

THE RECONCILER

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MAN CENTERED OR GOD CENTERED LIFE

Humanism is the worldview that sees man as the center of all things.

The Greek philosopher, Protagoras, was the first to coin the phrase: "*Man is the measure of all things.*" There is no more succinct phrase that sums up the essence of Humanism. Protagoras expressed his idea about 500 B.C. at the same time that the voice of the Hebrew prophets went silent.

Modern humanism is partly a reaction to the theocracy of the Middle Ages. It appears to offer liberation from the repressiveness of theocracies - state sponsored religion- and allows man to set his own course apart from religious interference.

The central idea in humanism is that man is the center of his own universe. He is accountable to no one - only to himself. He therefore makes rules to suit himself. It is the prevailing philosophy and worldview that governs our secular society today. Man decides whether something is good or bad, what code he wants to live by, and what he chooses to call good or evil.

There is nothing new in today's secular humanism. It wasn't even new when Protagoras expressed it about 2,500 years ago. It goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve decided to be directed by their own ideas rather than by the voice and instruction of their Heavenly Father. When they ate of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil they were choosing to ignore the counsel and voice of God their Heavenly Father. They launched out on their own to determine their own destiny (to be "as God") by deciding for themselves what was good or evil. They ignored the counsel encapsulated in

the Proverb, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*" (PV 3:5-6)

The Bible reveals that in going our own way and ignoring God's counsel we create enormous problems for ourselves. It reveals that we were designed by Our Creator to function in partnership and dependence on Him. Separated from the care, protection and wisdom of God, Our Heavenly Father, we fall into traps and create much misery for ourselves.

Humanism, while promising a brave new world, creates a world of strife, misery, meaninglessness and despair. Like an electric appliance separated from the power mains, man separated from God is systemically dysfunctional. When man chose to go his own way and moved away from the protection of His Heavenly Father - he also came under the dominion of evil spirits that darken his consciousness and oppress every aspect of his life.

Humanism & Contextualization

Contextualization is a word used by missionaries to express the necessity to adapt to the indigenous culture to which they bring the gospel. A good evangelist makes no effort to export his personal culture to the people group he is seeking to reach. He is aware that he brings a message that can transform people from the inside. The missionary is aware that while culture is variable, his message is nonnegotiable. He is steward of an everlasting eternal and unchanging gospel, contained in the Word of God.

Contextualizing is necessary - the danger however is that in our effort to

contextualize the gospel we also alter our message and not just the culture in which we package the message.

In our efforts to express the gospel in the context of today's humanistic and materialistic society it is important that we do not adopt the humanistic and materialistic world view of the culture we are bringing the gospel to. When we bring the gospel to the humanistic people of the 21st century we cannot turn the gospel on its head and make it man centered rather than God centered. We may be tempted to present the gospel as God's way of meeting human need like some heavenly welfare system. God is indeed our provider and supplier of our every need but only as we return to Him and center our lives on Him and His ways.

A humanistic - man centered - gospel makes God the servant of man's agenda rather than man being the one who is invited to participate in God's agenda. It fails to deal with the primary sin of man, which is that he chooses to make himself the center of his own life and goes his own way, rather than acknowledging that God is the center of all. This is the weakness of much of Christianity in the West today. We depart from the truth of the Word of God distorting it to make God fit in with our ways rather than we fitting in with God's ways.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa 55:9)

Spiritual Copernican Revolution

In 1543 the Polish astronomer, Nikolaus Copernicus, caused a revolution in science. He proved that contrary to the universally held belief that the Sun revolves around the earth, the opposite is true: the earth revolves around the Sun.

Today we need a spiritual Copernican revolution to make us realize that man revolves around God rather than God revolving around man. We have it all wrong if we think we are the center of the universe. God is the center not man. We need God centered Christianity rather than man centered Christianity. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is*

the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence." (Col 1.18)

The self-centered believer seeks to appropriate God's promises and blessings for his own personal ends. The God centered believer, on the other hand, relies on the same promises of God's provision, protection and supply but ***the perspective in which he views them is completely different***. As the prodigal son discovered: you cannot enjoy the Father's blessings when you are far from home and running away from Him. To align with God's provision and blessing requires we turn from our own ways, plans and opinions and turn back to Him. Man centered Christianity seeks to appropriate God's blessings without returning home. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* (Matthew 6.33)

