

order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

The goal of righteous people cannot be to end false philosophies but to expose them. We must fortify our soul against deception and to be ready to make a strong defense that supports our faith. There is no place in reality or truth for the censorship of opposing opinions or the extermination of those who hold false ideologies.

Rather we are told to:

**Expose Error** - *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”* (Ephesians 5:11)

**Fortify Our Soul with Truth** - *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* (Romans 12:2)

**Defend Our Position** - *“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”* (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Here, then, is a short list of some of the false philosophies we must be prepared to battle.

## SECULAR HUMANISM

Secular Humanism is a religious worldview that believes the universe to be self-existing and not created. It is a philosophy based

on naturalism in which man slowly emerged through a continuous process of evolution. It teaches that the perfect realization of human personality (i.e., everything related to being a human person) is the purpose of life. We must seek our own personal fulfillment right here right now, because once a person dies their “human personality” will be gone forever.

Since humanity is simply an anomaly that sprang up randomly in a pointless universe, our lives have no real, objective purpose. Thus, the greatest good is our own personal fulfillment in this life.

Any behavior accepted by law is ethical. Which also means that any behavior not accepted by law must be harmful to the common good. A culture’s ethics are the foundation for social law, and are established by those who control society’s communication systems - such as public schools, media, entertainment, and whoever has a voice able to influence the masses.

### How is secular humanism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (that is, by Reality)?

The “Humanist Manifesto I” was written in 1933 with an eye on human and social perfection. The word “religion” or “religious” was used 28 times in the work. The Manifesto states:

*Today man’s larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion....While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age.*

These lofty but impossible goals of the 1933 manifesto were ad-

dressed exactly 40 years later in 1973 by the next generation of humanists (in the “Humanist Manifesto II”), who admitted that *“events since 1933 make that earlier statement seem far too optimistic.”*

One of the signers of this 1973 document was the world-renowned atheist Antony Flew. Thirty-four years later in 2007 Flew wrote the book, “There is a God”, with the subtitle “How the world’s most notorious atheist changed his mind.” In 2006 Flew added his name to a petition calling for the inclusion of intelligent design theory into the UK science curriculum.

Flew described his conversion from atheism to a form of deism like this:

*I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite Intelligence. I believe that this universe’s intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God. I believe that life and reproduction originate in a divine Source. Why do I believe this, given that I expounded and defended atheism for more than a half century? The short answer is this: this is the world picture, as I see it, that has emerged from modern science. Science spotlights three dimensions of nature that point to God. The first is the fact that nature obeys laws. The second is the dimension of life, of intelligently organized and purpose-driven beings, which arose from matter. The third is the very existence of nature.... This was a consequence of my continuing assessment of the evidence of nature.... ‘We must follow the argument wherever it leads’... the origin of life cannot be explained if you start with matter alone ... I must stress that my discovery of the Divine has proceeded on a purely natural level, without any reference to supernatural phenomena. It has been an exercise in what is traditionally called natural theology.*

(Flew, Antony. “There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind”. 2007, HarperCollins Publishers, NY, NY, chapter 4 – “A Pilgrimage of Reason”, pp.88-93)

As we see so often in human intercourse, a strong opponent becomes a strong ally.

### **How is secular humanism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (that is, by Truth)?**

As you might expect, Scripture is overflowing with truth that shows the tenets of Secular Humanism to be false. Here are just a few of them.

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

– Genesis 1:1

*“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”*

– Romans 11:36

*“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

– Colossians 1:10

*“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

– Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

*“There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”*

– 1 Corinthians 8:6

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."*

– Psalm 139:14

*"O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

– Isaiah 64:8

*"I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God."*

– Luke 12:8

*"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."*

– Colossians 2:8

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared."*

– 1 Timothy 4:1

*"Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

– Romans 1:22-23

In summary, secular humanism is opposed to truth because it is based on several fallacies.

