

# Isolation from God

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At the beginning of the twentieth century Pope Pius X warned all of Western culture about the dangers of rationalism and materialism.

This great Pope warned that if these forces in Western culture went unchecked, they would enslave us all and we would not be able to free ourselves from them, and ultimately Pius X's warning has proven to be true. Ultimately, the very institutions that comprise Western civilization have collapsed under the weight of aggressive materialism and rationalism.

Under the influences of Marxism, scientism, and existentialism, Western culture gradually turned away from God and embraced materialism and to a certain extent hedonism.

The scientific and industrial revolutions of the 19th century brought with them the idea that humanity was an end unto itself, and therefore infinitely perfectable, both socially and scientifically without the need for God. Humanity's dream of becoming God in the twentieth century has resulted in our enslavement by an ecological and social nightmare.

The anti-theistic and anti-Christian climate of the 19th century reached its horrible climax in the horrors of Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany. It is most interesting that both the Nazis and Communists rejected the Judeo-Christian concept of God and instead worshipped paganism and atheism. More people perished under their rule than in every religious war combined, an estimated 50 to 60 million people died under their tyrannical rule.

Americans remained isolated for the most part from the social and political upheavals occurring in Europe until after World War II. After the war Americans

grew more and more materialistic just as the Western Europeans had done before them.

Soon materialism consumed America, and by the 1960's "God is dead" became the predominant ethos for many Americans. It is interesting to note that as Americans became more materialistic and less religious, the crime and illegitimacy rate increased right along with it.

In 1940 the Bureau of Vital Statistics reported that there were 90 thousand illegitimate births nationally, and by 1990 it had risen to 1.65 million nationally. In 1940 twice as many people as a percentage of the entire population claimed to possess a deep religious conviction.

According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States there were 9225 homicides in 1963, and by 1993 it had risen to 23,271 nationwide, a 40 percent increase.

The loss of a sense of responsibility to God has resulted in the ultimate loss of regard for the well being of other human beings.

Materialism has brought selfishness and greed. Without the concept of God, people come to believe that they are responsible to no one, and therefore can construct their own idea of morality. Look at what moral relativism has done to our society. You don't think that you are responsible for these trends, but look what happens when millions of people do their own thing without regards to the results.

Contrary to this dangerous atheistic worldview, there is an absolute source of law and morality. Everything in nature including man is governed by various innate laws. For example, every star in the sky burns brightly because of natural laws, creatures are born and die because of natural laws. All things in the universe act and react because of definite laws that govern it.

These laws can be known by all through reason that has been enlightened by faith.

Faith is a free gift from God that not every one possesses.

Human truths or perceptions, meaning the idea that all truth is relative cannot be true because all of these so-called truths are contradictory. This by definition cannot be truth. What was true a billion years ago is true today and always will be. The Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines truth as, "The property, as of a statement being in accord with precise facts or reality."

If the existence of definite universal truths is in all of creation, then it is safe to logically reason that men and women are part of this creation and therefore subject to its laws. Because all things need an initial mover, we can therefore reason that creation cannot exist of its own accord. Therefore, there must be a Creator

ever existed. It is not dependent upon human reason or intellect to understand it or comprehend it.

One such concept is infinity. We know it exists, but we cannot understand it or ever hope to.

It is the same with God. He is and always will be. Revelation 22:13 states, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." It is impossible for scientists to prove God's existence on their terms because he is incomprehensible, and his existence is not dependent upon their small human minds.

St. Augustine said it rightly when he stated, "As we conceive truth, 'twice two equals four', everywhere. This truth is independent of all limitations of time and space. It is whole and undivided everywhere. It would be present without change to the minds of myriads of other worlds if they should be created at this moment. It would receive them into its presence rather than they it, and would no more be bounded by them than it was before. Now in place of abstract truth of the Substantial Truth, God, and you will have a true concept of his immenseness and omnipresence."

