

**General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?****Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?, on: 2008/5/28 14:51**

We've discussed homeschooling a little on this forum. Most of you know that my wife and I homeschool our children.

Sometimes because of finances, or other situations, parents have no choice but to send their kids to public schools.

But I'm interested in hearing from those who purposely put their kids in public schools, and do not necessarily think homeschooling is the better option... or perhaps oppose homeschooling all together. Would like to hear your thoughts on the matter.

I'm not trying to pick a fight! Just really interested in hearing opposing views on this.

And on the flip side of that... how many here do homeschool?

Krispy

Re: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools? - posted by MaryJane, on: 2008/5/28 14:56

Greetings

I homeschool my children all five of them.

God Bless

MJ

Re: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools? - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2008/5/28 15:22

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

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Krispy

I'll give a little different perspective, as a formely homeschooled student...

I started out at a young age going to a Christian school. Unfortunately for me, in this situation, I was a PK and everyone in school knew that, and they didn't like it. Thoughts of me being a goodie-goodie and a tattler, crossed most kid's minds and therefore I was one of the school's outcasts. I was always picked on, and never picked for P.E. sports or whatever. My spiritual growth kind of stunted for me as a child because of these things. I then was homeschooled and it was good. I didn't have to make friends, I had my brother and sister, and a pastor-dad, and mom. So, I grew in the Lord a good bit. I even ended up going back to the Christian school to finish out my last few years in "middle school," and it was all the same thing all over again.

But, quite honestly, I didn't really start to grow in the Lord until I went to public high school. It was strange. I had moved to a new state and going to the public school, I wasn't judged or mocked. Everyone accepted me. It was here at this public

c school that my faith grew ever so much stronger than it ever had previously. I am so thankful for the experience I had attending this public school.

That's my experience, though. I'm sure mine is different than most everyone's... ?

Re: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools? - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2008/5/28 16:10

Hi Krispy...

I certainly support homeschooling. My wife and I have all but decided that we will homeschool our children (when we actually have children and they reach school age).

I asked a question in the last home school thread that was overlooked (I think). My biggest concern with homeschooling actually lay with questions concerning the college acceptance/scholarship rate. My wife and I both relied upon large, national scholarships (as well as some minor ones) to pay for our university educations. I received a large scholarship from NASA that paid for both of my undergraduate degrees (paying for my tuition, fees, books, travel expenses, while also providing summer internships at NASA). My wife relied on several major scholarships for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees.

My wife's sister will be graduating from a large public high school next week. Lucia will graduate at the top of her class, and was consequentially offered full scholarships at several major universities – public, private and Christian – including several Ivy League schools. She decided to accept a “full ride” academic scholarship at Stanford University that is worth at least \$275,000. It pays for her tuition, fees, room, board, books, travel expenses, summers abroad (tuition, fees, room, board, travel, etc...), insurance, private tutoring, a laptop, school supplies, and a living stipend. In other words, she will not have to pay for any of her education out of her own pocket or through student loans or grants (however, she is permitted to apply for and keep the Pell Grant/Stafford Loans for whatever she deems necessary).

My question concerns the availability of such scholarships to those students who are homeschooled. Are there any figures that indicate the acceptance rate of homeschooled children at major colleges and universities? While walking Lucia through the application process (neither of her parents speak English), I noticed that some schools do not make a distinction between “home schools,” “private schools,” or “public schools.” However, I noticed that some seem less willing to accept a home school student. Why? A “class rank” matters to some schools.

There have been home school students admitted into Ivy League schools like Harvard. However, some of those students received “admission points” for other reasons (alumni/heritage points, higher SAT scores, etc...). While it is true that your SAT/ACT scores are the most defining criteria for admission, they are not the deciding factor (by far).

Lucia was accepted at several reputable universities. She was offered admission to Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Stanford, Penn, Wellesley, Baylor, Rice, Vanderbilt, Duke, Georgetown, University of Chicago, and the California Institute of Technology – along with quite a few public and Christian universities (including just about every school in Texas). She was actively pursued by these schools initially because of her class rank at a large high school (she ranked between #1-3 throughout her junior and senior years – out of a senior class of over 500). She eventually decided upon Stanford since my wife and I hope to relocate to the area by the end of the summer (and she will have family in the area).

I just cannot help but wonder if these same sorts of opportunities would have been offered to Lucia had she been homeschooled. I am not saying that a public or Christian college or university would not provide a wonderful learning experience (as well as a much-needed degree). However, there are few scholarships that are offered to students who attend smaller local colleges and universities. Lucia's brother, Emmanuel, graduated near the top of his class (out of about 575 students). He opted to enroll as an Architectural Engineering student at a smaller, local public university instead of one of the more prestigious schools that he received full scholarships. While he received plenty of the school's local scholarships, most of them were offered for only the first year (to get him into the door). Emmanuel has been forced to take out student loans to pay for the cost of his education. He calculated that he will eventually borrow about \$40,000 to pay for his education. If he had enrolled at a school like Penn or Princeton (where he was accepted), he would never have to borrow a dime in order to pay for college.

Anyway, this is just something that my wife and I have been pondering. Both of us attended lesser-known, but still well-respected public schools for our educations. However, even with all of the scholarships, grants, fellowships and awards, we both were required to borrow a little money to survive (especially for my PhD tuition and fees). My wife and I will likely homeschool our future children throughout elementary and junior high school. However, we aren't quite sure about e

xtending such homeschooling into high school. We pray that our children will be capable of shining the light of Christ and excelling in a public high school. However, we will certainly approach that situation with prayer and the mind of Christ when the time arises.

I would be interested in knowing your thoughts about whether or not it is advantageous to homeschool your children through high school.

Thanks!

:)

EDIT

- I just wanted to add that Lucia was able to maintain and grow in the faith during high school. She is a strong believer from a strong Christian family and was able to influence many of her classmates with the knowledge of God.

Re:, on: 2008/5/28 16:49

I don't have time to get into this right now, but will later. If I don't, remind me, ok?

But briefly most colleges now are actively recruiting homeschoolers. Homeschoolers on average score much higher on SATs and other college entrance exams. Also, colleges recognize that homeschoolers generally tend to be self-motivated and more self-disciplined than their public school peers. This has become very attractive to colleges.

However, I would recommend you don't send your homeschoolers to a secular college. Heck, I wouldn't even recommend most "christian" colleges. We need to be very cautious about that.

While academic excellence is certainly something we want for our boys... the reason my wife and I homeschool is mainly because we want to raise men of God who will rock this world for Jesus. Academics are secondary.

I'll write more later.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/28 17:14

Hi Chris,

As I read your post I thought, 'well, not every homeschool student is going to need that type of further education...' but that's another topic. ;-) I did want to say that there are other alternatives to the traditional college route that many homeschool students have taken advantage of. It takes more discipline but takes less time and money and applies knowledge the student already has instead of causing them to sit through hours of unnecessary training just to get a degree. <http://www.globallearningstrategies.org>

Here's a few testimonials from students who have gone this route:

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So, there are ways to overcome the obstacles the the world places out there for people who choose to take the less traditional path of homeschooling. And homeschooling is becoming more popular and more recognized, even as Krispy brought out.

As for a personal example of scholarships. I have a friend who obtained a degree with a major in psychology and minor in English mainly by taking CLEP tests and then he enrolled in (<https://www.excelsior.edu/>) Excelsior (I think) and finished up his degree. He recently decided on going to law school and after applying for scholarships all over the country he has a full scholarship for the University of Alabama Law School.

There are so many opportunities out there for homeschooled students. And I really think that homeschooling gives a greater opportunity for the student to pursue the topic or subject that interests him the most. I remember hearing a testimony of a young man who as a child was really interested in the guns/cannons of the civil war, and his parents encouraged him in his interest and he studied guns, metal, etc. And in his later teen years it opened up a great job opportunity for which he was already prepared because of his studying in that area. And I could go on with more examples...but I'll stop there.

My parents started homeschooling nearly twenty years ago. So that's all I ever really experienced. :) But it's definitely the route I'd want to go if I had kids. Oh, and this was the (<http://ati.iblp.org/ati/>) program I grew up in. It has great material and opportunities for young people.

~Joy

Re: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?, on: 2008/5/28 17:44

My husband has a five year old daughter who will be of kindergarten age for the next school year. Due to circumstances in the custody arrangement, she will be attending public school. Private Christian schools have much higher tuition than we can afford, and the odds that my stepdaughter's mom would be willing to pay her half are very slim. So to public school it is.

If we ever get full custody, homeschooling will be reconsidered. At this point, however, it isn't an option. So we will pray that she learns the Truth, despite what the schools try to teach her. We pray that the Spirit of God would reveal to her that which is true and that which is false. If false teaching arise, we pray that she will discern the things which are of God. Prayer is all we can do.

I went to public schools throughout my education, and went to a secular college for a year. There were actually very few instances where I had to close my ears to what my instructors were saying (with the exception of when I took both cultural anthropology and sociology courses, both taught by the same instructor at the community college and found myself winning often at his teachings)

As long as the children are able to learn the word of God from their parents, friends, AND church (not 'or'), there shouldn't be trouble. Especially if the parents are praying (in faith!) people. My parents didn't teach me much; my dad taught me some, but my mom is still not serving God. But I was able to get plugged in to a great group of people who not only taught me, but learned with me, and prayed with me. And despite 13 years of secular education, God protected me from learning and believing the lies that have infiltrated this so-called "education" system. I believe He can protect my stepdaughter in the same way.

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

Re:, on: 2008/5/28 18:19

It takes praying and involved parents to get a child thru the public school system intact. I can certainly understand your situation, and clearly there isnt anything you can do at this point.

Unfortunately, most Christian parents in our society are no different than their pagan counterparts in the world. They are just as materialistic, therefore both parents work in order to have the big house, the SUV's, the X-Box, etc etc... so off to public school the kids go. They put money and possessions before God.

Most Christian parents allow their kids to listen to any old music, watch whatever movies they want, and waste 4 - 5 hours in front of the TV... parents AND kids.

Hardly read their Bibles, never have family devotions, never teach their kids about the Bible... much less about godly character, etc...

And then when Johnny or Mary turns out bad the first thing they blame... is the church. The church didnt do enough to keep their kid on the straight and narrow.

wonserwonton... I completely understand and sympathize with your situation. You are an exception. Yes, pray. Yes, have faith in God to protect her... but also be prepared to do everything in your home AND your life to model for this precious little girl what a godly woman is to be. Teach her every minute you are with her about God and His Word.

And if you ever do get full custody (which I pray you do)... homeschool!

Blessings on you, sister...

