

29. Mankind is thought no better or worse than any of the other species of animals or even varieties of plants. Since man evolved from the creation then he has no soul and therefore no moral nature.
30. If it is assumed there is no inner governor that regulates moral behavior then sexual trends are easily excited by instruction that concentrates on the physical components of sex while ignoring the spiritual.
31. Consequently, sex education results in an increase in sexual activity rather than diminishing it. Missing in the instruction is the sanctity of the marriage and identifying this institution as the only environment for sex.
32. Even worse, verbicide has redefined “marriage” as a multiplicity of consensual arrangements all emphasizing physical sexual relationships with no acknowledgment of the damage such deviancies do to a person’s soul much less society.

PRINCIPLE: Obscurantism results in promiscuousness so that morality becomes ambiguous.

33. The soul, whether admitted to or not, contains the conscience and self-justified deviant behaviors build up garbage in the soul so that a guilt complex develops and resultant self-reproach can lead to sociopathic behaviors.

PRINCIPLE: Government schools do not know how to deal with this. By ignoring the soul, counselors stress behavior modification absent biblical standards from the laws of divine establishment. From this has emerged a “new morality” enforced by political correctness. What is missing is rebound and spiritual growth.

34. Depression is a component in this process since the idea of an eternal future is rejected. Nothing is thought to exist outside the universe and thus there is no Creator and life has no meaning beyond the moment.
35. This leads to the conclusion that life is short, in most ways meaningless, and with no obvious purpose. Soon a depression sets in which motivates a frantic search for happiness.
36. When this search proves fruitless then sublimations are sought in a futile attempt to deny the inevitable consequence of being alive.
37. This is the conclusion that a godless worldview must reach and is best described as nihilism: “a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless. It is a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths.”⁵

⁵ Merriam-Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (2014), s.v. “nihilism.”



38. To what end does all of this lead? Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.
39. This philosophy finds its source in ancient Mesopotamia in the city of Uruk \ü' ruk\, the home of Nimrod, about a hundred miles southeast of Babylon.
40. It is located in the land of Shinar near Babel where the Tower of Babel was built. Later ziggurats, or temples, were modeled after this structure. The oldest extant ziggurat is found in Uruk and dates from the latter part of the fourth millennium B.C.
41. The convoluted ideas of the people of Shinar developed from their inability to deal with the specter of death. It is from this preoccupation that a philosophy of hedonism developed.
42. Background on one particular personality of the time is provided by:

Death and Life. Ancient people reflected on the inevitability of death. (Such) reflections are found in the Gilgamesh \gil' ga-mesh\ Epic, the adventures of Gilgamesh, king of Uruk around 2600 B.C.

The Gilgamesh Epic, composed in Akkadian, has been preserved in two major versions, one from late in the Old Babylonian period (1750-1600 B.C.) and a second by Neo-Assyrian scribes (750-612 B.C.).

The Neo-Assyrian version contains a scene in which Gilgamesh, in his search for immortality, passes by Síduri, the divine alewife (who is tending her beer stand on the seacoast). Her advice (in the Old Babylonian version) on the futility of his quest is quite similar to the advice in Ecclesiastes: "Live joyfully" (Ecclesiastes 9:9 [10th century B.C. KJV]).

Síduri begins by reminding Gilgamesh that it is impossible for humans to find eternal life, which the gods have reserved for themselves. Her advice to Gilgamesh is to eat, make merry, and rejoice in the feasting while he can. She tells him to enjoy the daily rounds of life: wear clean clothing, bathe himself, play with his children, and enjoy his wife. That is all, she tells him, that is allowed by the gods.

Old age and death will overtake everyone.
Gilgamesh continued on his search but found that
Síduri's words reflected reality.

The writer of Ecclesiastes [Solomon] offers
readers much the same advice: eat and drink with
joy, wear clean ("white") garments, attend to your
body ("oil on your head"), and enjoy your wife
(Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 [KJV]). The passage in the
Gilgamesh Epic shows that these ideas of
Ecclesiastes were known in the ancient Near East
as early as the Israelite and Judean kingdoms.
Síduri's speech proves that the idea of resignation
to mortality was pondered in the ancient Near East
in almost the same terms as it was by the preacher
of Ecclesiastes.⁶

43. What's the point of this tale? The unbeliever who has no hope and fears death devises a solution that enables him to satiate all the senses with pleasure in an effort to create happiness in the short time he has left before Ralph Stanley clears his throat to sing, "O Death."
44. To eat, to drink, and to make merry is the solution that betrays the unbeliever's realization of the inevitable.
45. On the other hand, a believer is able to do these things with a relaxed mental attitude with great thanksgivings to God for his grace and provisions in life.
46. It is the negative aspect of this philosophy that we see used by several biblical writers including the Lord:

Isaiah 22:12 In that day [warnings through the
prophet to cease revelry and begin reversion recovery
in the face of an Assyrian invasion] the Lord God of
the armies, called you to weeping, to wailing, to shaving
the head, and to wearing sackcloth.

v. 13 Instead, there is gaiety and gladness, killing
of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, eating of meat and
drinking of wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we
may die."

