Marx’s *Theses on Feuerbach*

Theses I – III, V

- Rejects Feuerbach’s attempt to resolve mankind’s self-alienation simply by engaging in a purely speculative exercise, i.e. anthropological deconstructions.
- Rejects Hegel’s focus on the self-actualizing activity of a supernatural Spirit.
- Combines the materialism of Feuerbach with the overcoming activity of Hegel. The result is dialectical materialism, which sees world history as series of concrete struggles to overcome alienation, propelled by human activity.

Thesis V

Agrees with Feuerbach that religious thought and practice is a form of self-alienation. However, the secular, material conditions giving rise to this alienation must also be overcome.

Thesis VI

Agrees with Feuerbach that the essence or real nature of man must be grounded in the material realm, but rejects that this can be discovered looking at man theoretically, i.e., through biological categories. Rather, man is essentially a social, active being:

“The real nature of man is the totality of social relations”

Theses VII-X

Feuerbach fails to appreciate that the entire dialectical process which he has delineated is dependent on a particular form of society, namely, modern bourgeois civil society.

Thesis XI

“The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world in different ways; the point is to change it.