

Humanism: Fiction or Fact?

by Bill Crews

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prayer, and worship as anachronistic.” “The term ‘humanist’ is claimed by pragmatists, existentialists, and Marxists.” (Vol. 13, p. 554) Here are some definitions of humanism: “I use the word ‘humanist’ to mean someone who believes that man is just as much a natural phenomenon as an animal or plant; that his body, mind and soul were not supernaturally created but are products of evolution, and that he is not under the control or guidance of any supernatural being or beings, but has to rely on himself and his own powers.” — Sir Julian Huxley, British biologist and writer and former head of UNESCO. “What is humanism, and who is a humanist? For our purposes, I will identify as ‘Humanists’ all who, in basic deliberations and action decisions of their lives, have set aside faith in revelation and dogmatic authority (if they ever had it), and have settled for human experience and reason as grounds for belief and action, putting human good — the good of self and others in their life on earth — as ultimate criterion of right and wrong”. — Morris Storer, editor of *Humanist Ethics*. “Many kinds of humanism exist in the contemporary world. The varieties and emphases of naturalistic humanism include ‘scientific,’ ‘ethical,’ ‘democratic,’ ‘religious,’ and ‘Marxist’ humanism, Free thought, atheism, agnosticism, skepticism, deism, rationalism, ethical culture, and liberal religion all claim to be heir to the humanist tradition.” — from ***Humanist Manifesto II***, 1973.

Among those honored as “Humanist of the Year” since 1953 are Margaret Sanger (founder of Planned Parenthood Federation of America), Dr. Linus Pauling (Nobel Prize winning chemist), the aforementioned Julian Huxley, Dr. Benjamin Spock (the author of baby-care books who helped parents to bring up a generation of spoiled brats), Buckminster Fuller, Dr. Mary Calderone (who was executive director of the infamous Sex Information and Education Council of the United States and pushed for sex education with no moral foundation), Betty Freidan (founder of National Organization of Women, enough said), Dr. Carl Sagan, Margaret Atwood, Ted Turner, Kurt Vonnegut, and Dr. Jonas Salk (developer of the polio vaccine). In 1933 a number of prominent humanists came out with **Humanist Manifesto** (later called “**Humanist Manifesto I**”) in which fifteen theses of beliefs and goals were stated. R. Lester Mondale, brother of Walter Mondale, and John Dewey, architect of the philosophy that has ruined our educational system, were signers. **Humanist Manifesto II** was produced in 1973 and contained seventeen theses, some containing commendable principles and goals, and some containing ominous and frightening ones. Among the signers were Paul Blanchard, Dr. Isaac Asimov, Alan Guttmacher (former president of Planned Parenthood), Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall (professor emeritus of Oregon State University and “the father of the sex-education movement”, R. Lester Mondale (former president of Fellowship of Religious Humanists), Betty Freidan, Francis Crick, Anthony Flew, Corliss Lamont, Kai Nielsen, and Edwin H. Wilson (a prominent Unitarian Universalist minister). Never in the history of the world have so few people had such tremendous influence on educational, moral, social, and political directions taken by a nation. It is frightening that in **Humanist Manifesto II** they state: “Humanism thus interpreted is a moral force that has time on its side,” and “The next century can be and should be the humanistic century.” God help us if that be the case, but God is ready to help us defeat this insidious evil and has armed us well in His word, through His Son, and by the perfect new covenant.

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