Through the application of logic (part of natural revelation) and God's Word (source of special revelation), we find secular humanism to be false.

- Secular humanism denies the existence of a God and opposes all theistic religions.
- Secular humanism must deny that anything other than material is the source of thought, logic, personality, soul, etc. Naturalism is a necessary doctrine of humanists.
- Secular humanism must defend evolution and deny divine creation since evolution is their explanation of the origin of the universe and life.
- Secular humanism must reject any absolute in human values or morals so ethical relativism, which is as solid as shifting sand, is the foundation of their morality.
- Secular humanism believes that humans are the highest form of life. Humans are self-sufficient and responsible to solve their own problems to the extent that the survival of humanity depends on the individual human behavior. The only hope of the human race is human reason and secular education.

Humanism is wrong because:

- God does exist
- Naturalism is illogical
- Evolution is false
- Morals are absolute
- Mankind's only hope is Christ

The fallacy of secular humanist thought is destructive to humanity, environments, and institutions.

## MATERIALISM

Materialism is a theory stating that physical matter is the only reality - and that all existence, processes, and occurrences are the result of nothing but matter. This includes, of course, human consciousness.

In the 1800's, materialists began thinking of the world as a machine that could be fully explained by the material from which it was made. Being a machine, there was no room for such things as values or freewill. Accordingly, materialism is a philosophy that finds no meaning or purpose in existence.

In the philosophy of materialism, ethics are only meaningful as personal preferences and are not based on any absolute standards. Values are regarded as useful fictions to aid the human experience. Words such as "good" and "evil" have meaning only in relation to the person speaking, so the meaning of these words can vary greatly, depending on the individual. The material machine certainly cannot define good and evil in any objective sense.

#### **How is materialism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (Reality)?**

The philosophy of materialism fails to agree with reason and reality in several ways. A couple of the most accessible relate to this image of the universe - and all that is within it - as a machine.

The most obvious breakdown in the "godless machine" theory of all things is the fact that every machine has a designer and a maker. And so, even the materialist's own self-chosen image carries with it the need for a Creator.

Another problem began way back in the 1600's when materialism first denied mental substance - and in the 1700-1800's when it denied the validity of all supernatural and religious experiences. And finally in the 1900's materialism tried, but failed, to explain human consciousness in its own terms.

Acknowledging the existence of matter is one thing, but the materialist takes it to the extreme. For matter to become self-aware,



analytical, and capable of forming thoughts that are expressed as words is totally beyond explanation.

While materialism claims that material is eternal and existed before the mind, we must recognize this as science fiction and nothing more than an example of blind faith. Claims like these have no basis of support.

Much more defensible is the view that reverses this order, explaining that there is an eternal mind from which matter was created. It is easier to understand man as a mind existing in a material body, than it is to accept the material body as the cause and source of man's mind and all that it experiences and expresses. It is simply not possible for bundles of nerves and neural stimuli to explain universal human experiences such as reflection, purposefulness, and planning ahead as we anticipate the future.

In fact, recent advances in quantum physics have revealed that the behavior of the smallest particles in existence do not support the picture of a deterministic machine envisioned by the earlier materialists (determinism being the philosophical doctrine stating that all events, including all human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will).

Basically, the only thing that materialism has proven is that the science which investigates the natural system of the material world cannot explain all that we humans know or experience. Materialism cannot satisfactorily explain what we as humans are, and it does not understand what we are becoming.

Ultimately, the philosophy of materialism is self-defeating because "human consciousness" cannot analyze physical matter if it is nothing more than physical matter itself. The "thought" produced by matter cannot be both outside of matter making evaluations, while



at the same time being caused by the matter it is evaluating. This would be illogical. Mind can only transcend matter if it is something other than, and outside of, matter.

