

Student's Name

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Date

Introduction

From the very beginning of American history the United States has been the Christian nation, it was implied by 'default' that an American is Christian. However, data from recent studies conducted by the organization Barna Group indicate that is no longer so or will not be so soon. Also the studies show 73% of Americans believe that the most important thing in religion is its objective and staying the reliable source of moral judgments, and that is why it is considered extremely important. The Protestants from the movement 'born again' mostly agree with this allegiance: this answer was derived from 91% of the movement members. Among other Christian denominations 67% agree with this statement, and of non-Christians - only 39%. 23% of Americans disagreed with this statement. Moreover, the majority of religious Americans agree with the statement that the loss of faith leads to demoralization of society, and the increase in crime and permissiveness is directly related to a decrease in the influence of the church on today's society. The fact that religion is the basis of their own morality is true to the majority of Americans, regardless of origin, political opinion or place of residence.

The Decline in Faith in the United States

92% of Americans believe in God, according to a new survey by Gallup (Gallup survey). This figure is considerably lower than in 1967, when a statistical survey found 98%

of believers among the citizens of the United States, according to CWN. 92% of Americans believe today have internal differences: 80% of Americans say they believe in God, while 12% believe in a 'universal spirit'. The reasons for this decline are different: globalization, with its multiculturalism, democratization, growing influence of non-governmental organizations whose activities make up the lack of moral and ethical education of new generations. In the United States, for example, there are a number of NGOs freethinkers and atheists, enjoying great prestige, especially among the intelligentsia. Among them, the largest and most influential are International Humanist and Ethical Union, which has branches in 30 countries, with the participation of many scientists, artists and philosophy students. As the head of this organization, the American philosopher Paul Kurtz, announced that the West is now committed to the deep 'humanistic revolution' associated with the secularization of society, with the triumph of scientific knowledge as the main support of the ethics of the emerging world community. The role of religion is declining (Sacks, 2011).

In general, the impact of evolutionary and creationist worldviews on society are tremendous. No doubt the following figure leads a great example of how two different worldviews, based on the belief in creation or evolution, affect our society.

Evolutionism VS Creationism

Abortion and Euthanasia VS The meaning and Value of Life

Sexual Ethics and Compromise VS Absolute Values and Norms of Behavior

Homosexuality and Sex Perversions VS Marriage and Family

Lawlessness, Anarchy and Socialism VS Laws, rules, roles and goals.

Naturalism and the New Era VS Christian Conservatism.

The decline in faith was largely encouraged and promoted by the public and official approach to the religious education and its presence at schools and higher educational establishments. Indicative in this respect is the experience of the United States, where the presidents are usually deeply religious and strongly support the religion and the church. At the same time, at schools and colleges education authorities strictly enforce the scientific level of teaching and reproach those who try to bring religion into the teaching and educational process. Among specific examples there is the recent case study of the American city of Canton (Ohio), where the art teacher Linda Gallucci was fired for imposing religious beliefs to children (Fassin & Lambek 3). It should be noted her dismissal was demanded and requested both by the administration and the vast majority of parents and students, thus the decision to dismiss her was adopted unanimously by the Pedagogical secret ballot. And this is not an isolated case. In New York, the city authorities have banned illustrations from the Gospel and other religious symbols to decorate the school (Fassin & Lambek 4).

These facts indicate that along with the profound respect for the church and the religious feelings of believers, the state does not allow religion into the educational process and does not permit the religious teacher to violate the secular scientific nature of teaching, grounded in the Constitution. Even in Muslim countries with dominant religion, where the church hierarchy are the bearers of the highest state authorities, where all the teachers are religious, they nevertheless cannot ignore the objective scientific nature of the natural sciences, because there is no Muslim or Christian physics or biology, but there is one-unified science, objective scientific content which absorb all, without exception, the students as future professionals, regardless of their attitude to religion.

The Theory of Evolution Acceptance and Consequences

Creationists argue that the theory of evolution has caused moral decay, genocide, and so on. That is not quite true. Of course, first and foremost the fall of man is guilty in all of these troubles. However, the evolutionary thought, having imbued all the society, will inevitably lead to an increase in the effects of the fall in one form or another. For example, the general restraints disappeared with the loss of a common understanding of morality. If every person is responsible to the biblical God who created the humanity (and to whom it belongs), then it makes sense to talk about moral absolutes: immutable rules of unchanging God. The Catholic Catechism starts its section on Catholic morality with St. Leo the Great's beautiful words:

Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God. (Catechism, #1691)

Morality is a call to recognize our dignity as men and women who have received a free gift of new life in Christ. We must live accordingly. The following moral concepts for Catholics in their theology are universal and unchanged, which makes them work for every generation and social stratum:

- Freedom
- Truth
- Natural law
- Law

- Conscience. <<http://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-morality.html>>.

There are no and cannot be rigid rules in the sequential evolutionary worldview; there is only that which is useful to society or the individual. There is no fundamental difference between humans and animals or people and plants, or people and minerals. That is why some leaders in the totalitarian political regimes compared the murder millions of people with mowing the grass in the meadow. This chilling approach is consistent with the materialist worldview ('in the world there is nothing but matter and all of us are just evolved clusters of atoms'). All this does not mean that all evolutionists behave immorally, and all creationists are benevolent. However, since immorality is logically consistent with the theory of evolution and is not consistent with biblical Christianity, evolutionary worldview provides a much more fertile ground for all kinds of manifestations of the sin. That is why the late famous evolutionist Stephen Jay Gould wrote, for example, that the sin of racism has increased to the scope of great magnitude, as justification and excuse for it was the theory of Darwin. Darwinists, who are opponents of racism, including the very Gould, indignantly exclaim that is a perversion of Darwinism, though it is logically consistent with the initial premises by Darwin (Schindler 13).

At the Nuremberg trials Goering said that the Nazis did not do anything wrong, judging by their own law, and were brought before the tribunal only because they lost the war. Objecting to this, the prosecutor Jackson appealed to some 'universal law', however such appeals make only sense if there is a common belief in the 'creator and lawgiver'. Thus, if the Darwinian worldview is shared by a lot of people, there is a suggestion that the immorality and cruelty in the world might increase. It clearly showed the 20th century, the century of Hitler and Stalin, Mao Tse Tung and Pol Pot. Of course, the mankind had known various atrocities and unjust 'religious' wars. However, for the sake of ideas, inspired by the

theory of evolution, there has been killed (mostly by one's own governments) more people than all wars, religious or other, had done for the whole history of mankind (Obiekwe 23).

Contradictory aspects of religious morality, however, do not give rise to a denial of the increasing role of the Church in moral education, spreading the universal moral values. This is especially important now when the traditional moral criteria of human behavior get blurred, the organized crime, corruption, greed, hatred and intolerance in human relations gain wide expanse. Highlighting the spiritual values aspects of human life, their consciousness and being, religion promotes spirituality of believers, enriching their personal qualities. In the Social Concept of the Catholic Church a special section is devoted to the moral health of society, strengthening the fight against crime and corruption, against all manifestations of immorality.

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