Krispy

Re: Home Schooling Vs. Public Schooling. - posted by TrustingGod (), on: 2008/5/28 18:24

Greetings to all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I have not been on this forum very long, and just joined today as a "member". There are so many "WORTHLESS" "Christian" websites that will take your time, if you are not careful. However, THIS website has kept me coming back as I believe the members by and large, are genuine Christians on the journey to Heaven. Praise God. (All of my Scripture quotes are from the 1611 KJV Bible.) Now, The question asked by KrispyKrittr is one facing Christian parents the world over. Guess what. I'm not sure there IS a "right" answer! :-? I was brought up in a Holiness (non-tongues) Church all of my life. I lived in a very small Village, averaging about 1200 people. During my Jr. High school years, our own Church opened a "Christian School" (ACE). It brought quite a bit of strife in our Church as well as in the Community. In the Church, if you did not send your youngsters to this new Christian School, they you were about branded as a heretic. On the other hand, if you did send your children to the new Christian School, the "world" looked on and said "Oh, we see.... They're too GOOD to interact among US." In the 'middle' were the precious folks that chose "Home schooling" and they got it from BOTH sides! (My mother prayed and read Scripture each and every day prior to my sister and I leaving for school.) My parents kept me in public school, and soon after I graduated, the Christian School was closed, thus having caused "wounds" on the Body of Christ that were unnecessary. The majority of the kids that had gone to the new school, along with those who were home schooled, usually did better academically than those of us in public school. However, the downside was most of those same children had GREAT difficulty adjusting to living in "THE REAL WORLD" once they were out of that school or home. My wife and I had two precious children in 1981 and 1983. We struggled with this long before it was time to decide. One of the main verses that kept coming to our mind was: Proverbs 22:6. However, what about Jesus' prayer in John 17:15?! We finally started them in Christian School for a few years and then transferred them to the Public School, BUT, the School Principal, the teachers, the aides, etc. knew us by face recognition and our first names. That's because we kept VERY involved in their schooling. (I was a Fire Fighter/EMT who worked 24 hours on duty, and 48 hours off duty, so I got to spend much more time with this than the average working person would be able to.) In the last few years of their schooling, we were forced to move from the Dayton, Ohio area to the Mitchell, South Dakota area. Thus, we put them back in a Christian school there as we could not interact with the Public School in the manner we were accustomed to. For a period of time, we DID home school our children, and as I stated before, we were criticized by both the Church people and the secular neighbors. Although it's sounds so simple, the Truth is: Each parent has to pray and seek God's Will for THEIR children. If you do choose to home school or send them to a Christian School, then PLEASE on a supervised basis, let them interact with some of the secular children in the community. That way, under your leadership and guidance from the Lord, they will learn how to "Live in this world but not be a part of this world." Again, God bless ALL of you having to

make this decision, and also God Bless all of you on these forums. =^..^= Don.

Roniya wrote:
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Re:, on: 2008/5/28 18:40

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Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/5/28 19:22

We homeschool our children. Mom teaches the curriculum in the day (God based) and I teach the Word of the Lord at night, followed by good old fashioned Bible stories at bedtime.

Most kids, Christian or not, who go to public school ARE affected/influenced by other kids and the system regardless of what we as parents try to do to stave that off.

You CAN tell a difference between a Homeschooled child and a public schooled child, from a Christian family or not. Every child that I know that goes to public school has discipline problems (That does not mean that your children do or that all children do, just the ones that I know do). These children are from some pretty solid Christian families, yet they still are affected by the system and other children.

Think about it. When we send our children into the lions den, the majority of the time they will be eaten by lions.

Re:, on: 2008/5/28 19:56

To add to that though homeschooling in my opinion is always better than the public school system and that is where my husband and I do not agree but he is the head of this household and so it is God ordained.

My battle at home right now is more with the television set. I won't watch it but my husband and kids enjoy it so it's a battle as far as devotions go. I get up to go to work every morning at 4:00 am so at the end of the day it's a major challenge for me. Every once in a while though I am successful at steering them away but it's not easy.

I think of King David though and Absalom, even he had problems so we can only do as we are able and the rest is in the hands of the Lord who can do above and beyond all we can ever ask or imagine. He is the potter and I am just clay.

Re: why I chose homeschooling - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/28 22:44

My husband and I have 4 daughters. The 3 oldest all graduated from public high school. The youngest daughter has been homeschooled since first grade. While the 3 older girls were in 9th, 10th, & 11th, I enrolled our youngest in kindergarten. The next year she had to go to school all day long and I noticed such a change in her mood, not really an attitude of rebellion as much as a "distance" between her and I. Now mind you, I had been experiencing that strange "distance" with our older girls who were in high school, only it was in greater measure by the time they had been in school that many years. I did not as easily recognize it as it crept up on us. But when I finally saw the fruition of many years of being away from their parents for 8 or so hours daily, it was too late to remedy. When I began to see the same, but subtle fruits in our youngest I began to feel a panic in my heart. I was afraid that I did not have what it takes to homeschool my child, but at the same time I could see the fruits of "not doing that". I began to pray and ask God to help me know what to do. He was faithful in showing me through unmistakable signs and confirmations that this was Him laying this on my heart. I told my husband and he said "absolutely not!". He did not want me to homeschool our daughter, so I had to pray and trust G

od to change my husbands mind if this was really God's will. I can say thankfully that the Lord did just that and I took her out of 1st grade. She is almost 17 now and my husband tells everyone that it was the wisest thing we ever did! All 3 of our older daughters are married and 2 of them have children now. The oldest one is already homeschooling their 2 daughters, and the 2nd daughter is making plans to homeschool her new baby girl. All 3 older daughters said that after seeing their younger sister homeschooled and the positive results, compared to their experience in public school, that they would not even consider putting their children in public school. What I am trying so hard to convey (in my limited ability to communicate without too many words :-P) is not so much the academic side of this equation, but what some people would term...tying heartstrings. It has been my experience that if we keep the heart of our children, we have much more influence with them because they are not distanced from us. Public school cut so many of those heartstrings in our older girls that we lost much influence with them, and therefore they had more struggles in life and had to learn some important lessons the hard way, suffering some of God's chastisement, and some of the fruits of their own choices. My husband and I blame ourselves for much of their struggles. I realize that there are exceptions and circumstances in life that would prevent some from schooling their children at home (I say this with tenderness and compassion). God knows this, and He will cause all things to work together for our good.

That's my \$0.02 worth! bonni

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 7:35

Quote:
-----My kids attend a public school because my husband prefers the public school system over homeschooling. It's a challenge for me and for them and it takes a lot of prayer but the enemy can put all kinds of roadblocks in your way no matter what you choose. Everything in life takes much prayer.

Most homeschool dads will tell you they didn't like the idea of homeschooling, and were against it at first. Most homeschool moms will tell you that they prayed fervently that the Lord would change their husband's heart toward homeschooling ... and He did!

So pray for your husband if homeschooling is something you want to do. This "pre-ordained" stuff needs to be forgotten.. that's just a cop out for most folks. I know hundreds of couples where God laid it on the WIFE to homeschool first, and then thru her prayers the heart of the husband was changed. Please don't just throw up your hands and say "God pre-ordained it, there's nothing I can do about it!" That's a lie.

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I will pray that your husband will step up and be the spiritual leader in your home. I'm not trying to knock you husband because I don't know anything about him... but when a dad puts television (or anything else for that matter) above family devotions... he isn't leading as he should. So I will pray hard for him.

Being a spiritual leader in your home is hard work, which is why most men avoid it. But boy, once you get into the swing of it, it's the most rewarding thing in life.

Krispy

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Re:, on: 2008/5/29 9:40

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Krispy

Thanks Krispy, I haven't given up. My oldest is turning 16 so it's almost too late for her but my youngest is 8, so there is still an opportunity there. What I meant by 'ordained' is that I'm under my husband but I know that public school is not the way to go if you can help it.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/5/29 11:38

Hello...

I appreciate all of the information that you provide about homeschooling. Like I said, my wife and I plan to homeschool our (future) children at least into junior high school. I can testify firsthand how the public school system slowly turned me from a belief in God as a child into an agnostic teenager. I was quite the scholarly student, and the tenets of evolutionary biology were instilled into our minds (even as alternatives were also taught in accordance to Virginia law at the time). However, evolution and chemistry just made too much "sense" to me – and I slowly began seeing Christianity as a fairy tale (especially given the compromise and worldliness of the large Assembly of God church that we attended at the time).

Everyone in Church thought that I was a Christian and my parents were extremely involved in the Church. I was even baptized after taking a class that included a verbal test that was meant to affirm my faith and understanding of the meaning of baptism. No one suspected that – not only was I not a real Christian – but I was a true agnostic in heart. My AP science courses in High School simply affirmed the evolutionary biology that I was taught in Junior High School. I came to a point where I was quite convinced that Christianity would one day go the way of Greek, Norse and Roman mythology.

However, my faith blossomed one week at a Summer Camp when I was still a teen. One day, I had to find a verse or passage to share with our devotional "share group." Since I wasn't really a Christian, I really didn't know any verses off hand outside of the obvious Sunday School memory verses that I had long since dismissed as meaningless religious babble. However, shortly before the share group that morning, I opened my Bible to some words in red that sounded like a song that I had heard once. So I bookmarked it and headed to the morning share group.

Our share group met at a swimming pool. I sat there with nervous anxiety to share a passage that I had never really read before (and with the audacity to claim that it was one that had "ministered to me greatly in the past" – as was our assignment). When the time came, I opened my Bible to Matthew 11:28-30. I recited the words, "Come to me..." After finishing the verse, no one seemed to think that it was anything special. I was just relieved for having shared my "meaningful passage" and once again fool my fellow share groupers with my faux faith. But for the rest of that day – those words haunted me. "Come to me."

That night, our service was held outdoors. As usual, I sat toward the back of the folding chair layout watching everyone else enjoy themselves in their zeal for the Lord. Yet this pounding in my heart wouldn't go away. I was miserable. My faith had slowly, over the past few weeks, begun to bloom. A week earlier, I had even thought about what it would be like to really know God (if He truly existed). I wondered what it would be like to know Him, talk to Him and worship Him. I had long suspected that many Christians didn't really believe in God (or were just putting on a show in Church). I thought to myself that if I ever truly met God – I would spend my entire life at His disposal. I remember thinking that I would sing and play music to Him like a song that I had in my head (and probably heard as a child even though I couldn't place it – and turned out to be from Keith Green).

That night at Summer Camp, I was extremely miserable. I was dying inside. At the time, I could only describe it to myself as though I was extremely "dry" inside (with nothing soft left). I had never felt such misery before. I was a popular guy in school. I had good grades and came from a family that provided everything that we needed. I had planned my entire life – from graduating at the top to one day entering law school at Harvard, Columbia or some other Ivy League school. But that night, the entire emphasis of my life changed. I had an encounter with God (well, spiritually speaking).

Those words ("Come to me") kept playing over and over again deep inside of me. That night, I walked away from the "altar call" that was going on and walked out deep within this field there at the Summer Camp. For the first time in my life, I felt that I was truly standing before the Lord. I felt as if God spoke to me and told me, "You don't know me." All of my masquerades were meaningless when I was standing before Him. I felt ashamed of who I was and for doubting His existence for so long. I told God that I would trade everything that I was – and everything that I would ever be – if I could just know Him and be His friend.

I remained out there in that open field for several hours (most of it spent either on my knees or prostrate as I lay out before God beneath the dark night and bright stars in the middle of nowhere in Texas. I remember feeling so "new" as I eventually walked back to the camp dorms (as the evening meeting had finished much earlier). I couldn't stop weeping. I remember laying in my bunk that night overwhelmed with the knowledge that I actually knew and could communicate with the Creator of the Universe as His friend and child. I even longed to die so that I could already go and be with Him that very night – and see His face, and feel His arms hold me so tightly.

For the rest of the summer, I spent countless hours on my face before the Lord. I read the entire Bible through – more times than I could count (at least a dozen times). I just couldn't get enough of the Lord! Everyone noticed the change – including my family and my local Church. It wasn't that I did much differently (I had always been "forced" to go to Church while living under my parents' rules); however, I eagerly sought the Lord. Instead of saying prayers, I prayed. Instead of singing songs, I worshipped. Instead of reading words, I learned from the very words of God as contained in the Bible. To live was truly Christ – and I couldn't wait to one day breathe my last breath and finally see His face.

