



Lesson 76

Special or Worthless?

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Two streams of information is the main point of the Midnight Cry message. There are many examples of two streams such as apophatic and cataphatic. In this lesson, we will again look at two concepts, one being good and one being evil. We will see what these two represent and how they affect us.

Ideology and Humanism

What is ideology?

In this lesson, we are going to be looking at two words: ideology and humanism. From the Merriam Webster dictionary, ideology is, “a manner or the content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture”. Ideology is a person’s worldview: how they view life. Ideology’s base word is “idea”. It’s one’s idea of something.

What is humanism?

Another worldview you can have can be labeled as humanism. Humanism means a “devotion to human welfare ... a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values” (according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary). Humanism is a perspective; it means to be focused on the needs and interests of others. (Humanism can often also put human interests above God, but that is not the context we are talking about.) “Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems,” says the Oxford dictionary. So humanism is all about humans- others- unlike ideology which is all about one person and what they believe.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

We now have two views, one is ideology and one is humanism. We can see humanism being promoted in the world. After World War II, countries were shocked at the inhumane acts, such as the Holocaust, that took place during the war. Countries then came together to make global peace and thus the United Nations was formed. In 1948, fifty member states of the United Nations, with Eleanor Roosevelt as their leader, came together to make a list of rights every human should have. The result was a list of thirty rights that was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. This list of rights is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This list is the basis of human rights today. This is what we call humanism. It is about humans and their rights as opposed to ideology.

What They Make You Think

Ideology makes you special

We know what ideology is: it's a person's view of the world around them. But what does having an ideological worldview do to people? How does it make them view not only themselves, but people around them? It makes them believe that they are special. And if they're special, that means that they're better than everyone else; that leads to inequality. An example is conservative Evangelical Protestants. Their ideological worldview leads them to believe that they are better than other races. It leads them to believe their white race is special which is inequality.

Humanism makes you worthless

Having a humanistic perspective is the opposite of having an ideological perspective. We just saw that having an ideological perspective makes you believe you're special. Humanism is the opposite. We also saw earlier that humanism means, simply, "to be devoted to human welfare"; then we saw that having a humanistic perspective will make you do things like pass the UDHR. Humanism makes you pay attention to the interests, needs, problems, and value of other human beings. You find out that everyone deserves rights and should be valued. That means you are not special- you like everyone else deserves the same basic rights. You are worthless. Not worthless to God, but just as special to Him as all other humans. If everyone is on the same level, and they are, then no one is special: everyone is worthless. This is what it means to have a humanistic perspective: everyone is the same, no one is special and no one deserves special privileges.

The orbit of the sun and earth

An example of ideology and humanism is the sun and the earth. We know that in the past it was believed the sun and stars orbited the earth. When the sun rose and set; it was thought that it was spinning around the earth. This was an ideological perspective. We saw how ideology will eventually lead you to believe you're special- and that's what people thought. They thought that the earth was special and that the sun, moon, and stars revolved around it like in Joseph's dream. Nowadays, it takes a conspiracy theorist to believe that; we all know scientifically that the sun doesn't orbit the earth. The earth and all of the other planets orbit the sun. And of course the solar system is just one in a trillion trillion (10^{24}) solar systems in the known universe. Knowing this makes us feel small and worthless- and that is what humanism is. While ideology makes you feel special, humanism makes you feel worthless; this example shows us that.

The 4 and the 6

Ideology and the first 4 commandments

Having an ideological worldview makes people think that they are special. That is the same worldview that can be derived from the first four commandments. The first four commandments are our duty to God. If we focus solely on them, we will only care about how we “treat” God and not one another. And if that’s all we care about, we’ll go on to believe that we “treat” God the best and that makes us special. Remember, ideology has to do with our ideas, or opinions, of something. It’s all connected: the first four commandments (the Sanctuary/Sabbath) and having an ideological worldview. That is why we cannot just keep the first four commandments: because it leads to an ideological worldview.

Humanism in the Movement

Humanism, just like ideology, can be explained in the language of this Movement. We should know from the definitions of these perspectives that we need to have a humanistic perspective. We need to see ourselves as worthless. To do that we need to value others as much as ourselves. This is equality and that is what being humanistic means. What other concepts do we attach to equality in this Movement? We use the last six commandments, marriage, and our relationships with other people to help explain equality. Those concepts demonstrate loving others which is the basis of equality. So, humanism can be represented by the last six commandments, like ideology can be represented by the first four commandments. Humanism and ideology are two opposite perspectives; we saw that ideology equals the Sabbath and now we know that humanism equals equality and marriage. Although this Movement used to follow an ideological perspective and focused on the Sabbath, we now need to be humanistic and recognize that everyone is equal.

In Summary:

Ideology: one's worldview

Humanism: devotion to human welfare

Ideology: you think you're special

Humanism: you think you're worthless

Ideology: the sun revolves around the earth

Humanism: the earth revolves around the sun

Ideology: the first four commandments

Humanism: the last six commandments

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