

SECULAR HUMANISM

The Religious Non-religion

1. A DEFINITION of Secular Humanism

Secular Humanism is an atheistic belief system that relies on human _____ and _____ for understanding the world and our purpose in it, believes in the human capacity for _____ apart from any need for or influence by the supernatural, and values individual _____ as the ultimate goal of human existence.

2. The ORIGINS of Secular Humanism

- A. The origins of secular humanism can be found as far back as the _____ Renaissance period when people began rebelling against the closed minded dogma of the Roman Catholic church during the Dark Ages.
- B. Rejection of religious explanations and emphasis on rationalism during the 17th century paved the way for a new scientific theory; _____ (1859).
- C. Several “manifestoes,” declarations and position clarifying statements, have been published over the years beginning with the humanist manifesto of _____.
- D. In 1973, The Humanist Manifesto II sought to address the atrocities of WWII and the changing _____ and _____ environment in the post-war era.
- E. The most recent Humanist Manifesto III (2003) shifted to more emphasis on _____, service to mankind and a global or _____ scope.

3. The BELIEFS of Secular Humanism (Manifesto III 2003)

- A. Secular humanism is a progressive philosophy of life without a belief in God or the supernatural that emphasizes _____ to lead ethical lives that benefit humanity.
- B. Humanists derive knowledge of the world by observation, experimentation, and _____ (science), but also recognize the value of new departures in thought, the arts, and inner experience.
- C. Humans are an integral part of nature and are the result of unguided evolutionary change. Nature is self-existing and our life is “_____ and _____.”
- D. Ethical _____ are derived from human need and interest as tested by _____.

- E. Life's _____ emerges from individual participation in the _____ of humane ideals.
- F. Humanists long for and strive toward a world of mutual _____ and concern, free of _____ and its consequences, where differences are resolved cooperatively without resorting to violence.
- G. Working to benefit society maximizes individual _____.

4. The PREVALENCE of Secular Humanism

- A. While not all atheists are secular humanists, secular humanists are self-declared _____.
- B. S. H. makes up the majority of the _____ world population.
- C. Our country's determination to keep church and state separate has had the unintended consequence of encouraging _____ to dominate education, media, and government.
- D. Though S. H. may not be consciously _____ by the church, some precepts and suppositions may have been.
 1. _____ - Being influenced by post-modernism, relativism and belief that truth is a subjective thing that is different for everyone.
 2. _____ - believers can look to experience as the basis for validating or disregarding biblical doctrine.
 3. A _____ or Planetary or value system or emphasis.
 4. _____ - Focusing on this life, rather than on the spiritual reality or afterlife.
 5. The _____ - Trusting human organizations to fix societal problems with man-based solutions.
 6. The _____ – social justice and world improvement instead of the gospel.