(See also: Isaiah 56:12, 1 Corinthians 15:32, and Luke 12:19.)

⁶ Earl D. Radmacher, gen. ed. *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary*, eds. Ronald B. Allen and H. Wayne House (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 789.



NOTE: This shows a lack of trust in the Lord, the sins of questioning divine integrity.

47. The decline of Israel was noted by the indifference of the people toward *Yahweh* and the failure of the prophets to issue warnings against their attendant moral decline:

Isaiah 56:9 All you beasts of the field, come and devour, all you beasts in the forest [**the enemies of Israel**].

v. 10 His [**the Lord's**] watchmen are blind [**prophets and city leaders**], they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

v. 11 Yes, they are greedy dogs which never have enough. And they are shepherds who cannot understand; they all look to their own way, each one for his own gain, from his own territory [**religious and political corruption**],

v. 12 “Come,” one says, “I will bring wine, and we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; tomorrow will be as today, and much more abundant.”

48. The Lord quoted this flawed philosophy in His parable of the rich fool in:

Luke 12:16 Jesus told the multitudes a parable, saying, “The land of a certain rich man was very productive.

v. 17 “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’

v. 18 “And he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

v. 19 ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come, take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”’

v. 20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’



Luke 12:21 “So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

49. Some confused believers in the church at Corinth did not believe in bodily resurrection. Paul responds to this in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 by using a debater’s technique to disprove their heresy. He concludes his comments in:

1 Corinthians 15:19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

He continues to address the doctrine of resurrection throughout the chapter and quotes Síduri’s flawed philosophy of its application to reversionists by Isaiah:

1 Corinthians 15:32b If we assume [εἰ (ei): 1st class condition: to consider the protasis as true for the purpose of debate] that the dead are not raised [οὐκ ἐγείρω, (*ouk egeirō*: present passive indicative)], “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

50. Today the children of America have been so programmed into believing there is no God, no eternal life, and no real meaning to life, an increasing number have developed a nihilistic disposition that is manifest by rampant drug abuse, alcoholism, and sexual deviancies. The guilt that accompanies all this leads some to murder, and others to commit suicide.

Nihilism. Relentless negativity or cynicism suggesting an absence of values or beliefs. Political belief or action that advocates or commits violence or terrorism without discernible constructive goals. A diffuse, revolutionary movement of mid-19th-century Russia that scorned authority and tradition and believed in reason, materialism, and radical change in society and government through terrorism and assassination. Latin: *nihil*, nothing.⁷

51. Over time, propaganda communicated to generations of children takes its toll. A combination of radical environmental dogma, plus sex education that emphasizes the physical at the exclusion of the spiritual, and the theologies of cosmic and human evolution combine to create a progressive worldview.

(End JAS3-31. See JAS3-32 for continuation of study at p. 311.)

⁷ The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, s.v. “nihilism.”



52. Dennis Prager was recently interviewed by *The Epoch Times*. His comments about education in this country could be summed up in one word: “nihilism”:

“Political correctness is way too mild a term. There is no such thing today as higher education. There’s higher indoctrination,” Prager said, “When you send your kid to college, you are playing Russian roulette with their values.”

While the Christian seminary is honest about its goals—namely to produce committed Christians—“the university does not admit its goal to produce committed leftists,” Prager said. “You come out with contempt for the founders of the United States. You come out with contempt for America. You come out believing that black or white is important.”

He points to changes in curriculum at the University of California-Los Angeles. Until 2011, students majoring in English had to take one course in Chaucer, two in Shakespeare, and one in Milton. But in 2011, the requirement was changed. Now, he says, all English majors must take three courses from among the following four areas: Gender Race, Ethnicity, Disability, and Sexuality Studies; Imperial, Transnational, and Postcolonial Studies; Genre Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Critical Theory; or Creative Writing.

“The left is totalitarian. All leftism everywhere has a totalitarian temptation. The only thing that stops the left in America from being totalitarian is that they don’t have full power. But whenever they have full power, they’re totalitarian. The college campus is the most obvious example.”¹

53. From among Dennis Prager’s comments, the pull quote used by the editors is, “I don’t expect to agree with people on everything. But if we can’t agree on free speech, we agree on nothing.”

¹ “The University Is ‘Infantilizing Its Students,’ Says Dennis Prager,” *The Epoch Times*, Nov. 21, 2019, 15, 16.