As CS Lewis says, *"God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself because it is not there. There is no such thing."*

As we build on the Rock of Christ and not on the sand of self we will be established. *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt.7.24)*

The Call To Repentance

Repentance is not simply turning to receive God's forgiveness and blessings. It is more than that. Repentance is the joyful return to complete dependence on God, Our Loving Heavenly Father, to live in His care and blessing, to make Him the center of our lives, to seek His ways, to receive His Spirit and completely redirect our lives to live for His interests and not for our own. *"You were bought with a price do not become slaves of men."* (1 Cor. 6.20)

Without faith it is impossible to see God. Without repentance it is impossible to connect with God.

Let us fully return to Him, make Him the center of all, and then receive all He has for us in His Kingdom

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Saved For A Purpose

"You did not do anything to achieve your salvation **but you must do something to exhibit it**..The only proper goal in life is that we manifest the Son of God and when this occurs all of our dictating of our demands to God disappears." - *Oswald Chambers*

"How completely satisfying to turn from our limitations to a God who has none." - A.W. Tozer

True Apostolic Ministry

"True apostolic ministry doesn't say 'Come sit at my feet and let me be your father'...it says GO. Apostolic ministries don't gather...they spread. When you gather, you build an empire. When you spread, you build the Kingdom of God." - *Curry Blake*

When you make decisions based on money, then money is your God. Don't make decisions based on money; make them based on God's will for your life & the money will come. - *Curry Blake*

Israel

The tiny liberal-democratic and sovereign nation-state of the Jewish people is the safest country for minorities in the region. While in the surrounding Muslim-Arab countries Muslims, Christians, Druse, Yazidis, Bahaais and others are persecuted and mass murdered, all members of national and religious minorities in the State of Israel are both safe and equal before the law.

May the western world appreciate this reality and stand behind the State of Israel while it faces the forces of evil eager to bring about its demise and the "cleansing" of the national home of the Jewish people of its Jews.

- *Nadav Katz, "In Israel Today"*

"No power in the world, no League of Nations and not any commission can suspend the divine right of Israel to possess the Land." - *Rabbi A. I. Cook*

"For Christians the return of Jesus is our blessed hope, however, it can never happen without the Jew's and the Land being together. When He comes, He returns to *"his own country"* (Mark 6:1). This is a truth with which "Christian" BDSers must come to grips. We call for all Christian leaders who are able to make at least one pilgrimage to Israel. The Land cannot be treated as if it is just like 'any other place' - *"The Historical & Legal Right Of The Jews to The Land of Israel"* by *Richard Bristol Ph.D.*

The Language Of Senses & Language Of Faith The Language of the senses is: "I can't, I haven't the ability, I haven't the strength, I don't have the opportunity, I have no education, I have been limited. The language of faith says: "I can do all things though him who strengthens me."

-*The Two Kinds Of Faith " by E.W. Kenyon*

Connected To His Life

"We need to be not merely close to the Lord but actually ATTACHED to Him. We need to have direct contact with the Lord, just as an electrical appliance must have direct contact with electricity... Our contact with and attachment to the Lord is the abiding of the branches in the Vine mentioned in John 15. - *"Principles For Church Life "by Witness Lee*

Encouraging Trends in Global Christianity

According to a 2015 report published in the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary provide an optimistic picture of Christianity in the 21st century.

1. Christianity is growing.

Currently, there are more than 2.3 billion affiliated Christians (church members) worldwide. That number is expected to climb to more than 2.6 billion by 2025 and reach 3.3 billion by 2050. Christianity is also growing in comparison to overall population. More than one-third (33.4 percent) of the 7.3 billion people on Earth are Christians. That's up from 32.4 percent in 2000. By 2050, when the world population is expected to top 9.5 billion people, 36 percent will be Christians.

2. Atheism has peaked.

Since 2000, the number of atheists has dropped almost 400,000. By 2050, atheists are expected to fall to just over 125 million and less than 9 percent of the world's population will be an agnostic or atheist.

3. Evangelicals are growing rapidly.

It is estimated that Evangelicals will grow from 4.5 percent (328,582,000) in 2015 to 6 percent (581,134,000) of the world's population in 2050. Only one other group is growing faster - the Pentecostals.

