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## Unbelievers claim a new label for friendly skeptics -- 'Neo Humanist'

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Meet the newborn Neo Humanists.

That's a label offered up by Paul Kurtz, the original founder of the secular-humanist [Center for Inquiry](#) in 1991, who recently broke from his own group over issues of "inclusivity."

- [Faith & Reason](#) blog is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)

Today, he's launched the [Institute for Science and Human Values](#) where he defines Neo-Humanists in detail. They're still, of course, critical of theism and big fans of critical thinking, but they now ...

... aspire to be more inclusive by appealing to both non-religious and religious humanists and to religious believers who share cor

They've posted a comprehensive statement of principles and values that's ambitious on a global scale. Neo-Humanists...

...hold that humanity needs to move beyond ego-centric individualism and chauvinism to develop transnational planetary institutions to cope with global problems -- include a strengthened World Court, an eventual World Parliament, and a Planetary Environment Monitoring Agency that would set standards for controlling global warming and ecological

And they take on matters closer to home, calling for the moral

education of the next generation, noting:



... to be a secularist is no guarantee of virtue and that many evil acts have been committed by religious and nonreligious persons. Hence the relevance of the Humanist outlook can be seen in an important sense by whether it provides personal meaning and moral purpose for the individual.

Unfortunately, people sometimes are nasty, uncaring, and insensitive to other people's feelings. They have been overwhelmed by hatred, jealousy, greed, or lust -- whether they are religious or not. Power is often an inducement for corruption.

Hmmmm. Who do they mean by that? [The New Atheists](#), described by Barbara Bradley Hagerty at the end of the schism among skeptics, as presenting a "more aggressive, often belittling posture toward religion."

The New Atheists are embodied by big names like Richard Dawkins and by bloggers like [PZ Myers](#) at the University of Minnesota, Morris, and blogs on science -- and "godlessness." Hagerty reports

On Blasphemy Day, Myers drove a rusty nail through a consecrated Communion wafer in a photo on his Web site.

Kurtz, Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at Buffalo, told Hagerty, he sees the New Atheists as "fundamentalists, and mean spirited," unlike "good atheists and very dedicated people who believe in God."

Hence his drive to re-brand the "good atheists" as Neo-Humanists better known for what they are and what they oppose.

The [CFI folks aren't taking this without a fight](#). Current chairman of the board Richard Schroeder is describing Kurtz as an erratic and arbitrary manager who was ousted from power to save CFI from what they're looking forward:

While others are consumed with personal grievances, we are focused on the threats posed by pseudoscience and dogmatic religion; while others are intent on creating strife, we are intent on creating a community of reason; while others dwell on the past, we are concerned with confronting the challenges of today.

**Are you Neo Anything, sticking to the faith -- or skepticism -- of your ancestors, or flipping the script over the top?**

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