

Notes:

Questions

1. What were some goals and characteristics of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment?
2. Why is it difficult for the Enlightenment person to embrace religion, especially Biblical Christianity?
3. How is the humanist's view of humanity similar to or different from the Christian view? Use Scriptures to support your observation?

Secular Humanism

Secular humanism includes essential beliefs that define its adherents. Rejecting any of these core beliefs means stepping outside this belief system.

God: There is no supernatural God. Essentially, human beings are their god.

Man: Man evolved from the immaterial and is responsible for his destiny.

Salvation: Salvation consists of fulfilling one's highest potential. There is no life after death. Achieving maximum fulfillment in this life is the highest aim.

Foundation (How Secular Humanism answers the seven worldview questions.)

1. What is the most fundamental reality? (Ultimate reality)

The only thing that exists is matter, which is evolving and is eternal.

2. What is the nature of our material reality? (Material reality)

Matter is eternal, and the universe as it now exists results from the eternal operation of natural laws.

3. What is a human being? (Humanity)

Humans are complex biological machines shaped by billions of years of evolution. Unlike other living creatures, they possess a high level of self-awareness.

4. What happens to a person at death? (Death)

At death, the individual life form ceases to exist.

5. Why is it possible to know anything at all? (Knowledge)

Knowledge is simply a fortunate outcome of the advanced evolution of the human brain.

6. How do we know what is right and wrong? (Morality)

Morality is shaped by individuals or social groups seeking the well-being and comfort of society.

7. What is the meaning of human history? (History)

History has no transcendent meaning; it's just a linear progression of events from past to future.

Authority: The Humanist Manifesto I, The Humanist Manifesto II (with later amendments), and The Humanist Manifesto III.

Evidence for the Authority: Secular Humanist documents deny transcendent authority. The Manifesto was created by individuals suggesting a reasonable societal organization, without any reason for their ideas to take precedence over others, except for the beliefs of their followers.

Secular Humanism and the Biblical Worldview

Category	Secular Humanism	Biblical Worldview
Ultimate Authority	Human reason, science, and experience	God and His revealed Word (Scripture)
Origin of Life	Naturalistic evolution	Divine creation by God (Genesis 1:1, 27)
Human Nature	Good and self-improving	Fallen and sinful, in need of redemption (Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9)
Moral Values	Relative and man-made, evolving with culture	Objective and grounded in God's character (Psalm 119:142; Isaiah 5:20)
Purpose of Life	Personal happiness, self-fulfillment, progress	To know, glorify, and enjoy God forever (Ecclesiastes 12:13; John 17:3)
Salvation	No need for salvation; man can improve himself	Salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9)
View of Death	End of existence; no afterlife	Transition to eternal life or judgment (Hebrews 9:27; John 5:24)
Afterlife	Denied or uncertain	Heaven or hell, based on relationship with Christ (John 3:16 –18)
Meaning of Freedom	Doing what one chooses, self-rule	Freedom through obedience to God (John 8:36; Romans 6:22)
Human Dignity	Derived from human consensus and capability	Inherent dignity as image-bearers of God (Genesis 1:26–27)
Ethics and Justice	Based on social contract, evolving norms	Rooted in God's holiness and law (Micah 6:8; Romans 2:15–16)
Hope for the World	Human progress, education, and political solutions	The return of Christ and restoration of all things (Revelation 21:1–5)

To my secular humanist friend,

We both seek justice, love, and meaning, and care about human dignity and morality. But have you ever wondered why? If the universe is simply a product of chance and our minds are just neurons firing, then what we call right or wrong is merely preference, not truth.

What if our inner moral compass points to something tangible — a moral lawgiver, a personal Creator? The Bible says, “God created mankind in His own image” (Genesis 1:27). This explains our inherent value and the significance of human life, truth, and love.

The Problem

Yet, something is wrong—not just in the world, but in us. We often fail to live up to our own moral standards. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and our good deeds can’t erase our guilt.

The Solution

God did not leave us in this state. He came to us in Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life and took on our punishment. “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). He rose again, offering us a new life.

The Invitation

God invites you to a reasoned trust, to:

- Recognize your need for forgiveness
- Believe that Jesus is your rescuer
- Follow Him in a restored relationship with your Maker

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). “To all who received Him... He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).