

Christianity	Secularism
Earthly life is a means to a spiritual end	Earthly life is an end in itself
Life is about spiritual reality underlying experience and the primacy of that reality	Life is about temporal conditions and their betterment
God spoke both the spiritual and natural worlds into existence	Man creates reality through his words (linguistic constructivism)
Our purpose on earth is to conform our souls to spiritual reality	Man conforms temporal reality to his will
Man is a free moral agent who can choose	Man is a victim of the laws of history and social and economic circumstances
Sin is individual, present in all, and is against God ( <i>man is the problem</i> )	Sin is social and against classes of people, reflected in unequal opportunity and outcomes ( <i>God is the problem</i> )
Christ frees men from sin to be united with Him (goal is <i>freedom</i> )	Mankind can create material equality for all (goal is <i>equity</i> )
Contentment with respect to material things (1 Tim. 6:8, Phil. 4:11-13)	Greed and covetousness with respect to material things
Love is chief virtue and is gained through self-denial	Self-actualization and tolerance for others who self-actualize is a chief virtue, which is gained by acting on desires and passions
Judgment before Christ at the end of life (2 Cor. 5:10)	No eternal accountability (Church embraces this when it teaches that grace eliminates consequences for temporal behavior)