

# **Human Rights without God:**

## Can Naturalism Provide a Foundation for Human Rights?

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### **I. Critical Dialogue between Christianity and Naturalism: The Foundation of Human Rights**

Christianity and naturalism are two major worldviews which appeal to millions of people in the contemporary world. The discourse on human rights has become the universal language in contemporary socio-political discussions. It seems that both worldviews should give some explanations of human rights by answering questions like: What is the foundation of human rights? Why do human beings have rights? What rights are in fact possessed by us? Why?

In fact, the relationships between human rights and both worldviews are complicated. On the one hand, some non-Christians attack the Christian faith for opposing human rights, and some theologians also perceive human rights as something anti-Christian. On the other hand, some claim human rights as the rightful heirs of the Christian tradition and the genuine expression of the Christian faith. I think there are good reasons to think that Christianity is at least one of the major sources of the idea of human rights. For example, one foundational document of modern human rights, the American Declaration of the Rights of Virginia