

Mankind: Like God?

The Challenge of Secular Humanism

by Tal Davis

What a piece of work is man! ...
in action how like an angel! in
apprehension how like a god!
the beauty of the world!

—William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Do you have a pet? Perhaps a dog or cat? Of course you love her, but would you consider her more valuable than, say, your mother or father? Certainly not, your parents are human beings, and your cat is only an animal. The Bible teaches that humans are the highest level of life and, unlike all other earthly creatures, created in the image of God (see Genesis 1:26-27). That means we are like God in many ways. We can reason, love, and make choices about right and wrong. In other words, we are very special to God.

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but HE LOVES AND VALUES MANKIND ABOVE ALL.

Secular What?

Unfortunately, there are many people who do not believe in God, Jesus, or the Bible. Many of those people are followers of a popular philosophy called Secular Humanism. The word *secular* means “they reject any religious or supernatural basis for the existence of the world or for deciding right and wrong.” They believe human beings can make decisions without the need for God. They think people base decisions entirely on their ability to reason out a logical solution.

Secular Humanists believe that humanity is important, but it is only the most advanced form of animal life. This view obviously differs dramatically from Christianity and may impact how people live and the kinds of societies they create. Look at it this way, if we are created by God in His image then we are totally unlike any animal. God loves all of His creation, but He loves and values mankind above all. We are infinitely more important to God than any other created thing.

God's Act of Love

God's ultimate demonstration of this love was when He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth as a man to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Since God loves us that much and puts such a high value on humanity, we should feel and act likewise toward each other. This is the basic Christian idea about right and wrong and should be the foundation of how we live and how we build our society.

This is the problem with Secular Humanism: If there is no God who values us, then we are really of no greater value than any other animal or plant. In that case, we really have no ultimate reason to care and respect each other. Instead of being like gods, as Shakespeare declared, are we really just more like smart dogs? 

