

THE HUMAN CONDITION

April 19, 2020 ser3930 – True Religion, Pt2

Wow that was such a beautiful performance by Chad and Alberto. Great job guys!

I know I may be biased, because I am the creative arts director here at GCCC, but I think I can truthfully say that I am blessed to work with the best creative arts team anyone could hope for.

So for those of you who don't know me, my name is Stephen Childs and it's my honor and privilege to continue our short series on "**True religion**" with a message I entitled: **The Human Condition**.

Now I've noticed that living in a **Covid-19** world for the past couple of months has had some unexpected consequences, particularly how we associate with one another.

So many things have changed so quickly that I feel that my head is going to spin off my shoulders.

I mean, even a simple handshake or embrace that was once considered rude if not reciprocated, now has become taboo. So, we as a society had to come up with some acceptable alternatives.

First, as you know, it started off with a **fist bump** and then quickly went to the **elbow bump**. But now with social distancing, that's not even enough.

So I personally came up with a couple new ones:

- This is what I call the **foot** bump. It keeps you further apart, but takes way too much skill.
- Then there is the knee to **gut** bump. It's a little too close maybe, but it is so much fun!
- And finally there is my favorite...the **butt** bump. This is the best of both worlds and quite frankly, I think this is going to start trending soon, lol.

Positive changes

Now I know it's hard to admit, but there have been some positives in our current situation as well. And one in particular has been VERY good to see.

And that is, people are beginning to take a more serious look into their spiritual lives than before all of this began.

People are scared and unsure of tomorrow because of this pandemic, so they are seeking answers **outside of themselves**.

To me this is a good thing, because I believe that anyone, even those of a different faith who may be truly seeking God with an open heart, are giving God an opportunity to reveal Himself to that person in a real and personal way.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 - seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open.

People are seeking and knocking more than I have ever witnessed in my lifetime. I have had so many opportunities to share my faith because people are truly looking for answers. So, when they truly seek and knock that's when Jesus can open the door to their hearts.

But there is one religion that is growing in popularity more than any other, but does **not even aspire to seek truth beyond ourselves.**

The current situation does not make them turn upwards for answers, they instead turn **inward.**

It is the religion of HUMANISM.

Secular humanism has been in a lot of ways a "hidden religion."

But... if you look close enough, you can see it in our schools, in our government even in some of our churches. It's consistently being uplifted by the world around us and yet, we never notice it because of how slowly it has been sneaking into our lives.

And unfortunately, I think that people are more open to its lure now more than ever **because of the pandemic that we currently live in.**

How you may ask?

Well, let's begin by taking a look at what secular humanism believes.

According to the American humanist association:

Humanists reject the claim that the Bible is the word of God. They are convinced the book was written solely by humans in an ignorant, superstitious, and cruel age. They believe that because the writers of the Bible lived in an unenlightened era, the book contains many errors and harmful teachings.

The Human condition could be greatly improved if resources were used for solving the world's problems instead of worshipping a nonexistent God.

They do not believe we were created but rather evolved purely through blind chance. So, science becomes the spiritual force that is looked at for our answers. Science is what can be trusted.

Now you may be asking...isn't this just atheism? No, this is atheism with purpose.

You see...Atheism has always had the problem of meaninglessness. *"If I am only an accident, then I have no purpose in life."* People don't like meaninglessness.

So, Humanism gave the atheist a religious purpose while at the same time defines itself as a non-religion. It is brilliantly sneaky.

It advances a code of morality, individualism and social justice.

In fact there was a person who not too long ago was kind of mocking me at my recording studio because he noticed that I

didn't curse along with him.

Now, this guy drops the F-bomb and takes the Lords name in vein every other word. So, he was kind of laughing at me and how quaint I was.

But, that same person took great offense when I used the word **sin**, or the fact that I didn't separate my recyclables correctly. THAT was an anathema to him and was literally appalled. I violated his humanistic moral code.

You see they now have their rules, their own community of followers, their church is the school systems from kindergarten through college.

They proselytize in the media and entertainment world which allows them the opportunities to easily spin their dogma teaching that **“man is in control of his own destiny because we are our own gods.”**

So what does this have to do with our post Covid-19 world?

Well, as we continue to seek out the wisdom of those in our medical and scientific research industries, we must be cautious, and remember that these people, although they are wonderful, and to me true heroes, **they are not in place of an all-powerful and all-knowing God.** They are man. Which means they themselves are flawed, dependent upon God whether they know it or not.

You see, the world wants to twist what we are doing in this time period as an example of **human** achievement without the

help from the God of the Bible.

We hear of the incredible steps that man has taken all over the world to kick start our research to find a cure. We read over and over in countless articles and blogs how “**we will defeat this virus because of the power of science and the human spirit.**”

Like this one article in Forbes magazine which reads: Here is a tremendous bright spot that remains undimmed: the power of our scientific knowledge to **guide us through these difficult times**. We no longer live in an era where we have to rely on assumptions or **superstitions** to understand what's occurring. Our response can demonstrate just how far we've come as a civilization.

But what this pandemic has shown us, is how **little** control we have with the world around us. I mean think of it....if you and I were the size of a bacteria...we still could not see a virus because it's that small. It is something that is not alive and simple (it's only a strand of DNA or RNA wrapped in a protein shell). **And yet this tiny, simple unintelligent thing has stopped the entire world!**

And this fits what scripture says in I **Corinthians 1:27** -
*God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;
God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

Now... it may surprise some of you when I say this... I am a Christian... which also makes me a humanist. **I am a true humanist.**

You see I look at all the doctors and nurses risking their lives to save others as a testament of the beauty of humanity, and praise God for them.

