

# Your Only Reasonable Response to the Gospel (Pt. 3)

*Romans 12:1-2*

- I. The Grounds for a Life of Total Commitment to God (1a)
- II. The Demonstration of a Life of Total Commitment to God (1b-2)
  - A. Present your Body to God (1b).
  - B. Present your Mind to God (2)
    - 1. Reject the Thinking of Our Age (2a)

# The Prevailing Philosophies of our Age

- Naturalism

# Naturalism

1. Matter is all that exists, and it has existed eternally.
2. The cosmos is a closed system—there is nothing supernatural or miraculous.
3. Human beings are complex machines; personality is simply an interrelation of chemical and physical properties we do not yet fully understand.
4. Death is the extinction of personality and individuality.
5. Morality is determined solely by the individual and the circumstances.
6. History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without an overarching purpose.

# Practical Ramifications of Naturalism

1. Anti-supernaturalism: "All belief in the supernatural is ludicrous and irrational" (cf. Ps. 14:1)
2. Darwinian Evolution: "The sole reasonable explanation of the origin of the universe and everything in it is Darwinian evolution" (cf. Gen. 1:1; Is. 44:24).
3. Moral Relativism: "There are no moral absolutes" (cf. Rom. 1:32; 2:15).
4. Existentialism: "Life is random and meaningless" (cf. Ps. 33:11; Is. 46:10-11).
5. Species Equality: "Man is simply another animal."
  - a. "Man is no more valuable than any other animal" (cf. Gen. 1:27; Mt. 12:12).
  - b. "No sexual behavior is sinful" (cf. Eph. 5:5-6).
  - c. "It's morally wrong to use animals for food or clothing" (cf. Gen. 9:3; 3:21).
6. Environmentalism: "Man is not merely a steward of the planet, but its destroyer or its savior" (cf. Gen. 8:21-22; 2 Pet. 3:7).
7. Scientific Certainty: "All the postulates of modern science are empirically proven, universally accepted, and certifiable reality" (cf. Ps. 119:160; Jn 17:17) .

# The Prevailing Philosophies of our Age

- Naturalism
- Humanism

# Practical Ramifications of Humanism

1. Personal Fulfillment: "The most important goal in life is my own personal fulfillment" (cf. Matt. 22:37-38).
2. Democratic Morality: "A consensus of the majority determines morality" (Rom. 3:10-12).
3. Anti-authority Attitude: "No one has a right to curb or question my pursuit of self-fulfillment" (cf. Rom. 13:1).

# The Prevailing Philosophies of our Age

- Naturalism
- Humanism
- Marxism/Socialism

# Practical Ramifications of Marxism

1. The Immorality of Personal or Corporate Wealth: “Wealth is inherently sinful and it can only be attained by the oppression of others” (cf. 1 Tim. 6:17).
2. The Moral Imperative of Government Intervention: “Government should own and/or redistribute the resources to all, more fairly” (cf. Zech. 3:10).

# The Prevailing Philosophies of our Age

- Naturalism
- Humanism
- Marxism/Socialism
- Postmodernism

# Practical Ramifications of Postmodernism

1. Pragmatism: “Each individual in each circumstance or the culture as a whole decides what is *practically* true or what works—*pragmatism*” (cf. Ps. 119:89).
2. Denial of the Law of Non-Contradiction: “What is true for you may not be true for me” (cf. 1 John 2:21) .
3. Gender Identity: “People are whatever gender they claim to be regardless of contrary evidence” (cf. Gen. 1:27)
4. Religious Inclusivism: “There are many ways to God, and they’re all true” (cf. Jn. 14:6).

# The Implications

1. There are no truly independent thinkers.
2. The prevailing mindset of our time constantly assaults us and tries to push us into its mold.
3. God holds us responsible to identify the flawed thinking of our time and refuse to be shaped by it.
4. Our thinking about everything must be directed and determined solely by the revelation in God's Word.