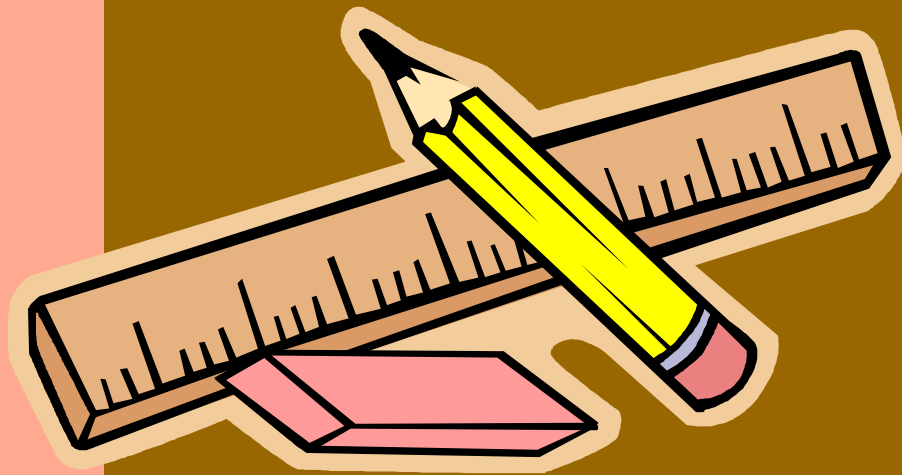


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OR PUBLIC EDUCATION:

WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE?



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As each school year comes to a close, numerous parents, will be asking the question, “To which school should we send our children next year?” For many, this question was answered long ago, even before their children were old enough to attend school. These parents do not have to make that decision every year. For them it is not a decision of location or vocation. It is not even a decision based on the availability of more academics. The only question that Christian parents should ask themselves is, “What is God's will?” Christian education or public education—parents will be held accountable.

We are living in a day when the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ could happen at any time. Therefore, our decision making should exemplify the mind of Christ (“*Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus,*” **Phil. 2:5**). Since we are to “*do all to the glory of God,*” **I Cor. 10:31**, should not our decisions reflect God's will?

In Ephesians 5:15-17, the Bible tells us that we are to walk circumspectly. We are to carefully, decisively, and accurately weigh each decision with the Word of God, for it is God's Word that makes the initial decision. Many times Christians turn the process around by first making a decision and then finding a verse or two to support it. We need to know the mind of God and His thoughts first before we make any decisions. Where do we find God's mind? It will not be written across the sky or revealed in a dream or a vision, and it will not even be given through special revelation (Rev. 22:18,19). The mind of God is made manifest in the Word of God.

Search the Scripture, for it is in God's Word that we shall find His will for our lives and for our children's lives (Acts 17:11).

Eph. 5:15-17 *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

Ephesians 6:4b says that fathers are to rear their children up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” The word “admonition” comes from the Greek word “nouthesia” which means a “putting in mind” or “training by word.” Coupled together, these words give us the proper method and material needed in rearing our children.

The material that we are to use is the Word of God.

Deut. 4:40 *Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.*

Deut. 6:6-9 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be an frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on the gates.*

Jer. 6:16 *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...*

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Our method in teaching Biblical principles is simple in word; yet, many times hard to act upon, and that is to “practice what you preach.” We must let our walk match our talk.

This method of teaching is to be constant. Deut. 6:6-9 (quoted above) says that it starts when we get up in the morning and it continues until we lie down at night. The Word of God commands us as parents to continually teach and train our children in “*the nurture and admonition of the Lord*.”

Dear parent, we will be held responsible for the way that we rear our children. They are the leaders of tomorrow and with the proper training, they can be “*vessels unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use*” **II Tim. 2:21**. No matter what vocation God leads our children into, if they are trained properly, then and only then, can we claim Prov. 22:6: “*he will not depart from it.*”

With the way the world and society are going, we as Christian parents need all the help that we can get when it comes to properly rearing our children. That is why it is so important that we attend a good sound fundamental Bible-believing church. We must also support it, not only with our tithes and offerings, but we must also support it with our attendance. “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (**Heb. 10:25**).

Since we are responsible for the training of our children, should not we be concerned about the teaching institutions that they attend? How about church, for example? Does not it make sense that we should want them to attend a church that teaches and practices the same beliefs that we hold? It would be foolish to teach our children to obey the principles found in the Bible and then turn around and send them to a church that contradicts those teachings. So if we (1) teach our children Biblical principles in the home as God has commanded us to, and if we (2) regularly attend a good fundamental Bible-believing church, is that enough guarantee that they will grow up to be mature Christians? Is there something else that can be done? What can we add to these two foundational building blocks that will further strengthen our children to withstand the onslaughts of Satan? To be sure, the Lord will bless us if we hold to these two points, but is there something else that can be added to strengthen this foundation? Yes, there is, and this third building block can be found in Christian education; education that is truly Christian; education that is based on Biblical principles.

Does the school your child attends reinforce the Biblical principles that he or she is being taught at home? If it is a good Christian school, it more than likely does. Christian education is not just a school where the word “Christian” is attached to the name. Christian education is not just a school with teachers who are “born-again believers.” Christian education is a philosophy of teaching based on Biblical principles. This Biblical philosophy should permeate every aspect of the school. It should be found in the curriculum. It should be the basis for all of the rules and regulations. It should be all brought together and utilized by the faculty who are truly born-again Christians.