ADAM AND GOD'S HANDS

Humanity is an awesome thing, but the real reason humans have this potential of selflessness and great ingenuity is because **we were created in the image of God. That's why.**

And God is Himself... pro human.

Remember, Jesus came down as a human. **A man**, and He showed us the very best potential in all of us.

He showed how we can love unconditionally, how we can forgive those who hurt us and **do unto others as we would have them do unto ourselves.**

But often as human beings, we allow ourselves to become misguided, following every false wind of doctrine that comes along...(including secular humanism) which takes truth and perverts it.

This is why Jesus said father forgive them **BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.**

And despite our flaws, God loved us and forgave us not because we were worthy- but we were worth it. To Him we are worth it.

You see humanism has it right... just backwards.

They believe we are a tiny speck in the middle of the universe. That we have only been guests on this earth for a very short period of time, nothing more than hopeful accidents of a big bang, a highly evolved animal. But now, we are our own gods capable of controlling our own destiny.

But God says the opposite, you are not just a speck. You are the most important thing in all of creation. I gave you the earth so you could live upon it, and I gave you the universe so you can marvel at it and know that you are loved by me. But understand this I... AM GOD.

We **are** special and **we do** amazing things in this world and are demonstrating that every day in this pandemic. But if it wasn't for God, we would never survive on our own. NEVER.

God simply makes us a part of the plan. He makes us co-workers with him in this world.

Think of the measures we have taken that has been recommended by our scientific communities.

- Hand washing
- Social distancing
- Quarantining the sick.

Did you know that these are all BIBLICAL principles given to man almost 4000 years ago?

Look...**Leviticus 13:1-4** *The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a shiny spot on their skin like the **plague** of leprosy, they must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons who is a priest.*

When the priest examines that person, he shall pronounce

*them ceremonially unclean. , the priest is to **isolate the affected person for seven days**. After this they were monitored every 7 days and if they recovered, there still were strict rules of how and when to introduce them back into society.*

Leviticus 13:15 *When a man is cleansed of his issue, he is to count off seven days for his ceremonial cleansing; he must wash his clothes and bathe himself with **running water**, and he will be clean.*

Did you know that was commonplace for medical doctors to wash their hands in a shared bowl of water only a 150 years ago?

We know how foolish this is today, but the bible said to wash your hands under **running water** thousands of years before Covid-19.

Remember in the days Leviticus was written, no one knew about viruses or bacteria.

The bubonic plague

During the 14th century, More than 60 million people (1/3 of the population) died from the bubonic plague (also known as Black Death.) People at that time would keep the infected amongst the healthy even after they died.

And that is why it spread so quickly. Here again, they didn't know about viruses. They thought the death was caused by bad air or evil spirits.

It wasn't until the church fathers began to apply Leviticus 13 and 15 by quarantining sick individuals and burying the dead **outside of the city** did the disease finally stopped its spread.

It was the adherence to the Bible that saved countless lives.

In fact, there is a monument in Vienna Austria called plague column that was erected to pay tribute to the victims of this pandemic and for the biblical truth that stopped it.

And...It's exactly how we are doing it today.

You see science is always catching up to the bible. And that's why I feel we need to be cautious not to deny that man is powerless with the unknowns.

I hope and pray that when this is behind us, that we will all **Praise God for delivering us.**

Yes, our doctors and nurses, researchers and government leaders are doing a wonderful job. But they need our prayers, because only God can save us, not the power of the human spirit...But through His Holy Spirit.

I know this because God is all about saving.

INVITATION

You see there is another disease that has infected man. In fact, were all born with this disease. **It's called sin.** And much like a virus it enters our bodies and multiplies from within. Ever growing.

And in doing so, destroys the life that was once there. **THAT'S THE HUMAN CONDITION**

But Praise God...this virus does have a vaccine for our condition. It is found in the blood of JESUS CHRIST.

The Bible says in **Romans 6:23** that *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Jesus Himself said in **Mark 2:17** *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”*

You see this is why Jesus is called the great physician and what's interesting...He's not just the doctor... He is also the cure.

He's the physician and the medicine all in one.

So for those of you who are listening and have never received Jesus' healing touch in your life, we here at GCCC often say that it's literally as easy as ABC.

A - We Admit the truth about ourselves that we have indeed sinned against a Holy God.

Romans 3:10-12 *“None is righteous, no, not one;*

And its right in the face of humanism that teaches man is inherently good. Well the word of God as well as history says that is not true. Man is born with a sin nature.

But then...He give us the letter B - Believe!!!

*Believe that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him -will not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16***

God Himself became human so as to put an end to the death sentence of the human condition.

And that bring us to the C - Commit.

Commit to His righteousness. Don t wait for the unexpected to happen. We saw just how fast the world can be taken away from us. Commit to His righteousness and if I can add a **D - Do it today!**

So I'm going to ask that you pray this simple prayer in your heart with me

Say, Father, thank you for loving me a sinner.

I know that I have done things wrong, things you have called sin.

But, I also know you did something about it by sending Jesus, who died on a cross to save me from eternal separation from you.

And so Father I accept this free gift of salvation. I am asking you to please forgive me for my sins.

Make me born again and alive in your son, JESUS.

I thank you in HIS name...Amen...And amen.