Two and a half months later, I returned to my public school. I made an effort to let every former friend know that I was different. It didn't take long for my conversion to spread throughout my school. I had Varsity Basketball practice in the morning before school. Before practice, one of my friends told me about his trip to the Philippines during the summer. He asked, "What did you do this summer?" I smiled and told him, "I met God!" He looked awkward and confused. By the time I made it to the locker room, everyone on the basketball team knew. Most of the guys on the team were puzzled. Some of them had said that I was "the smartest guy that they had ever met." Some of them had idolized me because of my grades, the amount of girls that liked me, the fact that I stood up for "nerds" and those others made fun of (I guess I was a "moral sinner") and my general carefree attitude. Even on that first day, a couple of guys ridiculed me

by saying that I had become a "Jesus freak," but it actually scared most of them. I noticed that they tried to change the subject almost immediately. Before the year was over, I was able to lead 10 of the 15 guys on the team to the Lord.

I am glad that I attended a public high school as a Christian teen. While I might have never strayed from the Lord if I had been homeschooled as a child into my adolescent years, I think that I was able to be an important light in a dark place. My faith was pretty evident throughout the school. The students, teachers, administration—and even the janitors—were aware of my faith. Some people ridiculed me and called me names like "the walking Bible" or one of the leaders of the resident "God Squad." For the most part, however, I was able to rise above any temptation that the devil wanted to throw at me. For me, Jesus was all that mattered. I still made good grades (and eventually graduated as #2 in my class). I was accepted at each of the schools for which I applied. However, my plans changed. I no longer wanted to be an attorney. I wanted to earn a degree in order to have better opportunities to provide for my eventual family, but I wanted everything that I did to be for the glory and honor of God.

I eventually attended public universities where I maintained my faith. I was awarded scholarships that paid for most of my undergraduate and even graduate education. I met my wife at a Christian student organization (Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship) while we were working on our bachelor's degrees. I was able to help share the faith throughout my campus (even sharing the Gospel and praying with professors and administrators). Through my education, I was able to intern and eventually coop with NASA. While at NASA, I was chosen to attend several governors' conferences—and was able to share my faith with governors, congressmen and officials in government. I even attended a private prayer meeting hosted by a Congressman and attended by several politicians. By the grace of God, I eventually graduated with honors with my two undergraduate degrees (including one in Electrical Engineering) and then went on to graduate with a perfect 4.0 from graduate school. I am currently completing my dissertation for a PhD in Public Policy at a respected university. Deep in our hearts, my wife and I know that we have a calling upon our lives. While we are waiting for this to come to fruition, we still have the opportunity to share our faith to everyone we come into contact with.

If I could do it all over, I would certainly change a few things. I have made some mistakes in my life that I wish that I would have avoided. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if I had been homeschooled by my parents. Would I have continued believing in God as I did as a child? Would I have avoided all of the mistakes that I made as a teenager?

I have met some wonderful homeschooled children who grew into very godly young adults. Some of them may have lacked as wide an education as they might have received in a public or private school, but they more than made up for it with their pureness of heart. I guess this is the dilemma. Some of the homeschoolers that I know are so detached from the world that they just seem to struggle with the thought of eventually entering the workplace. Their hearts are so clean and innocent of the knowledge of this world and its system ("LIFE 101," so to speak) that I wonder just how well that they will integrate into society with a job, family, etc... Of course, I know some other homeschoolers who are probably better prepared than anyone to face the trials and tribulations of life. I think this really has to do with the parents (the teachers) within each homeschool.

My oldest sister attempted to homeschool her young children, but lacked the time and perseverance necessary to do an adequate job. Don't get me wrong—she really tried. But it is a huge commitment, and would require the complete dedication of both parents. Every day has the possibility of becoming a lazy day. It is up to the parent(s) to ensure that the day is not wasted. My sister was unable to make such a commitment, and she eventually enrolled them in a strict and highly competitive Christian school. They are doing extremely well.

In the last *Homeschool* thread, I also asked about homeschool curriculum. Which curriculum is the most recommended? My wife had a bad experience with a particular curriculum (ACE - Accelerated Christian Education) that was used at a local private Church school and for homeschoolers from the same Church. My wife found that the curriculum was greatly outdated and insufficient of meeting normal educational goals, and the children easily cheated on their "PACEs." One of my former churches used the same curriculum and it was a disaster for those who attended the high school. The average ACT score was a 15 (while the national average is a 21). One student even scored an 11 (which seems almost impossible given the ability to guess on every problem). The SAT scores were just as poor. The writing sections for each test displayed that the students from the school were very vastly unprepared for college level essays. Yet all of the school's standardized tests supposedly showed "above average" results for nearly every student in the school.

The ACT and SAT are the basis for entrance in most colleges and universities. Most schools, however, use a formula for determining entrance. While the scores on college entrance exams are one of the most important criteria, there are other criteria that also play a role. At my undergraduate school (which is respected but has an easy admission policy), a s

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tudent must score at least a 21 on the ACT in order to be admitted – if he or she graduated from high school in the top 10%. If the student graduated in the top 25% of his/her high school class, then the student must earn a 22 on the ACT. If the student did not graduate in the top 25%, then he or she must earn a 24 on the ACT. The national average for the ACT is a 21. If I remember correctly, all students from non-accredited high schools must earn a 24 on the ACT to obtain unconditional admission. There is a similar criterion when using the SAT.

Like I stated earlier, my wife and I are almost certain to homeschool our children through elementary and junior high school. The development of children is so important at such a young stage. As Krispy affirmed previously, you would have to spend just as much time (or more time) sifting through all of the information that they are given (in classes, in between classes, on the bus and even in the cafeteria). This is probably just as time-consuming as the dedicated homeschool hours itself. I do know some children who attend public schools that are doing well. My wife is a public school teacher. Six of her siblings are public school teachers. However, they each attend very, very good school districts. All of my wife's nephews and nieces attend public elementary schools. Yet their parents are extremely strict and do their best to instruct those children in the ways of the Lord. They also follow their children's attitudes, beliefs and education very closely. Of course, they are all extremely concerned with the dire possibilities that could result.

I guess it comes down to personal preference. My wife and I would like to homeschool our children at least while they are young. Once they reach high school, however, we will likely allow them to be enrolled in a public high school. There is just so much that needs to be taught effectively in preparation for college. We realize that the education differs between college-to-college. A community college or an "open admission" public university does not always provide the same quality as a more scholastic-minded public school. We also feel that such things (including the name of the university upon the diploma) matters to potential employers or grad school admissions. Since this matters to us (regardless of how others view this as right or wrong), we think that a good public school or accredited private school might be better than one of us serving in such matters. Hopefully, however, we will have instructed them well enough in "the ways that they should go" as children that they will be able to shine the light of Christ as teenagers.

Anyway, I am extremely interested in the thoughts of others regarding the extent of homeschooling into high school (whether or not that is a good idea), the recommended curriculum for homeschools, and the ACT/SAT scores for high school homeschool graduates. Are there any statistics available to show this? I worked in a college admissions office during a freshman (work study) job. Some of the Christian School and homeschool scores were downright embarrassing. However, there were some homeschool scores that were pretty good. Are there independently verified statistics regarding the college entrance scores and admission statistics of students that were homeschooled throughout high school?

Thanks!!!

:-)

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 11:41

I see you did well in your English Lit class too! :-P

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 11:50

Quote:
-----Some of the homeschoolers that I know are so detached from the world that they just seem to struggle with the thought of eventually entering the workplace. Their hearts are so clean and innocent of the knowledge of this world and its system ("LIFE 101," so to speak) that I wonder just how well that they will integrate into society with a job, family, etc... Of course, I know some other homeschoolers who are probably better prepared than anyone to face the trials and tribulations of life. I think this really has to do with the parents (the teachers) within each homeschool.

This is not as much a dilemma as some think it is. We have folks in our family who insist we need to expose our children to the things of this world (i.e. **sin**) because after all, they reason, they'll be exposed to it eventually anyway! What awful parents we are because our kids aren't allowed to read or watch Harry Potter, or some wretched TV show.

Where is the Biblical principle for that?

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This does not mean that we dont teach our children about sex, or other issues that the world has perverted. But scripture tells us in no uncertain terms that we are to be seperate from the world. That does not mean seperate as in holed up in the house. (I wish my wife and kids were home more! They're always running off to homeschool events, 4-H, etc etc... poor unsocialized souls!) We need to engage the culture we live in, but we are not to participate in the culture's sinful behavior.

So we teach our children how to live holy and godly lives... to hate sin and obey God... and there isnt anything the world has to offer in the way of temptation that isnt covered in the Bible. There is nothing new under the sun.

If we teach them the Bible cover to cover, and if they are truly saved... they will be more than prepared to go out into the world... and engage the culture.

The ultimate goal of homeschooling for my wife and I is not to raise kids who score high SAT scores, or read on a higher level than public school kids... altho that is one benefit of homeschooling. Our ultimate goal is to raise godly men who will win souls to Christ, and one day hear Him say "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into My rest."

If we raise hyper smart kids, but they dont reach the above mentioned goal... she and I will have failed.

Krispy

Re: - posted by bonni (), on: 2008/5/29 14:40

I also think that there should be a distinction made between sons and daughters when the time comes to make decisions concerning the work place or college.

What our sons may be equipped to handle or be able to "hold up under" may not be the same for our daughters. I believe that God has ordained that our daughters stay under the protection of their parents until they are given in marriage to another man. I realize that there are some exceptions, but they should be just that, not the rule.

There are some excellent videos on Vision Forum concerning this, if anyone is interested. The actual video is called "The Return of the Daughters."

I guess the most important thing to consider is "is this the will of God for my son or daughter, or am I more concerned about them being wealthy than I am that they be where God has called them and fulfill His purpose for their lives."

Blessings bonni

Re: - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2008/5/29 15:07

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

Quote:
-----Some of the homeschoolers that I know are so detached from the world that they just seem to struggle with the thought of eventually entering the workplace. Their hearts are so clean and innocent of the knowledge of this world and its system ("LIFE 101," so to speak) that I wonder just how well that they will integrate into society with a job, family, etc... Of course, I know some other homeschoolers who are probably better prepared than anyone to face the trials and tribulations of life. I think this really has to do with the parents (the teachers) within each homeschool.

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If we raise hyper smart kids, but they don't reach the above mentioned goal... she and I will have failed.

Krispy

I agree with you Krispy, but I have a "but," or what if" to what you have said - Like I mentioned in my earlier post, I ended up growing much stronger in the Lord being exposed to more junk than a fairly innocent guy could handle (going into the public school system)

Would it be totally off to relate the "going into the world" experience of public schools to that of Peter walking on the water? Sure, there is the fear of what could happen, but what about faith to overcome those fears and obstacles?

Yes, you can look at all the bad that could maybe take place in the public school system, but are you overlooking the potential good that could also take place? What if the "bad" never happened? Or take the example of Daniel going into the lion's den.

I think it would be a testament of faith for a child (young adult) to stand strong in his/her faith in the midst of a fallen world.

I don't know. I see your point, but I've also experienced both worlds, so I see the advantages and disadvantages of both sides I suppose.

Blessings Krispy!

Ben

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/5/29 15:38

Our job is to raise our children in the ways of the Lord, not to send them out into the world and hope that their faith will get them through it.

I could be wrong, but I don't recall any child being sent into the world to be a missionary in scripture. I do see that scripture says to teach your children God's way. The only child that I see doing this is Jesus Himself, whose resume needs no explanation.

Also, to my understanding, all of the people in the Bible who went into the world were adults and not children.

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 15:59

Suppose a child who is a Christian asks his dad if he can be homeschooled because he doesn't want to be exposed to the philosophy of the world and be influenced by the unsaved world and his dad says "No, your going to a public school" Don't you believe that God will protect that child from that evil influence? I do.

