classification of four different groups. *Firstly*, there are those, still powerful in strength and numbers, who affirm the existence of God and immortality. *Secondly*, there is a lesser group which is sincerely agnostic on these questions. *Thirdly*, we have a steadily increasing class of persons who clearly and openly deny the existence of God and immortality. They frankly acknowledge their atheism, since that term most accurately describes their position. Then, *fourthly*, there is that rather large number who in various ways avoid the issue. The greater proportion of these do not actually believe in God or immortality in any ordinary sense of those terms. Most of them, I feel, belong by rights to the third group and ought to be supporting the group. It is this fourth and last class that I wish particularly to analyse. The first three divisions for the most part know what they think and say what they think about God and immortality. But I am tempted to believe that the members of the fourth division are somewhat muddled, and at least there can be no doubt that they muddle others.

*The easiest and most frequent way of equivocating on the issue and qualifying for the fourth group is by indulging in the gentle art of redefinition*<sup>415</sup> [*Italics emphasis added*].

### **The Bible Definition of God**

Mr. Lamont is right! Any definition of God in disagreement with the definition of God given in the Bible is really just disguised atheism. The true God is defined in the Bible as follows:

<sup>414</sup> Lucien Saumur, *The Humanist Evangel* (Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books, 1982), ???

<sup>415</sup> Corliss Lamont, *A Lifetime of Dissent* (Buffalo: Prometheus Books), 9–10.

*God Is Our Creator*

The God of the Bible created everything in six 24 hour days: “For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*” (Ex. 20:11). The argument that the six days were actually thousands (or billions!) of years in which evolution took place is simply atheistic unbelief, for the Genesis account of creation clearly says “the evening and the morning were the first day” (Gen. 1:5).

*God Is Separate From His Creation*

The God of the Bible “is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:17). So God is separate from the universe, matter is not eternal, the universe is not God, and pantheism—the idea that everything is God—is therefore wrong.

*God Is Spirit Not Matter*

The God of the Bible is spirit, not matter. “God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth” (Joh. 4:24). That spirit is not matter is made very clear in Luke 24:39: “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

*God Is Prayer Hearing and Answering*

The God of the Bible hears and answers prayers asked in accordance with His holy will. “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jer. 33:3).

*God Is Unlimited*

The God of the Bible is *omniscient*, “Thou, God seeth me” (Gen. 16:13), *omnipresent*, “Do not I fill heaven and earth” (Jer. 23:24), and *omnipotent*, “With God all things are possible” (Mat. 19:26). God can do anything He wills, including creating humans able to choose between good or evil without His intervention. “He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased” (Ps. 115:3). “Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions” (Ecc. 7:29).

*God Is Absolute and Immutable*

The God of the Bible is absolute and immutable. “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 Joh. 1:5). “For I *am* the LORD, I change not” (Mal. 3:6). Thus we can depend on him!

*God Is Holy and Just*

“Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy” (Ps. 99:5). “Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints” (Rev. 15:3). Because God is holy He hates sin. Because He is just, “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Eze. 18:4). “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Ps. 9:17).

*God Is a Trinity*

There is only one God, and He is three distinct persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “There *is* but one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him” (1 Cor. 8:6). “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (1 Joh. 5:7).

*God Is Living, Personal, and Loving*

The God of the Bible is a personal being who loves and cares for the people He created. Therefore God wants to save you from your sins so you will not have to go to Hell. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Rom 5.8-11). The word atonement implies "at-one-ment." It is the covering and washing away of sin by the blood of Christ so that whosoever believes in Him shall be reconciled with God, and also receive forgiveness, peace, and everlasting life.

*God Is Knowable*

The God of the Bible can be known by humans. I know him, and so can you. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (Joh 17.3).

