

development, and is not in favor of having His children wink at and do nothing about godlessness, the profaning of His Name, Word, works, or Day, the lawless disrespect of authority, murder, stealing, extortion, adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, dishonesty, perjury, lying, slander, and the satisfaction of man's unlawful desires! These things must be stopped or at least slowed down as much as possible!"

Even though the Bible predicts that evil men will grow worse and worse, and that the cultures and societies in the world will become increasingly secularized, nevertheless Christians are called on to struggle against the development of evil in the world, and to resist the corruption and deterioration of their culture and society. Christians are called upon to be salt -- to try to hold back corruption in the world; they are called on to be light -- to shine the light of God's law on wickedness and the light of God's gospel on sin-darkened hearts.

Scripture places a heavy responsibility on Christians to try, by God's grace, to hold back the secularization process, first by attempting, through the proclamation of the law and the gospel, to change the character and moral conduct of individuals; and second, by attempting, through the application of the law of God to their community, state, and nation, to change the present drift of their culture and society toward Secular Humanism. As they do so, they do not need to concern themselves with ultimate success, for ultimate success belongs to God in His good time, and it is assured!

But as soon as we speak of applying the law of God to our culture and society, some practical questions arise, such as, "Do Christians have any *right* to impose their moral standards on non-Christians in a pluralistic society?" "Is it of any *use* to try to impose moral standards on someone else?" "Can morality be legislated anyway?"

Christianity and Secular Humanism in a Pluralistic Society

Christians in the United States live in a pluralistic society -- one whose citizens are constitutionally guaranteed equality of opportunity to freely exercise their religious beliefs, which are many and varied. In such a society, do Christians have a right to impose their values and moral standards on non-Christians? It depends on whether we are talking about *personal* values and standards or *God's* moral values and standards. If