

# PROTECTING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AGAINST SECULAR HUMANISM

TEASA Bible College Consultation Workshop – 2021

## THE PROBLEM

**Basic Philosophy:** Affirms that all people have inherent dignity and worth, and therefore people should live ethical lives, seeking the greater good of humanity.

**Secular Humanism seeks to...**

1. End all religious worship in schools, include humanism in the syllabus, and bring an end to church schools and other schools with a religious character
2. Promote abortion, arguing for its decriminalisation, the provision of home-use abortion pills, buffer zones around abortion clinics and the restriction of medical professionals' right to conscientiously object.
3. Legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide.
4. Liberalise sex education in schools, to include abortion and teaching on LGBTQ+ issues within the syllabus, with no right of withdrawal. Consistently promotes LGBTQ+ rights.
5. Criminalise the teaching of creation in the school syllabus and replace it solely with evolutionary theory.

## THE EFFECT

**Secular Humanism's Effect on Theological Education:**

1. Student-centred education where the needs, interests, abilities, age level, attitude, aptitude, and environment of the student first need to be understood and based on that, the teaching-learning process is to be organised – The student sets the agenda.
2. Individual differences and ideas of the student should be respected and the inherent virtues of the individual developed. The teaching-learning process is to be developed according to this individuality.
3. Methods of teaching are based on psychological principles – they should not be teacher-centred and traditional teaching methods are to be avoided. The learner's readiness, mental ability and motivation are considered as the basis for deciding the method of teaching to be used.
4. Discipline should not be forced on the student, but they should be encouraged to self-discipline and self-control – students should be given the responsibility to discipline themselves.
5. The teacher acts as a guide, friend or helper of the students, and must not force his own methods and views on the student. Students should be given the freedom to develop and make progress according to their own pace, needs and interests.

What are some of the ways that secular humanism has been evidenced within your institution?

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### THE SOLUTION

What are some ways that you can combat secular humanism within your classroom or institution?

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**Three-pronged attack:**

1. 2 Chr. 12:32; Rom. 1:18-32 – \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Col. 2:8 – \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Gen. 3:5; Exo. 20:3-6; Jos. 24:14-28; 2 Tim. 3:1-5 – \_\_\_\_\_  
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“Our business is to present the Christian faith clothed in modern terms, not to propagate modern thought clothed in Christian terms”

– JI Packer (*Fundamentalism and the Word of God*, p. 136)