

## Some More Isms

*John Isaac Edwards*

This is a takeoff from ‘ism’ being declared 2015 word of the year by Merriam-Webster.

1) **Atheism.** Atheism is the disbelief in the existence of God. The atheist movement is sweeping the country. Recently, there was a campaign in Indiana to run an ad on area buses stating, “You can be good without God.” In a TV ad for the Freedom from Religion Foundation, Ron Reagan touted, “I’m Ron Reagan, an unabashed atheist, and I’m alarmed by the intrusions of religion into our secular government. That’s why I’m asking you to support the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the nation’s largest and most effective association of atheists and agnostics, working to keep state and church separate, just like our Founding Fathers intended.” He ended the ad with a wry smile, saying, “Ron Reagan, lifelong atheist, not afraid of burning in hell.” Atheists’ Santa billboard urges Americans, “Go ahead and skip church! Just be good for goodness’ sake. Happy Holidays!” There is no reason for anyone to be an atheist! The Bible affirms, “In the beginning God...” (Gen. 1:1). “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...” (Ps. 14:1; 53:1). “The heavens declare the glory

of God; and the firmament sheweth his handyowrk” (Ps. 19:1). “For in him (that’s God) we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). If you deny God exists, try living, moving and being without breathing His air or drinking His water!

### 2) **Humanism.**

Humanism is a system of thought that attaches prime importance to human rather than divine matters. It rejects the supernatural and relies primarily upon reason and science. The humanist movement is alive and well in this country, and largely governs what goes on in our educational system. Humanism places trust in human intelligence rather than in divine guidance. Humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created, and man as an emergence from natural, evolutionary forces. Humanism advances situation ethics, the belief that there are no absolute rules of right and wrong, and no Divine revelation to set the standard for conduct. Each individual decides for himself what to do according to what he believes would best promote the enrichment of people in this life. Any act can be right under certain circumstances.

Humanism promotes sexual permissiveness with the notion, “...individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life-styles as they desire.” Jeremiah exclaimed, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). The Bible, the word of God, is the absolute standard of right and wrong, which men must obey (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 12:48).

### 3) **Materialism.**

Materialism is the tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values. We must be careful not to become preoccupied with material things. We are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind (Mt. 22:37). We “cannot serve God and mammon” (Lk. 16:13). Jesus warned of “the deceitfulness of riches” (Mk. 4:19). “...a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Lk. 12:15). “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase...” (Eccl. 5:10).

4) **Liberalism.** The terms ‘liberal’ and ‘conservative’ represent two different attitudes or mindsets toward any document, law, or standard of authority. A conservative is committed to strictly following, protecting and preserving the standard without changing its instructions. The liberal does not strictly follow the message or pattern of teaching, allowing unauthorized changes to be made. *Liberalism seeks to involve the church in social and recreational work* by providing meals, parties, ball games, kitchens, dining rooms, gymnasiums and the like. The church is “a spiritual house” (1 Pet. 2:5), and is “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). Social and recreational activities belong to the home and the individual (1 Cor. 11:23, 34). *Liberalism reasons that whatever the individual can do the church can do.* The Scriptures make a clear-cut distinction between individual action and church action (Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:16). *Liberalism promotes centralized organization* through the ‘sponsoring church’ arrangement (where a local

church sponsors a work, solicits donations from other churches, and oversees the funds and work of multiple churches) and church supported human institutions (where churches make donations to colleges, summer camps, childcare agencies, medical clinics, retirement centers and the like). In the New Testament, each church did its own work of evangelism, edification and relief, without building and maintaining human institutions, and each church sent directly to preachers in the field and brethren in need without any kind of centralized agency, board, or bureau (Phil. 4:15-17; 2 Cor. 11:8; Acts 6:1-7; 11:27-30). *Liberalism has a spirit of compromise.* It does not expose false religions, false doctrines, or false teachers by name. It does not lift up its voice against the sinfulness of drinking alcoholic beverages, tobacco use, gambling, dancing, immodesty, fornication, adultery, unscriptural divorce and remarriage, “and such like” (Gal. 5:19-21). It has an attitude of acceptance and tolerance and does not withdraw from unfaithful members (1 Cor. 5; 2 Th. 3). *Liberalism*

*does not respect the silence of the Scriptures.* It scoffs at the idea of “speaking where the Bible speaks, and being silent where the Bible is silent.” Liberals think we are free to do whatever is not expressly forbidden, and that anything considered a good work is authorized.

5) **Premillennialism.** Premillennialism is the doctrine that Christ will return to earth, set up His kingdom, and reign in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. Most churches subscribe to this ism. The Bible nowhere teaches that Christ will again step foot on the earth. He said He finished His work on earth (Jn. 17:4), the earth will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10), and the meeting place will be in the air (1 Th. 4:17). The kingdom is the church (Mt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:23, 28), and has been established (Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2). The kingdom will not be *set up*, but *delivered up* at Christ’s second coming (1 Cor. 15:23-24). The reign of Christ is not future, but present, “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (1 Cor. 15:25).

Beware of these isms!

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

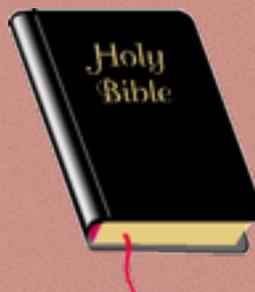
**Assembling At:**

4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

**Come be with us!**



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**