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Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/5/29 16:45

Rebecca_LF wrote:

Quote:

Suppose a child who is a christian asks his dad if he can be homeschooled because he doesn't want to be exposed to the philosophy of the world and be influenced by the unsaved world and his dad says "No, your going to a public school" Don't you believe that God will protect that child from that evil influence? I do.

First off, if any child said that to me, I would think that they have their head on straighter than most kids, and even most adults. He/she should be commended. :-)

No. I do not believe that the Lord will protect anyone from evil influences. For children, that is what parents are supposed to do. Parents are to teach their children the ways of the Lord. If this father of the boy you are talking about dismissed his responsibility to raise his son in a godly way, then the father will have to answer to the Lord on that final day.

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 16:58

Quote:
-----What our sons may be equipped to handle or be able to "hold up under" may not be the same for our daughters. I believe that God has ordained that our daughters stay under the protection of their parents until they are given in marriage to another man. I realize that there are some exceptions, but they should be just that, not the rule.

Since we're only raising godly men in our house... I'll leave that one alone. But we do need godly women for our sons when the time comes. :-)

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 17:09

Quote:
-----Would it be totally off to relate the "going into the world" experience of public schools to that of Peter walking on the water? Sure, there is the fear of what could happen, but what about faith to overcome those fears and obstacles?

But we're not operating on fear, we're operating on obedience. We're being obedient to the Word of God when we are "saddled for the children", and when we live out Psalm 1.

Fear has nothing whatsoever to do with it. Unless we're talking about fear of God... which, interestingly enough, is the beginning of wisdom according to scripture.

Quote:
-----Yes, you can look at all the bad that could maybe take place in the public school system

Could maybe? How about **is** happening. Do you watch the news?

Quote:
-----but are you overlooking the potential good that could also take place?

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Children are not missionaries. Children are in training. You dont build a boat in the middle of the ocean, you build it on land and then once you think it is water proof you float it around in a harbor to be sure before you launch it into the ocean.

Public schools are a wonderful mission field for Christian adults who want to go into that mission field as teachers... and perhaps some rare older teenagers... but for the most part children are not called to be missionaries in the public schools. Remember, the school is there to shape their minds... and shape their minds they will.

Quote:
-----I think it would be a testament of faith for a child (young adult) to stand strong in his/her faith in the midst of a fallen world.

There are plenty of opportunities to do that in a more controlled environment. Most homeschoolers are around public school kids in their extended families, in sports, in 4-H, in their churches, etc. This is how they can stand strong, and learn to evangelize... not turn them over to a godless government school everyday all day.

Quote:
-----I don't know. I see your point, but I've also experienced both worlds, so I see the advantages and disadvantages of both sides I s'pose.

But you yourself have admitted to the negative effects it had on you. I'm glad you came out the other end trusting in God tho.

Blessing on you too, brother.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 17:15

Quote:
-----Suppose a child who is a christian asks his dad if he can be homeschooled because he doesn't want to be exposed to the philosophy of the world and be influenced by the unsaved world and his dad says "No, your going to a public school" Don't you believe that God will protect that child from that evil influence? I do.

Yea, I agree w/ Miccah. In fact, if a child asked their father that with the father responding the way you suggest, it would actually appear to the child that the father was ok with what the child was being exposed to... making it ok with the child.

God *can* protect that child, but thats up to God. Hey, I'm a child of God, born again and spirit-filled... but guess what... He doesnt always keep evil things from happening to me.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 17:26

Quote:
-----ccchhrrriiiss wrote:
My question concerns the availability of such scholarships to those students who are homeschooled. Are there any figures that indicate the acceptance rate of homeschooled children at major colleges and universities? While walking Lucia through the application process (neither of her parents speak English), I noticed that some schools do not make a distinction between "home schools," "private schools," or "public schools."

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All students need to take the ACT and the SAT... this is where the colleges get their potential students. Now, my friend's son missed a full ride because of his high school gpa. So I'm not sure how they could find out a home-schooled student's gpa, unless it's through the yearly state tests they have to take(?). I don't know how home-schools keep transcripts.

Sorry I didn't help much,

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:03

Someone mentioned not sending their kids to a secular college earlier in this.

I went to a church that had a lot of homeschool families in it and the experience wasn't pleasant. While there, I came very close to homeschooling my sons but then I started watching them and really talking with them about how they did it (not that any are on this forum, not unless you are from Knoxville, TN!!). The homeschoolers "I" knew were controlling parents, the ability to control seemed to fit right in with homeschooling. These particular people and church controlled EVERY aspect of their child's life. My sons were shunned by these homeschooled kids because they weren't "homeschoolers." They had to learn shunning from somewhere!!! The parents.

Now, I know this isn't true for all homeschoolers, I'm just telling you as an outsider what I saw being their so-called friend. I was very turned off the parents exclusionary ways.

I only say that because Krispy asked why some of us choose NOT to homeschool. This is one of my main reasons.

This brings me to another reason. I disagree with a statement that we shouldn't send our children to secular universities. Why not? Aren't we called to be light and salt? How can we be when we are constantly hidden in the folds of like-minded people thru Christian schools and universities?

When will a child be old enough to be light and dark in this sinful world? I want to protect my kids but they have to learn on their own. I know this isn't true with just homeschoolers, there are controlling parents everywhere! I'm not necessarily controlling as much as I am, "Who are you going with? Where are you going? What's the parent's phone number, I need to talk to them and meet them OR you're not going!" Cautious and hovering would be more of the words!!

I'm definitely not saying I've raised my kids the best way - in the secular schools. They are good boys and it's in spite of me through the grace of God they are good boys definitely not because of me! God is good. I trust the same God who loves me will love my children just as much. He sought me and I believe that he will seek them.

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:05

Actually I think Wake-Forest now is not accepting SAT scores for entrance. They have discovered that the SAT is not reliable in determining if a kid will be a good student. They have discovered that all it really means is that the student is good at taking tests.

I'll look and see if I can find where my wife read that. She was telling me about it last evening, in fact.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:12

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

Quote:
-----Suppose a child who is a Christian asks his dad if he can be homeschooled because he doesn't want to be exposed to the philosophy of the world and be influenced by the unsaved world and his dad says "No, your going to a public school" Don't you believe that God will protect that child from that evil influence? I do.

Yea, I agree w/ Miccah. In fact, if a child asked their father that with the father responding the way you suggest, it would actually appear to the child that the father was ok with what the child was being exposed to... making it ok with the child.

God *can* protect that child, but that's up to God. Hey, I'm a child of God, born again and spirit-filled... but guess what... He doesn't always keep evil thin

gs from happening to me.

Krispy

But what if he has a mother who is living for God, teaching him in the ways of the Lord and praying for him? :-)

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:15

Quote:
-----I went to a church that had a lot of homeschool families in it and the experience wasn't pleasant. While there, I came very close to homeschooling my sons but then I started watching them and really talking with them about how they did it (not that any are on this forum, not unless you are from Knoxville, TN!). The homeschoolers "I" knew were controlling parents, the ability to control seemed to fit right in with homeschooling. These particular people and church controlled EVERY aspect of their child's life. My sons were shunned by these homeschooled kids because they weren't "homeschoolers." They had to learn shunning from somewhere!!! The parents.

Actually, we lived in Maryville & Friendsville when I was attending UT after I got out of the Marines... so I do know a bit about Knoxville. :-)

Most homeschoolers are not like that. But there does tend to be a snobiness among some. But I also find that many non-homeschoolers look at homeschoolers with A LOT of preconceived notions, and so they sometimes look to be offended by homeschoolers.

And as with anything else in life... if you're looking to be offended you will find what you're looking for.

By the way, don't throw my UT education back in my lap... this was before we had kids and even considered homeschooling. I wasn't even saved when I enrolled there. I was saved during my time in Knoxville. Kids came during my studies, and homeschooling came afterwards. :-)

Quote:
-----This brings me to another reason. I disagree with a statement that we shouldn't send our children to secular universities. Why not? Aren't we called to be light and salt? How can we be when we are constantly hidden in the folds of like-minded people thru Christian schools and universities?

83% of Christians entering secular universities reject their Christian faith by graduation. That's why. I'll find the exact stats if you would like. Ever been in a residence hall? You honestly want to pay to send your kids there? If so... you're nuts.

Why not send them to a sound Christian college?

As for being controlling... hey, we have a calling as Christian parents to be "shade for the children". We are to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Psalm 1 and all of Proverbs give many many warnings about our dealings with the ungodly. It gives much advice to what is wisdom and what is not.

But surprisingly on this forum there are many people who want to ignore clear teachings in scripture and embrace opinions of man. It's very indicative of the sad shape our churches are in today.

Why not send our kids to public schools and secular universities? Because there is a war on for our children. Spiritual warfare is not about finding demons hiding behind pews... it's about raising our children in such a manner as to not give Satan a foothold.

But unfortunately most Christians today consider good parenting to mean that by 18 their kid isn't in jail, pregnant or dead.

I want more than that for my kids.

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And no one can successfully argue against homeschooling because even the secular universities and colleges recognize that homeschooling is successful and are actively recruiting homeschool students. Christian colleges even more so.

Here in North Carolina do you realize homeschool students are, by law, not allowed to take the same "end of grade" test as the public school kids? Know why? Because it throws off the results because generally speaking homeschoolers score higher on them. Our Congressman told my wife and I that.

That's pretty cool.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:25

Quote:
-----But what if he has a mother who is living for God, teaching him in the ways of the Lord and praying for him?

Sorry... just not into playing "what if" games. It's a never ending circle and gives me a headache.

8-)

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/29 18:32

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:
Quote:
-----But what if he has a mother who is living for God, teaching him in the ways of the Lord and praying for him?

Sorry... just not into playing "what if" games. It's a never ending circle and gives me a headache.

8-)

Krispy

Daniel 6:16-23

16Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Re: SOCIALIZATION, on: 2008/5/29 21:53

SOCIALIZATION

It has been of great interest to me to observe the critics of the fastgrowing Home Education movement. It has been my experience that one of the most common accusations made to parents wishing to educate their children at home is that the children will suffer due to lack of socialization. By this the concerned critic of Home Education is voicing the fear that Johnny may end up socially retarded if he does not rub shoulders with enough of his peers and may not know how to get along in society as a well adjusted personality.

Many voices of this school of thought are convinced that maximum exposure for Johnny to friends and activities is an absolute necessity for his well being and has a far reaching impact on his ability to get along in a complex world.

Not surprisingly many Christians have obligingly accepted this theory as fact and have diligently sought to socialize their children. Most have found out to their chagrin that once their child has been properly socialized they have more than they bargained for.

Instead of producing Spurgeons, Moodys, Hudson Taylors and the like (you add your own names to the list), socialization has largely produced carnal worldly feeling oriented Laodicean Christian youth.

Even the pagan world has authoritatively documented the deleterious effects of television on young minds. Yet Christians are still heard to not only defend it but they maintain one is depriving his family if he destroys the family altar (television). My dear Christian friend your TV is indeed socializing your youngsters but in a way you will profoundly regret in years to come.

How about friends? Surely our children should have many of them, especially if they are found in church and at our Christian school. May I respectfully point out that our churches and Christian schools in this country are filled with hardhearted youth whose hearts are clearly inclined toward this world. Because a youngster is involved in a church youth group or Christian school does not guarantee the impeccability of his character! Many teen girls and boys over the years have confessed to having had intimate relations, even in the church building while activities are going on in other parts of the building! Christian school students use alcohol and dope. They lose their purity; they kill their babies. All of the wickedness you observe in the mass media has been committed and confessed to by many in church youth groups and enrolled in Christian schools.