### How is materialism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (Truth)?

*"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."*  
– Colossians 1:16

*"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."*  
– Hebrews 11:3

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*  
– Revelation 4:11

*"To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*  
– 1 Timothy 1:17

*"I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'"*  
– Revelation 5:13

*"Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.'"*  
– Hebrews 1:7

*"When the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'"*  
– Jude 1:9

*"... Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."*  
– Ephesians 1:21

### IDEALISM

Idealism is a theory stating that reality is not objective (i.e., is not real), but is instead constructed by mind and consciousness.

### How is idealism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (Reality)?

There is no way for a person operating from the position of idealism to rationally accept that things perceived cannot exist without the mind. For example, idealism claims color and sound are perceptions and cannot exist in any physical way since they exist only within the mind that perceives them. The famous declaration of idealism is "to be is to be perceived." Thus, perception gives things existence.

Now you decide. Is the book or electronic device you are reading at this moment an actual thing made of matter that will continue to exist even if your mind ceases to function - or not? If this book or device continues to exist when your mind and your senses stop perceiving it, idealism must be incorrect.

### How is idealism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (Truth)?

*"God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."*  
– Genesis 1:3

*"Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."*  
– Genesis 2:7

*"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."*  
– Hebrews 11:3

*"In six days the LORD made heaven and earth."*  
– Exodus 31:15-17

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."*  
– John 1:1-3

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*  
– Revelation 4:11

### ATHEISM

The word "atheism" itself means "no belief in god(s)".

The prefix "a-" indicates the absence of something. And "theism" means "belief in the existence of god(s)".

### How is atheism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (Reality)?

All design implies a designer.

Since the universe, genetics, the human body, mathematics and so much more (essentially, everything that exists) have order and design, it follows that there must be a designer. All these things could not possibly have become ordered as they are by random chance.

There is a designer, and that Designer is God.

Also, the fact that something (rather than nothing) does exist means there must be a cause for all things existing. The universe was caused to exist in its beginning, and something is causing the universe to continue to exist even now. Things are not self-creating. And (as identified in the second law of thermodynamics, which says that as energy is transferred or transformed, more and more of it is used up; this law also states that there is a natural tendency for any isolated system to degenerate into a more disordered state), things are not self-sustaining.

The Cause of created things and the Sustainer of the created universe is God.

Science tells us there was a beginning. Mathematics and time prove there was a beginning - since neither time nor numbers can

be counted backward forever. At some point there had to be a beginning.

This logically-necessary beginning of the universe is identified by science as big bang cosmology, which can be seen today in the “red shift” (or Doppler Effect) seen three ways:

- In light from stars as they continue to move away from their point of beginning
- In the radiation echo from space with the same wavelength expected from the cosmic explosion at the beginning
- In the discovery of a mass of energy as expected from the beginning big bang

(Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics” by Norman L. Geisler, Baker Books, 1999; p.276-277, “Evidence for God”)

This beginning is described in God’s Word - Genesis 1.

### How is atheism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (Truth)?

*“Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.”*

– Jeremiah 14:22

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

– Psalm 90:2

*“Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ declares the LORD.”*

– Jeremiah 23:24

*“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*

– Exodus 3:14

*“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”*

– Psalm 19:1

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

– Psalm 90:2

*“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”*

– John 1:18

*“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”*

– Jeremiah 45:18

*“O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.”*

– Isaiah 37:16

*“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.”*

– Revelation 11:17

*"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good."*

– Psalm 14:1

## AGNOSTICISM

Agnosticism is a view that declares human reason cannot rationally know or be certain of the existence of God, spiritual beings, or anything supernatural. There are two forms of agnosticism. The first is known as limited agnosticism, and teaches that our finite knowledge cannot attain the infinite knowledge of God. The second form is called unlimited agnosticism; it claims that God and reality are simply unknowable.

### How is agnosticism shown to be false by Natural Revelation (Reality)?

Unlimited agnosticism defeats itself when it claims that God and reality are unknowable. It is completely illogical to claim to know that this position is true on the grounds that nothing is knowable - which is what must be done for unlimited agnosticism to be taken at all seriously. How could anyone claim to know anything, if their philosophy is based on the belief that no one can know anything?

