

# Introduction to Humanism (Humanism in Context)

## Overview of Concepts and Terms

**Human-ism** is. . .

- a philosophical perspective
- a way of life
- an evolving “movement” still seeking to define itself

**Theism:** a worldview framed by belief (god-focus)

**A-theism:** a worldview framed by disbelief (god-focus)

**A-gnosticism:** not knowing enough to believe or disbelieve (god-focus)

**Humanism:** a worldview and ethical practice framed by human experience  
(good-focus)

*Stated another way:*

**Atheism** is a position ... **Humanism** is a practice

*Related terms and concepts:*

**Worldview:** “a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world”

**Ethics:** “moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity”

**Philosophy:** the loving pursuit and study of wisdom

**Wisdom:** “the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment”

**Freethought:** a practice of critical thinking open to choosing other ways of thinking or believing beyond orthodox theisms

**Human:** ??? (what does it mean to be human?)