How a child behaves in and adjusts to his family can be a possible forecast of how he will function in the world around him as an adult. This is precisely why it is so vital that he be taught to immediately and sweetly obey authority, learn the lessons of self-control over his flesh and feelings and learn how to lovingly interact with his siblings. He will learn to function as a self-controlled responsible adult who realizes from his childhood training that giving vent to excess and following feelings create problems.

Witness an early agrarian America with its rural economy which, in many instances, saw families living in comparative isolation from their nearest neighbors. Education and socialization of necessity took place within the confines of the immediate family circle. Responsibility and Godly character thus formed produced many a characterized leader.

God providentially places children in specific homes. Their problem by and large is not the old fashioned parents but their unwillingness to obey Godly authority. A rebel may well find comfort, acceptance and s

place in the arms of uncharactered friends but he has bypassed his primary responsibility. To put it another way, a child properly socialized with his parents and siblings is a far better prepared candidate for marriage and ministry than one who is primarily socialized with friends. Instead of obligingly going along with whatever direction your child is heading and instead of accepting his circle of friends and activities you must choose them for him based on your scripture enlightened discernments.

It is about time some Christian parents said to another set of parents, Our kids are not good for one another.

This is not unloving. That is love and genuine caring. We must very carefully gauge the effect children have on one another.

Scripture warns us that evil character is contagious (I Corinthians 15:33; Haggai 2:12-13; Proverbs 22:24-25). If your child has one friend with evil character he will very likely be infected with that character in most cases. You must very carefully choose his friends and associations and just as closely monitor his activities. The chief friends of a child ought to be his Godly parents and secondarily his Godly siblings. Other friends and associations should have a lesser priority.

To some these ideas seem narrow and restrictive. This is true. So are the Scriptures. In fact the Scriptures picture the Godly life in that way and yet it is filled with happiness peace and joy.

Whereas worldly Christians are busily socializing their children to their detriment and exposing them to all manner of things this world has to offer, the "narrowminded" agrees with Paul: "I would have you wise unto that which is good and simple concerning evil" (Romans 16:19). Ask Jacob and Leah how happy they were when their daughter Dinah was socialized! (Genesis 34:15). Read the Old Testament closely and see how God was pleased when Israel became socialized with the pagan nations around her. Israel's many compromises and her ultimate apostasy should stand out as clear warnings for us today (I Corinthians 10:11).

Noah appeared to the world of his day as a religious fanatic yet his family alone was saved. Abraham kept his family at arm's length from his Canaanite neighbors and their filthy abominations. Jonadab refused to obey the social planners and polite society of his day, maintained a strict lifestyle for himself and his family and had the joy of looking over the ramparts of Heaven 400 years later to see his descendants still living separated lives (Jeremiah 35:10) uncontaminated by the world.

It is my prayer that you see the two contrasting principles in all of this. It is the satanically dominated world which says socialize in this manner, whereas it is the Word of God that says SEPARATE!

(the above article was found in my e-mail inbox)

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2008/5/29 22:13

greetings

I really like this article about socialization. I agreed with all of it. I especially loved the last line

It is the satanically dominated world which says socialize in this manner, whereas it is the Word of God that says SEPARATE!

God Bless
MJ

Re: EDUCATE, on: 2008/5/29 23:49

What follows is an e-mail I sent to a number of professing christians. Many of those professing christians were "pastors" of "churches".

I thought it would be an appropriate place to post it as this thread is addressing these very same issues. I post this in hopes that it may serve some here in their pursuit of His Holy will in sanctifying those children given them by God in the area of education.

I believe I have plainly stated previously on this thread what I understand the mind of God to be on the matter.

I do hope that this serves to further clarify those claims from God's Holy infallible Word.

Here is the question I put forth:

I was wondering if you might furnish me with a Biblical defense of either the neutrality, indifference, command, permission/allowance or otherwise respecting God's will for the christian to send their children to be educated by state/government-run institutions where the teachers and fellow students are for the most part unbelievers, God-haters, anti-Christ and immoral, where hypocrisy abounds and the religion of secular humanism promoted.

Please reply ASAP if able,

PS APOLOGIA - The Greek word meaning "a spoken or written defense." It appears eight times in the New Testament, in the context of people defending their faith or actions by reason and logic.

From Webster's Dictionary: apologia \ap-uh-LOH-jee-uh;-juh\, noun:

A formal defense or justification, especially of one's opinions, position, or actions.

From Webster's Dictionary (1828 edition) Apologetic

Defending by words or arguments; excusing; said or written in defense, or by way of apology; as an apologetic essay.

"But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3:15

I received but two responses. All others chose not to reply.

Here is one response from a "pastor" I received. Note: I knew him quite well as we attended where he "pastored" for awhile. We had him in our home and he had us in his. He was a young married man of 26 years of age. A fine aspiring, intelligent, friendly young man indeed. Yet, in my opinion he was not qualified to be an elder/pastor.

Hey _____: Thanks for your email. You ask a good question, although the innuendos (overtones) in your question indicate you aren't really asking a question. Kinda like me (A Presbyterian) asking a Baptist, "You don't REALLY believe that every single person in the NT was Immersed DO YOU?" Not a question to learn, but a question to make a statement, and possibly provoke an argument. I would caution you with the exhortation of Hebrews, "make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses THE GRACE OF GOD, and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." It is my observation that many Christian parents today are primarily motivated by bitterness (some bordering on hatred) of public schools, and can only define their beliefs re. education in OPPOSITION to public education. The "education question" has torn apart churches. (Rom. 14:10) James says, "the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (3:17-18) Whatever educational process we pursue, it should equip us to love God and to love our neighbor. The RP Testimony brings some wisdom on the question of education, "In the providence of God public schools have provided great social benefits. Yet in serving a highly pluralistic society they have attempted to be religiously and morally "neutral" which is sinful. To a large extent instruction is based on a secular, humanistic philosophy which ignores God and sees man's welfare as the highest good. Local schools vary widely, however, according to the standards of the community and quality of the teachers." (Mt. 12:30; 2 Sa. 23:3-4) "Where necessary and POSSIBLE, Christian parents should cooperate in supporting or establishing schools whose curriculum present a biblical world and life view, and place their children in them. This requires maintenance of the highest academic quality along with Christian orientation in every subject and activity." "We reject any attempt by the state to force a secular, humanistic philosophy on Christian schools. Parents should take care to counteract any unbiblical teaching given to their children, whether in public or Christian schools. As youth increase in their knowledge and discernment, the home and the Church should help them to examine what is presented in school, to distinguish between God-given truths and human theories, and to integrate the facts learned with a Christian view of man and

the universe." (Reformed Presbyterian Testimony 24.31-34) Both my wife and I are products of both Christian schooling and homeschooling. I had a very positive, Christ-centered, church-centered home education experience. Sue observed friends who had a very backward, charismatic, anti-intellectual, legalistic home education experience. Today they are completely unable to excel in the REAL world, with little ability to out-think the opposition or present a robust argument for truth. Both of us have friends who today hate their parents, the church, and God BECAUSE of their home education experience - an experience which focused on outward rules rather than hearts (1 Sa. 16:7). We both heartily agree that it is a HUGE mistake to equate a particular FORM (outward) of education with God's Biblical standards for education -- which are largely RESULT-oriented (inward, eg. 2 Sa. 23:3-4). This world is too "messy," and education is too grand an endeavor to reduce it to FORM. It is interesting to me that the Bible actually has very little to say about the day-to-day form of education, but rather places responsibility on the shoulders of parents (Deut. 6:1-6; Eph. 6:4), who will be accountable to God for how they acquitted themselves in the education of their children. Clearly the writer of Psalm 119 had others than his mother and father teaching him. (Ps. 119:99). Daniel and his friends were trained in the language and literature of the Babylonians, (Dan. 1:4) and though Daniel had to take stands against those teaching him, he was able to use his knowledge and influence for the glory of God, even in Babylon. Paul called on his extensive "secular" education when rubbing shoulders with the Ph.D.s of his day (Acts 17). He said he became "all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." (1 Co. 9:22) Paul forbade the Corinthians from associating with sexually immoral and unrepentant brothers, "not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world." (1 Cor. 5:10) As I grow in Christ, I'm endeavoring to define education by what it IS, not by what it's NOT. I want to help conscientious parents do what God has called them to do raise up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. When it comes to educating children, how grateful I am for God's tremendous outpouring of grace. I'm thankful we don't need to "get it all right" to be pleasing to our Father, who loves us not because of our performance, but because we are "in Christ." _____

My reply to the "pastor":

_____,
That God our Father, by, through, and for our LORD Jesus the Christ's sake, cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7), succors us (Heb. 2:18), comforts us (2 Cor. 1:4), knows us (Num. 16:5; 2 Tim. 2:19), prays for us (John 17:9; Heb. 7:25), and keeps us (1 Pet. 1:5) I am eternally grateful, humbled and awed. That He calls me a son (1 John 3:1) of God, and is become a Father to me (2 Cor. 6:18; 2 Sam. 7:14) rejoices my heart and satisfies my soul. If we take His words in our mouth to others, may we tremble as we do (Isa. 66:2), lest we become men-pleasers and not prophets of God as Ezekiel (Ezek. 33:32,33).

Recommended article:

<http://christianunplugged.com/tozercross.htm>

That God would have you acknowledge my electronic mail I am thankful as well as hopeful. As far as the content of the electronic mail in the way it was stated, it served its purpose.

You did not furnish me with "a Biblical defense of either the neutrality, indifference, command, permission/allowance or otherwise respecting God's will for the Christian to send their children to be educated by state/government-run institutions where the teachers and fellow students are for the most part unbelievers, God-haters, anti-Christ and immoral, where hypocrisy abounds and the religion of secular humanism promoted". Nor did you attempt to dispute whether or no I portrayed an accurate picture of the environment of those places in question. I ended by asking you to "Please reply ASAP if able". If you were not able, you should have just said so.

You then judged my motives by saying "Not a question to learn, but a question to make a statement, and possibly provoke an argument." You then proceeded to caution and exhort me by using God's Holy Word quoting from Hebrews. A poor application indeed seeing you did not even refute any gainsaying (to deny or declare not to be true what another says; to controvert; to dispute; applied to persons, or to propositions, declarations or facts) of mine and in consideration that while "following peace with all men," we are not so to seek to please them, as to make God's will and our sanctification a secondary object, the latter must be our first aim having our conscience clear before both God and man (Gal. 1:10).

You then proceeded to give me your observation rather than God's Law-Word on the matter. This is similar to one of the errors contributing to the breakdown of the judicial system of the U.S. where what is called "case law" is practiced in the place of constitutional law. I also see a relation to what is called "situational ethics" albeit in a somewhat different sphere.

You then proceed to make a statement as though it is fact "The "education question" has torn apart churches". And quote Rom. 14:10 and James 3:17-18 as if these support your conclusions. And again you follow these verses with your own words "Whatever educational process we pursue, it should equip us to love God and to love our neighbor" as if God's Word in the preceding verses prove such to be so. Thus far you have taken texts out of their context to use as prooftexts.

You then proceed to appeal to man again. A Testimony of a "denomination", which I need not remind you that Scripture repudiates denominationalism. But again, this is not to your credit, as these men you appeal to do not appeal to the Scriptures but rather one another. You say that "The RP Testimony brings some wisdom on the question of education." I'd contest that and apply 1 Cor. 1:20 and 1 Cor. 2:14:15 realizing that the object in view in these verses is Christ and the Gospel. Yet "all things" regarding our duty and responsibility toward God are to be diligently inquired into and that by "sola scriptura". I conclude from their words that they're guilty on this point of being "blind guides leading the blind".

