

Lame Premise

The enormous gaping divide in The United States of the 21st century is due to one major presupposition. This major presupposition has two sides, and these two sides are simply this:

1. Human beings are basically and inherently good, or
2. Human beings are basically and inherently not good.

The first premise, that human beings are basically good, is the viewpoint of the Secular Humanist. The second premise, that human beings are basically and inherently not good, is the viewpoint of historical Protestant Christianity.

Both Christians and non-Christians alike and 21st-century America have little awareness of the influence of historic Protestant Christianity on the United States. The United States was born in the environment of the first great awakening.

The first great awakening took the values of the Protestant Reformation and brought them to life with an incredible revival just prior to the American Revolution.

The Protestant Reformation which came to dominate all of northern Europe put forth two simple truths. One, that the individual Christian believer needed no mediator between himself and God except the God man Jesus Christ. Two, that the individual Christian believer could read the Bible, the Scriptures or the word of God, for himself and understand what the Bible was saying.

This gave the Protestant Christians an entirely new worldview, a different view than the people had under the corrupt teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The self-image of the Protestant Christian was that he or she was a worthy person and entitled to expect a reasonable return for their labors and a happy and harmonious family life under a benevolent government.

It was the understanding of these Protestant Christians that human beings were not basically or inherently good. They believed that every human being was born with a depraved streak which they called Original Sin. This sin was inherited from the first parents of the human race and everyone was born with it. The answer to this condition was found solely in the incarnation, life, sacrifice, death and resurrection of the God man Jesus Christ.

All that was required for a human being to recover from this Original Sin was to accept Jesus Christ by an act of faith and God would supply the rest. Gradually a person, “who walked with God,” would be changed from the inside out to actually become a good, loving, productive, self-respecting individual.

It is obvious from this that in order to receive this new life in Jesus Christ a person first had to acknowledge that they needed a savior. If human beings need a savior, then there must be a

condition that they need to be saved from. Once a person accepted this truth their self-image would change in a very positive manner.

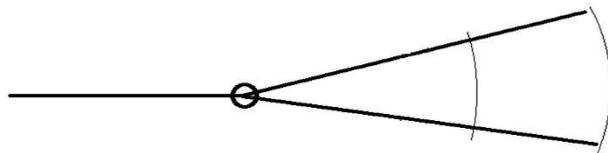
The way that this all worked out in the society and economics of the country was that the “Protestant work ethic” became dominant. People that work the land or people that had a trade worked hard to prosper because they believed that under God they should prosper. Gradually under the Protestant work ethic they rose above the subsistence level. They were told that the second great commandment was to love their neighbor as themselves. The first great commandment being love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength. Often a neighbor would need some financial help in starting his new trade or business.

Since the Scripture did not allow charging a fellow believer interest, loaning them some money for a startup became a problem. So often instead of a loan to be repaid in installments the lender would have an ongoing part of the neighbor’s business. This part was called a “share” and was the birth of Protestant Christianity’s inspired free market capitalism.

Secular Humanism, on the other hand, wants nothing to do with God. Secular Humanism dreams of creating a “heaven on earth” so that the children of the present generation will have a better life. Christians believe that there is an afterlife with rewards for the Christian believer and their children so their mindset does not include having to have a heaven on earth, but they do appreciate a better life while they are here. Since Humanists do not believe in God, the afterlife, or the need for a Savior, they demand heaven on earth here. This is an entirely different mindset than the mindset of the Protestant Reformation and the first great awakening that empowered it on the North American continent producing The United States of America.

So now these two worldviews having departed from each other at some point in the development of the American community are now father apart than ever. If one line separates into two the distance between them at the beginning is not very far. But if both lines continue out at the same original angle before long they are very far apart. So the “Christian right” and the “Humanist left” get father apart every day. The emerging generation therefore, has a choice to make and they will be influenced by how well the two sides present their case.

In this discussion we will endeavor to take both viewpoints to their ultimate conclusions. Remember, the two sides are still diverging from each other at an increasingly rapid rate.



We hear comments such as “what’s wrong with this country?” Or “have they gone insane?” Or “no one wants to work for a living anymore.” Accusations of “hate” are tossed back and forth, both sides seem to be angry. They’re angry because they’re not getting what they want. And

since the early 1950s Americans are used to getting what they want and they want as quickly as possible. Now the whole thing is falling apart. What lies ahead is not pleasant. "Peace talks" between the two extremes are doomed to failure. And less of course, one side can win the other through argument or as Christians call it "a good Christian witness." Many Christians will allow that even a good Christian witness will not be successful if we are in what they call "the end times."

With the failure of the Protestant work ethic and the self-esteem that is held by people who have accepted Jesus Christ into their life, more and more we're seeing pressure because as the lines move farther and farther apart both the far left and the far right will see each other as being "farther" away.

Here is where the left is taking us. They want heaven on earth, having no other heaven to look forward to, they attack everything and anything that threatens that. They also want to be taken care of by something or someone that is bigger than they are, usually the state.

The Christians have a lot to look forward to both in this life and the next and they do depend on the care of One who is much greater than themselves, Almighty God.