Unfortunately, many parents really do not know what the difference is between Christian and public education. Many parents unknowingly say that “the public schools have more to offer academically,” or that “we just cannot afford Christian education,” etc.

So what is the difference? To put it simply— **philosophy**. True Christian education

is based entirely on Biblical principles. While public education is based on Secular Humanism, Christian education is based on absolutes. Public education is based on relativism. Secular Humanism is the foundation of public education. This philosophy is a deadly enemy to Christianity. Unfortunately, many parents are unaware of this philosophy. Attorney Eric I. Miller, Executive Director of Citizens Concerned for the Constitution, Inc., has made this observation:

I believe that the Christian school movement can be killed overnight if the enemies of the Christian school movement were to adopt the following formula:

1. Put short hair on boys
2. Put dresses on girls
3. Require homework
4. Have discipline
5. Go back to teaching the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic
6. Have Bible reading
7. Have prayer
8. Post the Ten Commandments

Parents would then pull their children out of the Christian schools overnight because they would feel that the public schools are now acceptable and appropriate for their children.

What the parents would not understand is that all of these changes in the public schools are merely cosmetic changes because the heart and soul of the public schools are steeped in humanism with regard to their textbooks and their educational philosophy. In other words, making all of these changes would be like putting a band-aid on a corpse. The band-aid would do no good at all because the patient is already dead.¹

Humanist doctrine can be seen in the two documents: Humanist Manifesto I and Humanist Manifesto II. It is interesting to note that:

The first document, “A Humanist Manifesto” (which is now dubbed the “Humanist Manifesto I”) was written in 1933 and signed by thirty-four influential Humanists of the day. John Dewey, the “father of progressive education,” was...one of these signatories.²

Look what the Humanists have to say about God:

We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of the survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity.³

Concerning the Bible they say:

...Traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species.⁴

What does God say about this? *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good (Pro.14:1).*

Situational ethics stem from the Humanist philosophy. This philosophy says that since there are no absolutes, then our decisions should be based on the circumstances, that is “the ends justifies the means.”

We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest.⁵

This doctrine totally permeates the curriculum of the public school system. Dear friend, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The public school system wants to destroy the Christian faith. Opal Moore has stated it well:

“For a school system to undercut the concepts of Certainty and Absolute Truth is to strike at the very roots of the Christian child's faith.”⁶

Dr. Joseph P. Bean further emphasizes this fact:

It should be noted here that, though most of the great philosophers supporting the creation of a world order believed in a supernatural being, one God, humanism is in complete control of education today. In the literature of education during the last five years, the traditional teacher with Christian faith is described as dangerous and destructive to the students.⁷

Parents are stepping dangerously close to the edge of loosing their children to the world when they send their children to a public school and say that the teaching their children get at home and at church will protect them.

Dear Christian, Satan wants our children, and he is capturing them through the public school system. We should not be so naive as to say, “I cannot see the secular humanism; therefore, it must not be there.” The fact that we cannot physically see it does not mean it is not there. We know that yeast has been put in bread by the fact that the bread rises. Yet, if we were asked to point out the yeast, that would be impossible. We know the yeast is there because of the affect it has on the bread.

Education is thus a most powerful ally of Humanism, and every American public school is a school of Humanism. What can the Theistic Sunday-schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?⁸

The fact that Secular Humanism is in complete control of the Public school systems may explain:

...why altogether too many young people from Christian homes and Bible-believing churches discard the church and forsake the Christian walk during their teenage years. Such young people, as they attend the government schools, are trained daily, for five, six, or more hours per day, in the religion of Humanism. Compare that figure with the four (or less) hours of religious instruction per week received by young people in the best of Fundamentalist churches, and the puzzle dissolves. We are losing our young people because they have been trained to be lost. We Christians have sent our children to the “seminaries” of the religion of Humanism.⁹

Yes, there is a difference between Christian education and public education, and that difference is **philosophy**. We must choose between a (1) Biblical philosophy (Christian education) or (2) a Secular Humanistic philosophy (public education). There are only two choices. It is not a matter of academic availability, nor is it a matter of finances. Parents, to which philosophy will you subject your child? Will they be brought “*up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (**Eph. 6.4**), or will they be brought up in the humanistic philosophy of the world? **Jer. 10:2a** says, “*Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen....*” Remember, we will be held accountable, but God is faithful and He will guide and bless us if we **truly** seek His will.

Footnotes

- ¹ Citizens Concerned for the Constitution, Inc., P.O. Box 44590, Indianapolis, IN 46244
- ² Alan N. Grover, Ohio's Trojan Horse, Bob Jones University Press, Inc., Greenville, SC, 1977, p. 46.
- ³ Paul Kurtz and Edwin H. Wilson, Humanist Manifesto II, Grant S. McClellan Number 156 (November 1973), pp. 39-30
- ⁴ Kurtz and Wilson, op.cit., p.30
- ⁵ Kurtz and Wilson, loc.cit.
- ⁶ Opal Moore, Why Johnny Can't Learn, Mott Media, Box 236, Milford, MI, 1975, p.15
- ⁷ Joseph P. Bean M.D., The Source of the River of Pollution Educator Publications, Fullerton, CA, 1972, p.10
- ⁸ From the book, Humanism, A New Religion, by Charles Francis Potter, 1930.
- ⁹ Alan N. Grover, op.cit., p.52

All Bible references are taken from the KJV.

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