You then proceed to your experience and the experience of others. I will not argue with an experience because experience is no argument. Yet you do make some assumptions and apparent allegations. Are we to buy into the lies and excuses men and women give that they "hate their parents, the church, and God BECAUSE of..." as you claim "their home education experience". You may believe and swallow such lies but I am not convinced that God will (Heb. 4:13). The only thing you could say from God's Word on this subject followed next, "It is interesting to me that the Bible actually has very little to say about the day-to-day form of education, but rather places responsibility on the shoulders of parents (Deut. 6:1-6; Eph. 6:4)". You then resort to your poor prooftexts once again. In Psalm 119:99 David's teachers were the prophets, priests and Levites, who sat in Moses's chair, and whose lips ought to have kept knowledge, but who neglected the study of the law, and minded their honours and formalities only of their religion; and so David, who conversed much with the scriptures, by that means became more intelligent than they.

One commentator commented thus on this verse "In short, he means to affirm, that whoever yields himself with docility to God, keeps his thoughts in subjection to his word, and exercises himself diligently in meditating upon the Law, will thence derive wisdom sufficient for enabling him to consult his own safety in opposition to the stratagems of his enemies, to exercise circumspection requisite for escaping their deceits; and, finally, to match with the most eminent masters through the whole course of his life. David, however, does not adduce his wisdom, that he may boast of it before the world; but, by his own example, he warns us, that nothing is better for us than to learn at God's mouth, since those only are perfectly wise who are taught in his school. At the same time, sobriety is here enjoined upon the faithful, that they may not seek for wisdom elsewhere than from God's word, and that ambition or curiosity may not incite them to vain boasting. In short, all are here recommended to behave themselves with modesty and humility, that no man may claim to himself such knowledge as elevates him above the Divine Law; but that all men, however intelligent, may willingly yield themselves to the lessons of heavenly wisdom revealed in the Divine Word. When he says, that he kept God's statutes, he teaches us what kind of meditation it is of which we have spoken, to let us know that he did not coldly philosophize upon God's precepts, but devoted himself to them with earnest affection".

You then appeal to exceptional men in the Scriptures as Daniel the prophet and Paul the apostle. As if the "historical narrative" concerning these men is an equalizer to attest to God's condoning of children being sent to the ravenous wolves and educational bureaucrats fueled by powerful teachers' unions.

You continue with 1 Cor. 5:10. I will only comment upon this by noting the distinction between "associating" and "koinonia" and "instruction or counsel". Also bearing in mind the differences and treatment of both adult and child as the Scripture addresses and delineates upon each.

"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what fellowship does light have with darkness? And what agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever? And what agreement does a temple of God have with idols? For you are a temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will" dwell in them and "walk among them, and I will be their

God, and they shall be My people."

(Ref. Lev. 26:12; Ezek. 37:27)

Because of this, "come out from among them" "and be separated," says the Lord, "and do not touch the unclean thing," and I will receive you. (Ref. Isa. 52:11)

"And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons" and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:14-18) (Ref. 2 Sam. 7:8, 14; Isa. 43:6)

I am thankful as well that "we don't need to "get it all right" to be pleasing to our Father, who loves us not because of our performance, but because we are "in Christ ."

I despise arguing for arguments sake as I do the display of knowledge for knowledge sake, yet for truth I am committed to die for as souls lie in the balance. Our children are entrusted to us, may we do them right by God. Recommended article:
<http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/mather/dut-par.htm>

Would to God that you and I humble ourselves before God, putting our hand over our mouth if His Spirit has not enlightened us or sanctified us in any area of our lives or understanding, that we be not guilty of taking our LORD'S Name in vain.

Please read with discernment the following brief and humble reply I received from a seasoned saint and reformed pastor in his 60's who has been (for many years) and is serving the LORD. He received the exact same (excluding your name of course) electronic mail I sent you asking that he furnish me with a Biblical defense of this issue.

He wrote:

From: " _____ "

To: " _____ "

Subject: Re: APOLOGIA

Date: Mon, 14 Nov 2005 20:54:41 -0600

_____ ,

Sorry it took me a couple of days to answer you. As far as I can tell I could not do what you asked, God did say of Abraham that he knew he would teach his children Gen 18:19.

Ultimately we are responsible for our children in every aspect of their lives as long as they are under our care.

_____ ,

_____, I do earnestly yearn for, and hope I have kept up, an irenic spirit here, as I do earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints.

FYI-

"Educational leaders like John Dewey saw the public schools, often called the "common" schools, as the mechanism for indoctrinating children into a new democratic faith. The worldviews and eccentricities of the various ethical and national backgrounds would be erased and a new melting pot of Americans would emerge. Dewey, the most influential shaper of the public schools in America, understood that the success of his effort would require children to be liberated from the prejudices and values of their parents.

In his book, *A Common Faith*, Dewey advocated a radically secular vision for the public schools and the larger public culture. His concept of a humanistic faith, stripped of all supernatural claims, doctrines, and theological authorities, would replace Christianity as the dominant culture-shaping worldview. "Here are all the elements for a religious faith that shall not be confined to sect, class, or race," he claimed. "Such a faith has always been the common faith of mankind. It remains for us to make it explicit and militant." (Dr. Albert Mohler)

It has taken longer than Dewey expected, but this secularist faith is certainly explicit and militant now.

_____ ,
His brief reply to me:

_____ : Thanks for your email. I think that after your second email I better understand your intention in emailing. And it is appreciated. As I recall saying quite a few times, I agree with your intellectual position, and with your thorough documentation from Scripture. Christian parents raise Christians. Pagans raise pagans. The church needs to be bound together in TRUTH and LOVE. I appreciate the careful logic of your emails. _____

I do hope this was profitable to some on S.I.

Re: EDUCATION CONFESSION, on: 2008/5/30 0:01

Biblical Policy on Keeping Covenant With God in the Education of Our Children

By Dr. Greg L. Bahnsen

As a confession of our faith, testimony to the world, and instruction to all true believers, the elders of this church have determined to record here our heartfelt and Biblically based conviction that the Lord has appointed to parents the responsibility and final authority to secure, guide and control the education of their children, that they might be trained regarding this world and in all areas of life to think God's thoughts after Him and walk in all His ways.

Man was created, as God's likeness and for God's glory, to study, subdue and develop the world in which God placed him (Gen. 1:26-28). Naturally, from the very beginning, it was a task which belonged to parents to instill this perspective in their children and help them to pursue it.

Ethical rebellion against God has resulted in a curse on mankind (Gen. 3:17-19) which is experienced not only spiritually (Rom. 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-4) but also intellectually (Rom. 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:17-18), and which introduces an unavoidable antithesis between those antagonistic to God and those who belong to the promised Savior (Gen. 3:15).

The task of pursuing proper knowledge of the world and developing a God-glorifying culture therein thus encounters tremendous obstacles and distortions, making it imperative that parents educate their children within the perspective and power of God's revelation and grace. The redemption which Christ has secured for us not only spiritually saves us from the wrath to come, but also delivers us from intellectual futility and foolish reasoning in our methods and learning about the world in which we presently live.

Genuine knowledge of any subject whatsoever begins with reverence and submission to God (Prov. 1:7), particularly the fundamentals and philosophy which adhere to the Lord Jesus Christ rather than the fallen world or human traditions (Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 6:20). It is the word of God which sets apart His people in the truth (John 17:17). Thus neutrality in education is not only impossible (Matt. 12:30), but immoral (Jas. 4:4). Accordingly, the aim of Christian parents must be to encourage their children to "bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5), "in whom are deposited all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Only if they are first disciples of Christ will they know the truth and enjoy real freedom (John 8:31-32).

Therefore, from the very beginning of history, then especially with the introduction of man's rebellion against God, and as well in light of the fundamental nature of any genuine knowledge, it is a parental duty to train and educate their children, regardless of the subject matter, in the nurture of the Lord and the light of His revelation (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 5:1-2; Ps. 36:9; 119:105, 130).

The responsibility rehearsed here has been part of the confession of faith of God's people from the earliest days, indeed a primary application of the first and great commandment (Deut. 6:4-5; cf. Matt. 22:37-38). It constitutes a central element in what it means for those who are saved to keep covenant with God: "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently unto your children" - constantly and consistently, in every time and place, covering all the spheres of human thought, activity and living (Deut. 6:6-9). Note is taken that this responsibility has been assigned directly by God to parents, rather than any other institution of society.

Regardless, then, of whatever children learn - from math and science to history, social studies, literature and the arts - parents have a God-given duty to see to it that their children learn it, as much as is possible (given the resources and opportunities available to their parents), with the perspective and application of the Christian worldview as derived from God's revelation. It is and shall be the policy of this church by instruction, preaching and pastoral care

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

e to inculcate this educational responsibility in our parents, directing and helping them to walk in God's gracious covenant as faithful disciples of Christ.

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 4:21

Quote:
-----But I also find that many non-homeschoolers look at homeschoolers with A LOT of preconceived notions, and so they sometimes look to be offended by homeschoolers.

Maybe this is true for some but I had no preconceived notions before I met these people. I didn't know anything about homeschoolers before I went to that church. Like I said, I'm sure all aren't like the ones I went to church with.

Quote:
-----83% of Christians entering secular universities reject their Christian faith by graduation. That's why. I'll find the exact stats if you would like. Ever been in a residence hall? You honestly want to pay to send your kids there? If so... you're nuts.

I don't need the exact stats, I know what you are saying. But I see it from a different perspective. My first philosophy teacher was a die-hard atheist and I left with a lump in my throat a few times. You may not agree and/or I may not explain it correctly but what I saw in that class were kids who came from Christian homes and yet who didn't know who God was. It was kinda like watching the seven sons of Sceva in real time and the demon said, "Jesus I know and Paul I know but who are you?" We have to go in the Jesus we know. And since they didn't know Him, they turned to the world but where is the trust in Scripture that they'll return? Proverbs 22:6

Quote:
-----By the way, don't throw my UT education back in my lap... this was before we had kids and even considered homeschooling. I wasn't even saved when I enrolled there. I was saved during my time in Knoxville. Kids came during my studies, and homeschooling came afterwards.

No reason to explain to me, I judge you not. I think you know that I wouldn't do that anyway.

Quote:
-----But unfortunately most Christians today consider good parenting to mean that by 18 their kid isn't in jail, pregnant or dead.

Where do you get these statistics? Because I don't know any Christian parents like that and I'm not like that. That sounds like homeschooling indoctrination. lol (wink)

Quote:
-----And no one can successfully argue against homeschooling...

You'll get no argument from me. You asked why people choose not to homeschool and I responded with why, not an argument.

Quote:
-----But surprisingly on this forum there are many people who want to ignore clear teachings in scripture and embrace opinions of man. It's very indicative of the sad shape our churches are in today.

That's what gets me about you. You clearly love the Lord and I don't know what you are like in real life but sometimes on here, you come off with these pompous sayings that position you above everyone else's walk with the Lord and if I may say so, it seems as if you judge other people's walk. Maybe they aren't as far along in the Lord as you are but at least they are on here trying to learn and grow. I'm not trying to pick a fight with you, Krispy.

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

I grew up with a man of God (pastor) who taught, "Give them as much time as God has given you."
.....How long has it taken God to get you where you are?
.....Is He finished with you yet?
.....Have you reached perfection in understanding all Scripture?

Lovingly, I say that sometimes you come off like you have indeed reached that pinnacle but maybe this is just me and it's four in the morning and I'm more bolder than usual because I can't sleep!!

Believe it or not, I love the Lord too! I also believe that so does the majority on this forum.

Love in Christ and God bless you, Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 8:30

Quote:
-----Lovingly, I say that sometimes you come off like you have indeed reached that pinnacle but maybe this is just me and it's four in the morning and I'm more bolder than usual because I can't sleep!!

