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By Don Overcash

Battle of philosophies will continue, even after the election

Many are growing weary of the campaign season and eager for its conclusion. Unfortunately, the age-old battle between good and evil persists, manifesting itself in the clash between two distinct worldviews, each offering differing perspectives on living life.

At the heart of the battle lies a fundamental difference in understanding the nature of God and humanity. In Christianity, God is omnipotent, omniscient, and ever-present (Psalm 139:7-10). He is the creator and sustainer of everything that exists and provides a moral framework that guides believers towards righteous living. Humanism, on the other hand, promotes autonomy, positing that human beings can derive their ethics and purpose independent of divine influence. Man usurps God and declares what is truth. Most disheartening is humanism offers no promise of redemption often leading individuals to grapple with feelings of guilt, inadequacy and without any hope for life after death. Life itself becomes meaningless.

In Romans 1:21-22, Paul describes the folly of exchanging the truth of God for human wisdom, stating, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened." This scripture underscores the risk of placing human reason above divine revelation.

Christianity is built on the premise that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who came to reconcile humanity with the Creator through His sacrifice on the cross. John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." In contrast, humanism emphasizes human reason, dismissing the need for divine authority and redemption. This philosophical stance is typified in the declaration that humans are capable of self-fulfillment and morality in the absence of God. God if he exists is considered irrelevant.

A quintessential difference between Christianity and humanism is morality. Christian ethics are derived from God's character and His commandments, particularly exemplified through the teachings of Jesus. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus encapsulates the moral law: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself." Love what God values which is all of creation, but most notably the concept of personhood. God loves all persons and in 1Timothy 2:4-6 we read, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time". It is this agape love for each person that calls Christians to value each person and resist the dehumanization of slavery, infanticide, genocide, euthanasia, sex trafficking, racism, sexism and any other philosophy that devalues people.

Humanism in contrast is a self-centered ideology which derives wisdom, knowledge and ethics from human reason, experience and societal norms. While it espouses virtues like compassion and

kindness, the absence of unifying moral authority leads to subjective morality. In the absence of God, moral lines become blurred, creating the peril of justifying actions based on personal or collective desire rather than a reliable moral compass.

As Christians, the call is to embody and promote the teachings of Christ, acting as agents of love, truth, and hope in a world increasingly leaning towards humanistic ideologies.

Jesus says to those who call him Lord, we are to be salt and light in this world. This is not a call to passive acceptance but proactive engagement by resisting evil and doing good, enlightening the world with the gospel of Christ. This means living out our faith authentically and demonstrating the transformative power of the gospel in all aspects of life.

As believers, we are reminded in Ephesians 6:12 that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world.” Our cornerstone is Jesus and we must be diligent in prayer, grounded in scripture, and equipped to counter the encroachment of secular humanism by being the pure salt and bright light bringing the joy of the gospel to a dark and fallen world.

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