

Think, for example, of the laws pertaining to references to God (on coins, in public documents, in public ceremonies, in oaths taken in courts). In a pluralistic society should these laws be struck down? Think of the laws concerning the public abuse of God's name in blasphemous or profane contexts. Think of the laws governing certain activities on the Lord's Day. Think of the laws governing armed insurrection against duly constituted authority, or violation of the constitutional rights of other citizens. Think of the laws concerning murder, or assault and battery, or threats to life, limb, or property. Should these be done away with? Think of the laws governing marriage, bigamy, polygamy or polyandry, divorce, rape, child molestation, pornography, sexual harassment, or discrimination based on gender. Think of the laws concerning theft, extortion, tax evasion, fraud, insider trading, or failure to fulfill contractual obligations. Think of the laws concerning truth in advertising and labeling, libel and slander, perjury in court, misrepresentation in legal documents, or forgery.

All of these laws incorporate Judaeo-Christian values and norms. Should they incorporate such values and norms in a pluralistic society? If laws are not based on such values and norms, on what other values and norms will our laws be based? Can we have value-free laws and maintain a just, peaceful, and compassionate society?

If Judaeo-Christian values and norms rest on the authority of the one true and living God; and if Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Jews comprise more than 96% of the religious population of the United States and 56% of the total population of the U.S.; then we must ask ourselves whether we wish those values and norms to be eroded out of our culture and society, either by strong and vocal action on the part of secularists or by simple disuse and decay through apathy or silence on the part of those who highly regard and prize those values and norms. We must remember that the goal of the secularists is not a neutral, value-free culture, but the destruction of all absolutes and the establishment of an atheistic, materialistic, and hedonistic culture! We must remember that when the secularists cry out against the imposition of Judaeo-Christian values and norms upon them in a pluralistic society, they are crying out for the imposition of their secularist set of values on us! And if they win this "culture war," they will have succeeded in redefining America!

D. What can Christians do to combat the secularist trend in moral values and norms and to influence their culture and society for good?

1. What can they do individually?

As individuals, Christians can use all lawful means:

First, they can faithfully witness to those who are non-Christians, using both the Law and the Gospel as tools.

Second, they can try to enlighten others (Christians as well as non-Christians) to the concepts and goals of secularism, and raise their consciousness as to the inroads secularism has already made in their culture and society.

Third, they can try to point out to others what the erosion of biblical principles from their culture will mean in terms of