Lisa... I'm not sure why, but it seems you and I have been sparring a lot lately. I don't mean to do that. I think sometimes it's my own fault because a lot of times I start off addressing someone specifically (in this case, you)... and then end up making general statements not aimed at anyone in particular... just general observations.

The problem is, because I started off addressing someone specifically, that someone takes **everything** I wrote as being pointed at them.

In my last post this is exactly what happened. About half way thru my post I ceased talking directly to you, and began making general observations and comments.

In NO WAY did I mean to say that you, Lisa, ignore scripture and base your beliefs on opinions, etc. And I apologize for not being more clear.

I know you're serious about the Lord. I don't know you personally (tho apparently we were neighbors at one point!), but I don't get the impression from you that you consider good parenting to be getting your kids to age 18 alive.

But I do know and have observed many in the church who DO in fact act that way. They put on a good show at church, but they are more concerned about the new Indiana Jones movie than they are about helping smuggle Bibles into Burma. Their kids act no different than the world... but hey, at least they aren't in jail! (just means they've never been caught)

So yea, I started out talking to you, but I transitioned from you to making general statements... and from your perspective I can see how you would take my comments as being "pompous". However, if you remove yourself from what I said, and take it as it was intended... I don't think they are that pompous at all.

If Ravenhill said it... we would call him "brilliant". If Krispy says it... it's "pompous".

After I'm dead and gone perhaps someone will consider me "brilliant"! lol... :-P

Anyway, Lisa, I want to say that I have a very high regard and respect for you and what you bring to this forum. We don't always agree, but that's ok.

BTW... a quick search of all of the apologies I've had to make to folks on this forum should put to rest any impressions you may have that I consider myself to be some sort of spiritual giant. No, where ever people are on this forum in their walk with the Lord... I'm quite certain they are probably farther along than I am.

Krispy

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 8:38

Quote:
-----But surprisingly on this forum there are many people who want to ignore clear teachings in scripture and embrace opinions of man. It's very indicative of the sad shape our churches are in today.

This is something I said... I wont apologize for it. All I can do is point to the threads about Todd Bentley as proof. I was watching a video of this guy just about an hour ago, and how anyone can say this is a move of God... I just dont understand.

But there are those on this forum who have tried to defend it. The only way you can defend it is to completely ignore scripture.

So no... what I said is true, and it's not judgemental.

(Lets not turn this into another Todd Bentley thread!)

Krispy

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss () , on: 2008/5/30 10:20

Hi Miccah...

Quote:

Our job is to raise our children in the ways of the Lord, not to send them out into the world and hope that their faith will get them through it.

I could be wrong, but I don't recall any child being sent into the world to be a missionary in scripture. I do see that scripture says to teach your children Gods way. The only child that I see doing this is Jesus Himself, whose resume needs no explanation.

Also, to my understanding, all of the people in the Bible who went into the world were adults and not children.

I recall that young David walked into a valley to confront Goliath. However, I don't know that there are many instances regarding young people "facing the world" in the Bible. But what exactly is "the world"? Is it this place in which we live? Aren't we all, in a sense, in this world? We are simply not OF this world. I think that we often go wayyyyyy over board by claiming that sending children to public school is equal to sending them into the lion's den or even labeling public schools to be "the world" (as if the rest of everything in life is NOT the world). We ARE in this world. We live here (at least, temporarily). We interact here. We pay our taxes here (which pay for the schools).

I think that the "shelter your children" approach is a fine attitude when children are very young...but it doesn't hold much water when they have reached a proper age of accountability. Aren't we supposed to spend our lives preparing our children to face the accountability that they will one day be forced to grow up? Each of our children will one day have to get a job and earn a living. There isn't anything "worldly" about that (in regard to sin). Children will eventually need to grow up and choose for themselves (this day) whom they will serve. It is our responsibility to prepare them for that choice. When they are young, we can do our best to make that choice for them.

I would suggest that every parent who decides to allow his/her children to attend public school to explain things adequately. Let your children know that they will be taught "truths" that do not line up with God's Word. Explain to them that children will judge other children because of their faith. Explain to them that the children of this world belong to the god of this age, and that their thoughts, actions and lessons will reflect such allegiance. Let them know what to expect and how to counter such things as a believer. Explain that evolution is a THEORY that contradicts itself over and over again, even if there are some "proofs" offered on its behalf. Explain that the people of this world will dress and act in a manner reflective of the one that they unwittingly choose to serve.

I will say that not all schools are as wicked as some would have us believe. Many schools attempt to remain strict educational facilities. I would almost certainly move out of an area that had violent or a terrible set of educational institutions (because those students will one day live and work in the same community). This is why there was a massive shift towa

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

rd the suburbs during the 1990s. Yet even if I lived in a "good" district, I would think twice (and pray and fast repeatedly) before sending my young children to a public school. It might not be violent, sexually perverse, or even filled with bad kids or teachers. But the fact remains that I just don't trust teachers that I have never met to instruct my children for 8 hours each day. And I know that I don't trust the evolutionary biology that is the basis for most of the sciences that are taught in public schools.

I think that I could allow my teenage child to attend a public school IF he was a strong believer and had been well prepared for it. I wouldn't see it as "missionary work," except in the fact that we are called to let our lights shine in this present world (and not simply hide it under a very spiritual and protective bushel). I would send my teen to a public high school to LEARN. Yet I would make certain that he could differentiate between the holy and the profane. If my child was unable to do so, I would quickly yank him out and do my best to prepare him to make such a distinction.

Once we have children, we will likely homeschool them through junior high school. We just don't trust social and scientific liberals within state education agencies to properly teach our children.

Hi Krispy...

Quote:

83% of Christians entering secular universities reject their Christian faith by graduation. Thats why. I'll find the exact stats if you would like. Ever been in a residence hall? You honestly want to pay to send your kids there? If so... you're nuts.

I'm not so convinced by any statistic that claims that "83% of Christians entering secular universities reject their Christian faith by graduation." I think that such a "statistic" is not accurate and is used more as a *scare tactic* for overprotective parents against those "evil secular universities" rather than being truly based in fact. As a Christian who attended secular universities, works a "secular" job and lives in a "secular" world - I find it preposterous to suggest that the faith of a Christian could be lost so easily. Not only did I not lose my faith during college, I actually matured as a believer. I was involved with many other believers on the campus (with involvement in Church, Christian student organizations, on-campus Bible studies, and on campus prayer-meetings). I don't recall a single believer who "lost his/her faith" during that time.

I think that it would have been far more accurate of the supposed statistician to say that 83% of *supposed* Churchgoers reject Christianity. I seriously doubt the validity of a "statistic" that claims that 83% of people who have truly met Jesus Christ would abandon their faith in Christ at a secular university. If they do, then their faith was pretty weak (if we can call it faith at all). After having attended a "Christian" university and secular universities, I would think that it would be easier for a "Christian" young person to become polluted by the things of this world at a "Christian" school - simply because of the preponderance of acceptance of a particular activity or idea. Like C.S. Lewis stated, "*The gradual road to Hell is the most faithful*" (or something to that effect). I attended a Christian school for one semester that actually held the musical "GREASE" in the same auditorium that housed the weekly prayer meeting (maybe "weakly" would have been a better word). I think that it is often easier to make a distinction between the holy and the profane when you attend a secular school. Regardless, whether you attend a secular university or a supposedly "Christian" school, it is impossible to let something affect you unless you allow it to. This is why it is so important to teach children to learn the difference between what is holy and what is profane.

In addition, I lived in resident halls the entire time I was working on my Bachelor's and Master's degrees at a public university. The dorms contained crude living conditions (small room, old facilities), but they were FAR from the silly stereotypes of "party central." In fact, I lived in a freshman dorm that required all visitors to check in and then check out by 11 P.M. This was the policy at all of the residence halls on campus. The campus is a smoking free/alcohol free public facility. The old buildings had thick enough walls that you didn't get distracted by any noise or odors. When I became a junior, I moved into an upper classmen coed dorm that allowed for visitors 24 hours a day, but maintained a strict 24/7 quiet policy. It was like an apartment building where music, television, talking, etc... had to be kept low enough that you couldn't hear it in the hall or in any other room. Each floor had a security guard on duty at all times; they roamed through the halls to make sure that everyone followed the rules. If anyone were caught breaking the rules, they were fined at least \$100 and given a first and final warning. The next offense would result in expulsion from the dorms and loss of the room deposit (about \$150). Because of the relative safety, security and quietness, I wouldn't have a problem sending my Christian children into such a dorm...and I am not "nuts." I think my parents were pretty confident in their decision too.

Quote:

As for being controlling... hey, we have a calling as Christian parents to be "shade for the children". We are to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Psalm 1 and all of Proverbs give many many warnings about our dealings with the ungodly. It gives much advice to what is wisdom and what is not.

But surprisingly on this forum there are many people who want to ignore clear teachings in scripture and embrace opinions of man. It's very indicative of the sad shape our churches are in today.

Why not send our kids to public schools and secular universities? Because there is a war on for our children. Spiritual warfare is not about finding demons hiding behind pews... it's about raising our children in such a manner as to not give Satan a foothold.

I agree – except that I believe that it is possible to “train up a child in the way he should go” without sheltering them from the entire physical world. Of course, we wouldn’t let our children drink poison or see things for the sake of educating them. But I think that it is a little far-fetched to claim that the entire public school system has no good attributes. And, of course, I don’t think that is what you are trying to do. There are some wonderful teachers, students, administrators and instructional methods/aids within the public school system.

Unfortunately, there is also the idea that the schools have gone so far as to make the schools into completely secular institutions. This is not to say that you can’t pray or read your Bible. I did so regularly. I even started a Christian Bible-study club in my high school. I led the meeting in prayer and in Bible study (well, most of the time). The meetings were attended by over 100 students and several teachers and administrators. Even our principal attended most of the meetings. We were even able to distribute Bibles from the local Gideon organization (as they were no longer allowed entrance to the classrooms). We were able to stand in lunch (with them next to us) as we distributed pocket New Testaments.

I am a product of the public school system. While I did allow myself to become beguiled by the “science” and “facts” of evolution, I believe that this was partially because my parents – although good and well-meaning believers – did not prepare me well enough for what the ideas that the school would present as “fact.” Once I became a believer in high school, I still earned straight A’s and eventually graduated near the top of my class. I was strong enough of a believer to maintain my faith, learn, discern between the holy and the profane, and dismiss what is not true. I was this way in high school. I was this way in college. I am still this way in day-to-day life.

I have an issue with the lack of quality at many Bible schools. I attended one Bible school for a semester after having attended several well-respected Bible schools’ “college days” that demonstrated that they were just as “secular” as my public high school and college. In fact, there was more of a free-spirited party type of atmosphere at the Christian universities than the “secular” colleges that I attended. I found the academics to be sorely lacking too. The faculty was lackadaisical regarding deadlines – and regularly allowed students to turn in assignments late (a terrible precedent when preparing students for the workplace). And to top it off – they were EXTREMELY expensive. Many Christian colleges lack accreditation too, which can hurt while seeking employment or entrance into another school. How do I know? None of my classes were allowed to transfer from the “Christian” university to the “secular” university. Of course, I don’t think that this is reflective of ALL Christian universities – but the one that I attended was a denominational school that enjoyed a pretty good reputation.

Anyway, I don’t mean to dabble with a rhetorical defense of “secular” universities. In fact, I don’t like that word “secular” at all. Schools are supposed to be educational institutions. It is possible for a student to attend a “secular” college and maintain his/her faith. In fact, some students can even grow in their faith during that time. In addition, a Christian student can actually bypass many of the courses that are so “evil” (like Biology and Sociology) by choosing a different set of courses.