Man unlike God cannot exist and infinitum therefore he cannot be of his own creation. St. Thomas Aquinas says, "The Father is of Himself, because He is not from another."

Man cannot be truth for as John 8:44 says, "You are from your Father the devil, and the desires of your Father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and he had no truth because it was not in him." To deny God is to deny Truth. "I am the way the Truth, and the Light." If anyone believes they are their own God, I ask them if they their own creation and are you eternal?"

"The fool says in his heart, there is no God." Be warned that there are mysteries beyond human understanding. In the end we shall be judged according to our works (Rev 20:12).

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out of necessity for the existence of this Creation.

Human reason is not an end unto itself because truth existed even before humanity

# Execution by firing squad

## Too severe for multiple child killer John Albert Taylor?

by Mary Began  
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A death penalty sentencing took effect on Friday, January 26, 1996 in Drapper's Uinta Prison Complex in Utah. The decision for the means of death was severe: execution by firing squad, but was it none too severe for multiple child-killer John Albert Taylor?

In actuality, was it he who chose the means by which he died; he did not opt for lethal injection because he "didn't want to lay on the table and flip around like a fish out of water." Utah politicians were not entertained by this choice; they preferred a more "acceptable and modern" image for the state than that of nineteenth century remnant firing squads.

Preparations for this type of execution were extensive and complicated. Five anonymous volunteer peace officers acted as shooters with one rifleman receiving a blank to ensure sanity that any one's shot was not fatal. .30-.30 rifles loaded by a state official with standard .30-caliber hunting ammunition were used and placed on a gun portal enclosed 20 feet from Taylor where the shooters were lined up. Fully practiced in choreography, the firing

squad had been trained for the routine of aiming and shooting together. The execution occurred in a temporarily closed warehouse used by prisoners to make clothing with the execution chamber which held Taylor set up ahead of time. This chamber contained a chair to which Taylor was strapped by the arms and legs so as to avoid any slumping or slouching of the body. A large metal pan was placed under this chair in order to enclose any "remnants" of the execution.

As many reporters were rushing to the prison complex, there were only three groups of witnesses allowed to enter, each hidden from the other group. Nine journalists, five government witnesses, and three people specially chosen by Taylor were granted access to the facility.

As the execution date loomed over Taylor, he was supervised while in a special holding cell to ensure proper safety up until the day of his execution. He was allowed freedom of choice for his last meal

but certain liquors were not permitted. Two minutes were granted for his last words, with TVs and video cameras strictly forbidden. One good thing came from this fiasco: Taylor had offered his remaining intact organs for transplants.

Yet the main issue keeps posing a problem to Utah, with a bill already proposed by one legislator - should firing squad executions be banned? Are they too barbaric for such a scientifically and "humanely" advanced community?

Without even considering the moral debate over whether the death penalty should be legal, a normal person could logically assume and decipher as to why death by firing squad should or should not be lawful. Reasons for execution by gunshots (as considered by the prisoner): Person's own individual and free right as to that choice, and a quick and easy death, or as Taylor stated so eloquently, no "flopping around on a table." Reasons for execution by other means: more humane way of dying and with less mess to clean up

afterwards.

Here's the problem, are we to consider the execution's feelings or the executioner's? Some argue that as a prisoner on death row, one has no rights. Yet some prisoners who are awaiting impending death want the right to choose their fate as to their final days on earth. Even still, some people feel that it is no one's right to choose or to make such a decision; the outcome should be left to a higher power. Most officials don't want to deal with grief laying heavy on their heart knowing that they killed someone, that is why the use of a blank is in progress. Other officials don't want to be the ones cleaning up after death in such a grisly manner. That too, is a problem for Utah - the appearance of being less than human, or at least letting someone die that barbaric way. With today's innovative techniques, why allow death to endure such an old-fashioned procedure?

The answer can never be solved until those of high power cast their moral judgement upon firing squad executions. As for my stance, I go with the big picture: I believe the death penalty is wrong, firing squads being no exception; yet, "even in the midst of life, we are in death."