4. A Billion Pentecostals By 2050

In 1900, there were less than 1 million Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians in the world. Today, there are more than 640 million. (That's twice the number of evangelicals) By 2050, they will top 1 billion, which means that in 35 years, more than 1 in 10 people around the world will be a Pentecostal/Charismatic Christian.

- *(From Aaron Earls' report in "Facts & Trends")*

Dear Friends,

NEWS

the churches in the predominately black area of Ft. Pierce and the local police and invited us to participate. It was

Ministry In Europe

As we write this newsletter we are home in Florida preparing to return to Europe for further ministry in **Ireland, U.K., Switzerland, Italy and our tour to Israel in October**, (we hope some of you can join us). We will probably have to postpone a planned ministry visit to Russia because of a new anti-Missionary law, which has just been introduced in Russia. This needs your prayers.

We spent April, May and June in **Ireland, England and Slovakia** working with the Body of Christ. We ministered at over 50 meetings. Thanks to the help of your prayers the Lord blessed these meetings with His presence. Truly He is drawing the spiritually hungry to Himself. He is giving the believers in Ireland communication skills and strategies. The church is beginning to find its legs to reach out with the gospel to those who need it. Since World War II state support for Christianity in Europe has been replaced by aggressive state sponsored secularism. This left the church reeling and confused. However, the Body of Christ in Ireland and throughout Europe is arising with authority and boldness, inviting people to discover the Kingdom of God and personally *choose* it for themselves. We congratulate the local pastors who have dedicated their lives to make this a reality.

Season Of Reconciliation

Over the last month there have been some dreadful terrorists events both in USA and Europe We need to remember that our enemy is *never* people but a spiritual enemy that tries to pit people against each other in fear and hatred.

Compounding the threat from terrorism a new front has arisen in the inner cities of the USA setting disadvantaged people against the police and stirring up racial hatred.

In response to this **Glenn Burris**, the General Superintendent of the Foursquare Church (with which we have our ordination) issued a call to all pastors and ministers to seek out opportunities to be agents of reconciliation. We asked the Lord to give us something we could do. Almost immediately we received an invitation to a meeting of reconciliation from our friend **David Thompson**, Chaplain to the Police of Ft. Pierce. **Pastor Pinkie Hendley, of New Life Church in Ave. D**, called a meeting of reconciliation between

a wonderful evening. The police and the local people prayed for each other, communicated openly with each other and received prayer from the pastors and other leaders who were there.

Few people know (the media certainly do not tell us) the real story of the efforts that pastors, churches, prayer leaders expend in seeking to develop racial harmony. The issues are more than social justice issues - they are issues of spiritual warfare - issues of the heart that produce fear. Resentment, anger, pride and fear can only be solved at the Cross. It is only there that we receive a new heart of love and a new Spirit that empowers us to forgive, walk in God's ways and learn to love and appreciate those who are different from us.

Day OF Rage Cancelled

It is nothing less than miraculous to observe how the Spirit of God has led governors, police departments, Christian leaders and citizens of good will across the nation to cry out the the Lord for His help in this time of challenge and opportunity. We believe that there will not be major riots in the USA inner cities, instead there will be times of revival and greater racial reconciliation than ever before.

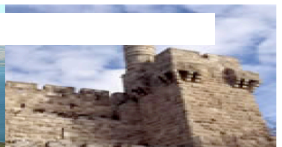
Last week some anarchists called for a "day of rage" to fan the flames of discontent and bitterness in the larger cities of Florida. At our local chapter of Aglow at the suggestion of the Chapter President **Chris Storino** we prayed that these meetings of hatred would be cancelled. Two days later, the state newspapers wrote that the organizers had canceled the day of rage! P.T.L.

If you need Psalm 91 cards to give to your local police please contact us and we will get them to you.

Please keep us in prayer, as we get ready for another long itinerary of meetings from mid August to mid November. (See our website in August for details.)

Our deepest thanks and appreciation to those who help us with your encouragement, prayers and financial support. Without you this ministry could not function.

One in His great love and service,
Paul & Nuala



We invite you to join us our deluxe "Tour to Israel With Love" Oct 24th - Nov 2nd, \$1,499, Half Board, Land Only. See our website, or email us: paulandnuala@comcast.net