

## The Need For A World and Life View (2)

### Introduction

- A. All of us are involved in a search for value and meaning. For most of us this means adopting a system. We all interpret life on the basis of the world-view we possess.
- B. The common tendency is to follow some form of Humanism. This may be summarized in the statement of Alexander Pope (1688-1744) from his An Essay on Man.

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;  
The proper study of mankind is man.

### I. Every World and life View Involves Four Basic Areas.

- A. A foundation - which determines the content of the view.
- B. A methodology and motivation - which leads to implementation of the foundational content.
- C. A purpose or goal - which defines objectives.
- D. An understanding of man - which explains his involvement and volition.

### II. World and Life Views Are Derived From Four Basic Sources.

- A. The view that Nature is the foundation.

Hedonism and Evolutionism

- B. The view that Man is the foundation.

Humanism and Existentialism

- C. The view that Law is the foundation.

Plato (d. 347 B.C.) and Kant (d. 1804|)

- D. The view that God and Revelation are the foundation.

Importance of Infinity, Creation, Revelation, Fall, Redemption

### III. Historic Sources of a Modern World View: Humanism.

- A. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and evolutionism.
- B. A philosophy of science which developed out of science itself.
- C. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) and pessimistic preoccupation with instinct.
- D. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) and his division of life into phenomenal and noumenal.
- E. Georg Hegel (1770-1831) and his pantheism in process - only relativity.

F. Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and his "leap in the dark".

G. Existentialism and its emphasis on meaninglessness.

I. The failure of science and education to cure the ills of mankind accompanied by the World Wars and the following frustrating conflicts.

IV. A Sample of a Modern World View: Humanism.

A. Quotations from the Humanist Manifesto I (1933).

First: Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.

Second: Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process.

Third: Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.

Fifth: Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values ....

Sixth: Religious humanists considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. ...

B. Quotations from the Humanist Manifesto II (1973).

First: In the best sense, religion may inspire dedication to the highest ethical ideals. . . We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence; in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so. ...

Second: Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful . . . .

Third: We affirm that moral values derive their sources from human experience Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest . . .

V. Questions to be Raised in the light of Humanism.

A. From what we know of man and life is this a correct world and life view?

B. From what we know of history and man's modern dilemma is this a correct and successful solution to life?

C. From the evidence we have of Biblical Christianity (prophecy, Jewish race, canonical manuscripts, early writings, the church, the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christy archeology, conversion success, etc.) how should we evaluate Humanism?

D. From this brief study what should be the attitude of the student in the process of education - or the parent in considering a variety of schools for his children?