*The God of the Bible is the only true God. Any god less then the God of the Bible is not really God at all, but mere delusion. A person believing in a non-God god is for all practical purposes just an atheist even if he does not realize it.*

**Redefining God Away**

Being an atheist himself, Corliss Lamont easily recognizes and lists the following definitions of God as disguised atheism:

*Kirsopp Lake's Definition*

"God is the sum of all ideal values."

*Julian Huxley's Definition*

"I wish you here to agree to my giving the name of God to the sum of the forces acting in the cosmos as perceived and grasped by the human mind. We can therefore now say that God is one, but that though one, has several aspects."

*Jesse H. Holmes's Definition*

"[God is] that unifying element within which moves men to unity in a brotherly world."

*Henry Nelson Wieman's Definition*

"God is that interaction between individuals, groups, and ages which generates and promotes the greatest possible mutuality of good."

*John H. Randall, Jr.'s Definition*

"There is no room for God save in the aspirations and imagination of men....We take the word 'God' as the symbol of man's supreme allegiance....faith in God may mean faith in the possibility of sharing ever more fully this vision of the highest perfection."

*John Dewey's Definition*

"We are in the presence neither of ideals that we completely embodied in existence nor yet of ideals that are mere rootless ideals, fantasies, utopias. There are forces in nature that generate and support ideals."

They are further unified by the action that gives them coherence and solidarity. It is this *active* relation between ideal and actual to which I would give the name *God*. And would not insist that the name *must* be given.”

To Corliss Lamont’s list of atheists’ definitions of God, I will add the following:

*John Shelby Spong’s Definition*

“We have come to the dawning realization that God might not be separate from us but rather deep within us. The sense of God as the sum of all that is, plus something more, grows in acceptability. When theologians are pressed, however, to define that something more, the inadequacy of language becomes gallingly apparent.”

### **Why Atheists Say They Believe In God**

Why do some atheists say they believe in God when in fact they do not? The answer to that question is very significant indeed, as Corliss Lamont points out in the following commentary:

I suppose that the first and fairest question to ask our redefiners is, What is the purpose and value of this complex and bewildering game? I imagine that their chief answer is that they do not wish to cut themselves off from the great and beautiful tradition that goes under the name of Christianity....They wish to work within the tradition or within the church and win people over gradually to a new and more acceptable idea of God; to evolve a religion relevant to modern conditions while retaining the hallowed and well-loved words of old. All this would be impossible if they acknowledged themselves as atheists....The attitude of the redefinitionists perhaps comes most appropriately under the heading of what is sometimes called “strategy.”

In other words, some atheists confess to believe in God so that they will be accepted by Christians so that they can gradually convince those Christians that they should be converts to the “religion” of atheism! And Corliss Lamont is correct to use the term “religion” so, for atheism *is* a religion—a religion of falsehood, lies and deceit. Everyone is religious, and everyone worships someone or thing. Atheists worship Evolution and themselves. That is why Humanists call themselves “religious humanists” as well as atheists.

Lamont’s contempt for atheists who claim to be theists provokes him to write yet another truism:

I wonder what God, if there turns out to be one after all, would think about these people who damn Him with faint praise. Would not He, too, be shocked? And I wonder if He would not be justified in punishing these redefiners for breaking the third commandment, that is, for taking His name in vain....The redefiners mutilate a time-hallowed and well-loved vocabulary, yet provide very little in return for this questionable procedure. For their God concepts have precious little religious value. Their gods cannot be worshipped or prayed to; they do not govern the universe or the earth, or watch over mankind; they do not do anything, nor do they possess personality or mind or consciousness. I cannot imagine any large group of men becoming emotionally aroused over such gods. And these gods are so distant in meaning from the traditional God of Christianity that I doubt whether a continuity that resides merely in the use of the same word is worth bothering about.

How right Mr. Lamont is! To define God as being something which He is not is to imply that God Himself is not. A god without the attributes of God is not God. The redefiners of God are atheists of the most dishonest and deceptive sort. They muddle (mix up in a confused manner) the thinking of everyone they influence.

