

# *Religious Humanism Discussion Group*

*13 January 2013*

## *Discussion Questions*

1. Humanism has grown out of 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance, Enlightenment, and The Reformation firmly on the side of modern thinking and secular philosophy looking to human reason in the form of science and philosophy as a source for truth, morality, and meaning in life. Rejecting religious dogma and theistic beliefs, both *secular* and *religious* humanist are firmly atheist.  
If you consider yourself an atheist, what lead you to that decision?
2. Secular and religious humanists reject traditional religious dogma and theism. What dogma do humanists have and if you are an atheist, does that make you a humanist?
3. What is the difference between *religion* the noun and *religious* the adjective?
4. The philosopher and humanist John Dewey describes religious faith or activity as, “a devotion to the ideal” and claims, “any activity pursued in behalf of an ideal end.....because of convictions of its general and enduring value, is religious in quality.” If religious activity does not require institutional rituals, official creeds, or a set of beliefs (dogma), what does it consist of?
5. How would you describe the qualities, attitudes, or characteristics of human experience traditionally thought of as religious?