Limited agnosticism however, which distinguishes between finite knowledge and infinite knowledge, does line up with biblical revelation. Man is finite and so limited to finite knowledge. Infinite knowledge exists, but can only be known entirely by an infinite being. So, there must be an infinite being that we call "God". Limited agnosticism leaves the door open to the possibility that infinite knowledge - including the existence and character of an infinite God - could be made known to us by God. This is also the biblical position. God has revealed himself in creation and by special revelation.

### How is agnosticism shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (Truth)

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

– Deuteronomy 29:29

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."*

– Matthew 7:7-8

*"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*

– Hebrews 11:6

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."*

– Hebrews 1:1-2

*"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

– Matthew 6:33

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."*

– Psalm 19:1-4



*"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

– Romans 1:18-20

*"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."*

– John 1:18

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

– Jeremiah 29:13

*"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."*

– 1 Corinthians 2:14

*"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable."*

– Isaiah 40:28

*"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."*

– James 2:19

*"And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"*

– Isaiah 6:3

*"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

– Isaiah 55:6-7

## EVOLUTION

Cosmic evolution holds that matter has existed eternally, and the universe as we know it evolved out of this eternal matter over a very long period of time. The simple structures that existed billions of years ago have changed and evolved through various forces of energy into everything that exists today - stars, planets, all life forms, human beings, and modern technology.

Biological evolution can be subdivided into two categories - microevolution and macroevolution.

Microevolution is the process of various forms of life adapting to their environment. This is natural selection as we understand it, where the random desirable and success-inducing genes of one generation of a species are passed onto the next generation and become part of that species' standard makeup. This part of evolution is consistent with biblical revelation.

Macroevolution is what we normally think of when we think of "evolution". It is the idea that things turn into other things. For example, a microbe will, in time, become a human being. And since the process is still ongoing, human beings are even now slowly evolving into the next higher level of being. This part of evolution is not consistent with biblical revelation.

### How is macroevolution shown to be false by Natural Revelation (Reality)?

As well-known and generally-accepted as this worldview is, it is not without problems. Here are a few reasons we would do well to remain skeptical.

- Explosions of new life forms are found in the fossil record with no sign of the transitional forms that are necessary for evolution to have occurred.
- Random mutations do not lead to new species - they lead to mutations. If drastic enough, these mutations will lead to an early death of the individual, or even the extinction of the species itself.
- DNA evidence destroys evolution's "tree of life" diagram often seen in textbooks. Instead, DNA supports the process of species producing more of their own kind, which creates clusters with none of the connecting branches the so-called "tree of life" presents in evolution-supporting textbooks.
- The provable and observable small-scale changes occurring within a species - such as the size of a bird's beak or color - are not demonstrating macroevolution (the transformation of life from simple to complex), but instead are adaptations of a species to its environment. The ability to adapt genetically (microevolution) has been in DNA since Creation, and is a demonstration of design placed in the DNA by the Creator.

In addition, evolution has been proven to be a false theory for the origin of life in several scientific fields:

- Genetics shows that random mutations cause harm to organisms and do not build complexity.
- Biochemistry suggests that random and undirected processes do not seem capable of producing cellular complexity.

- Paleontology - meaning, the fossil record, shows the abrupt appearance of species and generally lacks intermediate fossils.
- Taxonomy tells us that despite increasing DNA discoveries, biologists are failing to reconstruct Darwin's 'tree of life'.
- Chemistry has not been able to prove that the origin of life is the result of chemical processes. From the perspective of chemistry the origin of life remains an unsolved mystery.

### How is evolution shown to be false by Special Revelation in Scripture (Truth)?

*"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*

– Genesis 1:1

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."*

– John 1:1-3

*"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."*

– Romans 1:25

*"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."*

– Psalm 33:6

*"You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."*

– Nehemiah 9:6