### **Important Conclusions**

There are important facts made clear by Corliss Lamont which we would be wise to remember:

*There Are Phony Christian Preachers*

There are atheists who have entered the Christian ministry for the sole purpose of deceiving people into accepting a phony definition of God. The Apostle Paul put it like this:

I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*....such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his minis-

ters also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (2 Cor. 11:3-15).

Because there are phony Christian preachers, the wise soul will beware to carefully distinguish between the real and the phony.

### *Liberal Religion Is Just Disguised Atheism*

Many of the old mainline Protestant religions are now led by atheistic humanists. They do not believe the Bible at all, but simply redefine everything in it to mean whatever they want it to mean. Beware of preachers “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3:5). One atheist accurately described liberal religion as follows:

Now the increasing number of those who are liberal in religion do not take credal statements in a simple factual sense. They agree that stories of the sun standing still or of devils entering into men or animals belong to a stage that we have passed beyond. But the real difficulty goes deeper. It is that the very idea of an originating or intervening supernatural power is ceasing to have the force that it formerly had. The liberal theologian may feel that his religion is as real and as important to him as it ever was but his idea of a supernatural power is undoubtedly distanced: it has become something more like a philosophical ultimate. If as many people as ever believe in a supernatural power it is a fair statement that they believe in it, or him, less immediately and less continuously than they did, and that there is a wider and wider realm of daily experience in whose working the conception is not invoked.<sup>416</sup>

Even *Humanist Manifesto I & II* classifies liberal religion with atheism, saying: “Free thought, atheism, agnosticism, skepticism, deism, rationalism, ethical culture, and liberal religion all claim to be heir to the humanist tradition.”<sup>417</sup>

### *The Doctrine of Salvation By Works Is Atheism*

The Bible says that “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:9). But the atheistic *Humanist Manifesto II* declares: “No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”<sup>418</sup> The doctrine of salvation by doing good works is a rejection of the true God, and should be recognized as atheism, even if some claim it to be Christian.

If a person does not yet know God it is because he has not come to God on God’s terms: “For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). Faith in the true God is rewarded instantly by knowledge of His reality. Salvation is not “pie in the sky by and by when you die.” Salvation is available right now to every believer: “Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

Furthermore, you can KNOW you are saved:

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye **have** eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 Joh. 5:12-13).

## **The Ultimate Deceivers**

If God is “the sum of all that is” or “the sum of the forces acting in the cosmos as perceived and grasped by the human mind” (as some humanist theologians say), then everyone is a theist, and there are no atheists. Madalyn Murray O’Hair and a multitude of Humanists very vocally let us know that that isn’t true. There are atheists. There are *open* atheists. There are also *closet* atheists who claim to believe in God but actually do not. There are atheists who have become ministers in Christian churches for the sole purpose of subverting the members and converting them into atheists. Beware of preachers preaching a non-God God.

## **The Bible Warning**

The Bible gives a perfect Description of humanists, and warns us to “turn away” from them.

<sup>416</sup> Lionel Elvin, “An Education For Humanity,” in *The Humanist Frame*, Ed. Julian Huxley (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1961), 279.

<sup>417</sup> Kurtz, *Humanist Manifestos I & II*, 15.

<sup>418</sup> *Ibid.*, 16.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men* as theirs also was (2 Tim. 3:1-9).

Every one of the adjectives in the above verses fits humanists perfectly, but note especially the following:

- \* **“Lovers of their own selves”**—most of the magazines targeting women today are teaching woman that they have done enough (even too much) for their husband and children, and that it is now time to take care of self and have some fun by having an affair or deserting their family. That is humanism.
- \* **“Disobedience to parents”**—humanists are against all authority that stems from God. Humanist ministers teach children to disobey parents, wives to disobey husbands, employees to disobey their employers, citizens to disobey the government, and everyone to disobey the true God, whom they portray as a sadistic monster.
- \* **“Unthankful”**—humanists enjoy all the benefits of living in the USA, but virtually to a man hate the God that granted the USA all this affluence. Nor are they thankful for all that their parents and grandparents did to pave the way for their success. Nor are they thankful for our Bible-based capitalism economic system that allows them to enjoy so much wealth.
- \* **“Without natural affection”**—It is not natural for a mother to not love her unborn baby and desire to murder it. It is humanist doctrine that causes women to become so selfish and hateful. These same women have no affection for their husbands, but for strange men or for other woman or even for animals they have an unnatural affection. That is humanism.
- \* **“False accusers”**—humanists will instantly label anyone who opposed their wicked agenda another “McCarthy,” and will call him or her a homosexual, or adulterer, or will find some obscure point of law to say that person has broken. Since they are so well organized, this has worked for them repeatedly in the past. It is time for Americans to quit falling for this trick. After all, the humanists say that homosexuality and adultery are ok, so shouldn’t we at least recognize that they are hypocrites when they accuse a conservative of those sins? Even if the conservative they are accusing is actually guilty, does that mean that we should give the reins of government to humanist hypocrites who as a matter of principle live even worse?
- \* **“Despisers of those that are good”**—humanist despise good people because they view good people as obstacles keeping humanists from achieving their goals, and of course they are correct in so thinking.
- \* **“Highminded”**—Humanists are elitists. They think they alone are intelligent, and that ordinary American citizens are all morons. You can tell who they are because they are always trying to get laws passed to protect you from yourself. In their opinions you are too ignorant and of too low an IQ to make right choices on your own.
- \* **“Lovers of pleasures”**—the “if it feels good do it” slogan originated from humanism. What the Bible calls lust and sin, humanists call fun and good. Do you want to do something you know the Bible says is wrong? You can always find a humanist minister who will tell you that the sin you want to do is ok. In fact, a humanist minister will help you get so far down the road to ruin so fast that by the time you wake up to the truth your life will be in shambles. A humanist minister will tear down the standards a church once lived by and lead it into sin. He will replace godly music with Rock music. He will replace the preaching of God’s Word with entertainment. Instead of preaching that homosexual sex is an abomination (Lev. 20:13), he will make sodomites leaders in the church.
- \* **“Creep into houses, and lead captive silly women”**—humanists target women. Almost everyone has heard of the National Organization of Women (NOW), which is a front organization of the American Humanist Association. NOW is run by sodomites who hate marriage and hate the

responsibilities of marriage and motherhood. It is especially easy now for humanists to creep into homes via television soap operas and other programs which are designed to stir up resentment and unholy lusts in women, so as to cause them to destroy their own marriages and homes. They are indeed “silly women” that watch soap operas and read novels that stir up “divers lusts.”

- \* **“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”**—since Jesus is “the truth” (John 14:6), and since humanists reject Jesus, humanist are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. They are always trying to *find themselves*.
- \* **“Reprobate concerning the faith”**—humanists reject all the basics of the Christian faith: the existence of a true and living triune God as defined in the Scriptures, the Divine inspiration and preservation of the Scriptures, the literal six day creation, the virgin birth of Christ, the Deity of Christ, that Christ died on the cross for our sins as our substitutionary atonement, the bodily resurrection of Christ, the second coming of Christ, the reality of a literal Heaven and a literal Hell, and eternal salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. Humanists reject all these vital basic teachings.

The Bible plainly tells us to “turn away” from such people. After reading to this chapter in this book, you should now be able to identify a humanist by his philosophy, even if he denies being one. If your pastor is a humanist, you no doubt already realize it. You have just read the Bible command to “turn away” from such people, so you also know what action you should take in your relationship with him. All that is necessary now is for you to obey God’s command. Get away from that evil man or woman. Find yourself a Bible-believing church pastored by a genuine man of God.



HUMANIST MINISTERS disguise themselves as scientists or Christian ministers. But underneath the cover they are just religious quacks. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening **wolves**. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." (Mat. 7:15-20)