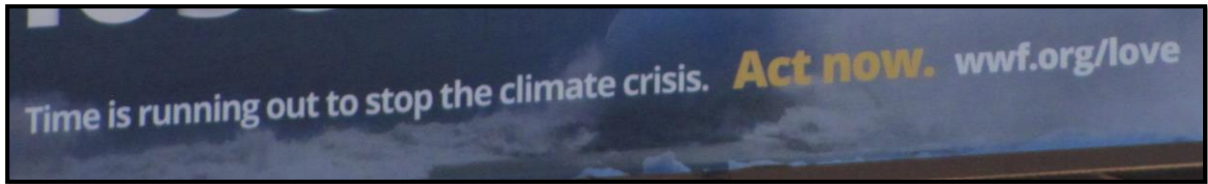


# Humanism in Five Words

The worldview of ultimate futility



Don't overlook the tag line:



Sponsored by:

- World Wildlife Fund
- Washington, DC

“Our mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.”

## Climate Objectives

“Create a climate-resilient and zero-carbon world,  
powered by renewable energy”

## What does WWF mean by “love”?

### NATURE NEEDS OUR **LOVE**

Nature. We seek solace in its presence and find joy in its revelations, be they towering forests or songbirds outside our window. *Nature gives us **hope**, even in the most troubling times. It also provides the **air** we breathe, the **water** we drink, and the **resources** we all depend on. **But the future of nature is in doubt.** We’re losing forests, wildlife, freshwater [sic], and so much more. *All at an unprecedented rate.**

**Show your love for nature before it’s too late.**

## And now the hard sell:

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO PROTECT ALL THAT WE **LOVE**

Think of all the places in the world we hold dear—not just for their beauty, but for all they provide. **Many of these places face threats caused by human actions**, from tearing down forests to poaching animals to emitting greenhouse gases. We **must** protect them now. We have a choice. *Why would we risk losing the places we love?*

Here are nine places we love and can't afford to lose  
They need our **love** more than ever . . .

## For each of nine critical locations:

- There are colorful pictures and vivid descriptions followed by the ominous refrain:

*“Now imagine it’s gone”*

- As you tour these endangered locations you’re offered the opportunity to make an assortment of *environmental pledges* or to “symbolically adopt” animals

## On a Personal Note . . .

- I plan to symbolically “adopt” a cow and take a solemn pledge to eat all the tasty parts – because I understand that the cow is given by God for my use and that I am infinitely valuable in comparison to the cow (or any other animal)
- I also know (scientifically) that the amount of carbon on planet earth is essentially fixed *no matter how I choose to live*
- I prefer not to return to the Stone Age of preindustrialization

## Jones – *The Other Worldview*

- Peter Jones: We either worship God or worship the creation.
- “. . . they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator. . .”

## Creation Worship

- This is an unabashed call to “love” the creation which will never love you back
- How depressing!

## Why?

- In a materialist world, there can be no purpose and no moral imperative – all is utterly meaningless
  - there is no reason to care about the glacier or the polar bear or mankind
- any attempt to project meaning or morality into an uncreated universe is mere illusion (or psychosis)

## Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973)

- "[It is said that] 'Intellectuals are frivolous,' and, unfortunately, this is terribly true, the deep reason for it being that the intellectual has not to deal, as the peasant and the workman have, with **a tangible and stubborn reality, a reality which resists fantasies**; *the intellectual works with words, and paper permits absolutely anything to be written on it.*"
- New World Encyclopedia:
  - *Marcel critiqued various aspects of modern society. He was particularly critical of technology for its dehumanizing effects, in treating human beings as mere objects or things.*

## Jordan Peterson – Population Collapse is Coming

- <https://youtu.be/GcA3rl19jYM?t=240>
  - the looming demographic disaster
  - “a deeply rooted existential self-hatred”
  - humanity as a cancer that must be eradicated
  - “What are the implications? . . . there is nothing you don’t do to a cancer”
  - the false virtue of “ ‘being on the side of the planet’ – whatever the hell that means”

## Alex Epstein – “Human Racism”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOOLDzkiEk&t=5s>
  - “We assume that if something is manmade, that it is immoral and that it is bad . . . and that distorts the entire ‘scientific discussion’ . . .”
  - The important statistic is not the mean temperature anomaly, but how livable the climate is . . . . The most important effect of fossil fuels is the *energy* effect, not the *greenhouse* effect (making the world more survivable)
  - “The whole [climate change] debate is completely skewed against man and you have to watch out for human racism . . . . The environmentalist prejudice is always against human beings.”

## The Christian View

- begins with the Creator: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. . .”
- God created all material and all laws that govern its behavior
- God brought life out of the nonliving – life is not a property of matter
- God made man “in his image” male and female
- God gave man dominion over the creation (but with limits)
- man’s dominion is “stewardship” – care of another’s property
- God gave man the structure of society to carry out the work



## The Christian View (cont'd)

- God intended for all forms of life to “be fruitful and multiply” to fill the earth and sky and seas
- man especially is to be fruitful – to spread abroad and exercise dominion over the whole creation
- God cannot command what is evil – even if the earth and all its resources are “used up” by mankind
- man’s needs are greater than anything else in creation – all is to be subdued for man’s use to God’s glory
- one man’s soul is worth more than all the rest of creation

## The Christian View (cont'd)

- man is more than physical material – he is body and soul
- man’s soul lives forever – even when the material world is gone
- man’s dominion brings glory to his Creator, not to himself
- God alone receives glory (worship) and not any created thing
- earth was made for man – as part of God’s creative and redemptive purposes
- the earth contains everything necessary for man until its purposes are completed
- the heavens and earth will one day pass away in the judgment of fire (the earth is compared to a garment that wears out)

## The Christian View (cont'd)

- the original creation was temperate with no extremes of weather
- the Flood remade the surface of the earth and was the biggest “climate change” event of all time
  - geological evidence of the Flood is literally everywhere
- since the Flood both man and animal has adapted to the new variation in climate
- God promises that the regular cycles of nature will continue until the end of the world
- climate variation continues to the present day; God controls all such variations and often uses them for temporal blessing and cursing

## The Christian View (cont'd)

- all creation was made in perfection but has now been ruined by man’s malicious disobedience
- the Fall has alienated man from God, nature, and himself
- all nature is “frustrated” by the effects of the curse
- all suffering is a byproduct of the Fall

## The Christian View (cont'd)

- man's salvation comes not by his efforts to preserve what is temporary
  - there is no salvation by environmental activism
- man's condition requires someone outside of creation to accomplish redemption
- as the offended party, only God can take the initiative to reconcile fallen man to himself – and only God is powerful enough to create a new heavens and a new earth
- God does all the work – and receives all the glory – from beginning to end!

## Questions & Answers