Of course, I still prefer to educate my young children (when we have them) at home. My wife and I are more than able to direct their education (with God’s help) during their very important years. However, we are leaning toward a different direction when they are older. I will probably encourage my son or daughter to choose the best school according to what they feel the will of God is for his/her life. Of course, we will cross that bridge when we get to it. My wife and I have only been married for about a year, and we aren’t sure when the children will arrive. Maybe we will “change our tune” once we have children of our own. However, this is how we both feel now.

:)

Re., on: 2008/5/30 10:37

Here's the difference that I think you're missing, Chrrrrriiisssssssssssssssssss.... lol

The difference between going into the highways and byways to compel them to come in... and sending your child into the public school system is this: who's effecting who?

What is the purpose of school? To train children. To teach them how to think. To teach them how to view the world.

Now, obviously the public school system is not interested one bit in teaching children to view the world from a Biblical godly perspective. They are not interested in teaching them how to think from a Biblical position.

The school is there to **train** children. A child, and even most teenagers, are not savvy enough to turn the table on the teachers and train the teachers. No, it's the other way around.

In my line of work I use my contacts with others as a way of witnessing Christ thru how I conduct my business, how I talk, how I act, etc. No one is trying to train me or teach me 8 hours a day.

That's the difference. Scripture is quite clear, especially in Psalm 1, and in other parts, that we are not to receive our training and teaching at the feet of the world... but rather by the Holy Spirit, scripture, the church... and from godly parents.

Not one time does scripture ever recommend receiving our training at the feet of the ungodly. But there are plenty of warnings not to.

So... when you, as an adult, go into a mission field (whatever that may be) you go there to make an impact. You're not going there to sit at the feet of the world and soak in it's wisdom so-called.

Why would we expect children to be able to do exactly the opposite?

The difference is your purpose is to train the ungodly, or teach them, or persuade them. Public schools exist for the soul purpose of training, teaching and persuading young minds. And they are very effective at it.

You go to train... children go to be trained.

And be trained they will be.

Krispy

Re., on: 2008/5/30 12:59

Taken From: Extreme Devotion

In restricted countries, Christian children often suffer alongside their parents. When fathers and mothers are arrested because of their church activities, the children are often left as orphans. If they are lucky, their family members or friends can care for them. However, at worst, they are sent to orphanages or state run institutions. No more bedtime Bible stories and no more family prayers before meals.

However, the letters from the children to their imprisoned parents display tremendous courage and tenacity during the difficult times of separation. Their words convey hope of a reunion.

“God bless you dear Mommy. Don’t be troubled by our temporary separation—it won’t last forever. Our joy will return soon—let that thought encourage you. Mommy, I can’t imagine the feast we will have when you return. I have been keeping up with my schoolwork. Now it is night—tomorrow will be another day. Day after day it drags on, but I know we will be together soon. I embrace you. Your loving daughter.”

“Dear Mom, when you come home, I will not think about the loneliness and pain anymore. I beg you not to cry, Mommy. I love you. I wrote a little poem for you:

You have a heart of gold,

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You are young at heart, not old.
The Lord observes you from on high,
We'll be together soon, you and I."

Children are often the last ones considered when it comes to the effects of persecution. For every imprisoned parent, there is a child left behind. However, as Jesus pointed out on numerous occasions, a child's faith is significant. If a child can demonstrate incredible courage amid intense circumstances, then what is our excuse? Instead of growing resentful toward the circumstances that are beyond their control, the children of persecuted Christians are growing in grace. Can we say the same about our lives? As adults, we risk focusing too much on the blows and beatings life brings. We could benefit from modeling the resilient faith of children. In what ways do you need to grow in childlike faith? Begin today by remembering the children.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss () , on: 2008/5/30 13:15

Hi Kripsy...

Quote:

The difference between going into the highways and byways to compel them to come in... and sending your child into the public school system is this: who's effecting who?

What is the purpose of school? To train children. To teach them how to think. To teach them how to view the world.

I disagree. The purpose of the school is to EDUCATE. The purpose of the parents is to TRAIN. There is a huge difference here.

However, I agree with what you're saying. Schools can indoctrinate anyone who is not mature enough to distinguish between the holy and the profane. That is why my wife and I will almost certainly homeschool our children until they reach an age for which they are mature enough to sift through what is presented by a teacher or textbook. If a young person cannot make such distinction, they should not be in a public school. However, if a person approaches adulthood and still lacks such discernment, then there is probably something wrong. It is our responsibility (as parents) to train them in the ways of the Lord (which includes the wisdom to discern between the holy and profane).

A school, however, is meant to teach educate children in certain subjects. Younger children learn reading, writing, spelling, math, art, science, history and social studies. As they grow, they delve into specific subjects like chemistry, algebra, calculus, biology, etc... This is merely the presentation of what is considered knowledge – and NOT the training of how to comprehend or digest such "knowledge."

Quote:

In my line of work I use my contacts with others as a way of witnessing Christ thru how I conduct my business, how I talk, how I act, etc. No one is trying to train me or teach me 8 hours a day.

That's the difference. Scripture is quite clear, especially in Psalm 1, and in other parts, that we are not to receive our training and teaching at the feet of the world... but rather by the Holy Spirit, scripture, the church... and from godly parents.

Yes, but the fact that you are in your "line of work" is indicative that you were educated. You were educated in the principles of Engineering, including all of the Mathematics and Sciences involved. To earn an Engineering degree, you were also trained in the "basics" of English, Government, History, Art, Kinesiology, Communications, Math, and whichever other subjects that your school felt were needed to earn a Bachelor's degree. It wasn't this basic knowledge that is "secular" since God created all of this knowledge in the first place! But this educational certificate provided you with greater opportunity to work in a field of engineering.

Quote:

Not one time does scripture ever recommend receiving our training at the feet of the ungodly. But there are plenty of warnings not to.

So... when you, as an adult, go into a mission field (whatever that may be) you go there to make an impact. You're not going there to sit at the feet of the world and soak in it's wisdom so-called.

Why would we expect children to be able to do exactly the opposite?

What if a Christian young person felt the desire in their heart to work as an Electrical Engineer...or a Computer Engineer...or a General Doctor...or a Heart Surgeon...or an Architect...or a Radiologist...etc...? Do you know many "Christian" colleges that have good departments that teach such things? Do we confine all of our young people to Christian schools that teach these things (which I am not even sure that they exist in the first place)? What if they desire to earn the best possible education in such fields? Do we send them to Glad Tidings Christian College and Bible School to become a surgeon?

Regardless of what we want to believe about how secular colleges are supposedly active in their recruiting process of homeschooleders, it is my experience that these schools are extremely competitive. I worked in a "secular" college admissions office as a freshman. My sister-in-law still works in such an office. Most schools consider your SAT/ACT scores, GPA, class rank, level of rank or difficulty of your school/program, application essays, high school standardized exit tests, college entrance exams, amongst several other factors. Some college programs are extremely competitive. I know a student who was rejected from the Engineering school at my Alma Mater for scoring a 24 on his ACT (in which 21 is the national average). Yet this student did not do so well in other criterion for admission. Anyone who decides to homeschool his child through high school must consider this (especially if their child is interested in a discipline that is not taught at most "Christian" colleges).

Yes, God has called us to be good Christians who are prepared to depart this world at any time. But while we wait for the End to come, we are instructed by God to provide for our families. A college diploma can help in that. In fact, you can not work as an engineer in most states unless you are certified to do so by an accredited agency. The same is true of many fields of study. So, in a sense, we must recognize that there will be some careers that are completely restricted away from students whose parents insist on Christian colleges or universities. We must also be aware of the fact that most schools place weight upon the type of school you went to (Was it accredited? How does it rank in your state? What was the student's rank in his class?).

This is part of the reason that we might NOT homeschool our children in High School. It is our prayer that we will have trained and educated our child enough to prepare him both academically AND spiritually - so that they can stand up as a light in a public high school while also excelling in academics. We will - with God's help - have taught them to distinguish between the holy and the profane. They will know how to listen to what they are taught and distinguish between truth and lie.

Quote:

The difference is your purpose is to train the ungodly, or teach them, or persuade them. Public schools exist for the soul purpose of training, teaching and persuading young minds. And they are very effective at it.

You go to train... children go to be trained.

And be trained they will be.

Like I said, I don't believe that children go to school to be trained. It is my responsibility to train them in the ways of the Lord. They go to school in order to be educated. They learn things that deal with subjects like Math, English, Writing and Science. However, I concur that young children face a daunting task because they are not mature enough to tell the difference. However, once a child has grown in the knowledge of the Lord and is equipped enough to properly weigh the information, then I might allow him to enter a public school (in high school).

I just can't agree with an argument that is based upon a premise that public schools are out to *indoctrinate* our children. Their purpose - right or wrong - is to educate. I agree that I would homeschool my children while they are young - and probably through the 8th grade. However, because of the restrictions that might naturally be exhibited toward homeschooled children, I don't know that I would attempt to homeschool my child in high school. Unless my child wants to become a "career" minister, I do not think that I would send them to a Christian college or university. I believe that Christian colleges and universities can have their purposes, but it is difficult (in my opinion) to obtain a strong education in

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n many, many areas (medical, scientific, engineering, etc...) by limiting your choices to a supposedly "Christian" college or university. While I won't go so far as saying that this is the same as hiding their lights in a bushel, a Christian university might not be the best option for some students.

:-)

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 15:54

Quote:
-----A school, however, is meant to teach educate children in certain subjects.

Not anymore, brother. Those days are long gone. Thats the whole problem with government schools... their agenda. You dont have to look to far to uncover the agenda of the government schools. You can start with the NEA's website... they arent afraid to spell it out for you.

They are no longer about teaching the "3 R's"... they are about training children to think from a worldly ungodly point of view.

How long has it been since you have had any dealings with the public schools?

Krispy

Re: Isa 8:20...Neh 9:26...Jer 2:8, on: 2008/5/30 17:01

Are there any on S.I. who'd answer this:

I was wondering if you might furnish me with a Biblical defense of either the neutrality,indifference,command,permission/allowance or otherwise respecting God's will for the christian to send their children to be educated by state/government-run institutions where the teachers and fellow students are for the most part unbelievers,God-haters,anti-Christ and immoral, where hypocrisy abounds and the religion of secular humanism promoted.

PS APOLOGIA - The Greek word meaning "a spoken or written defense." It appears eight times in the New Testament, in the context of people defending their faith or actions by reason and logic.
From Webster's Dictionary: apologia \ap-uh-LOH-jee-uh;-juh\, noun:
A formal defense or justification, especially of one's opinions, position, or actions.
From Websters Dictionary (1828 edition) Apologetic
Defending by words or arguments; excusing; said or written in defense, or by way of apology; as an apologetic essay.
"But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3:15

I ask that before you do answer that you'd please read the question very carefully and answer apologetically as I've asked. Please only do so if you are ABLE. And please do not go off on tangents(syn. digression).

If God has a command or Word for us from His Mind and Spirit I believe most here on S.I. would care to know. As ultimately such is all that really matters. Thanks

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 17:46

Quote:
-----They are no longer about teaching the "3 R's"... they are about training children to think from a worldly ungodly point of view.

I can vouch for this, as well. It hasn't been a year since I graduated high school, a public school, mind you, and at the same time I completed my first year of college--also at a secular institution. It wasn't about "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic," anymore because the agenda has taken the place of that. Sure, we still learned how to read, write, and compute basic e

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quations, but there's so much else that they push. I took a class called American Government my senior year. This class was and is a graduation requirement in the district I was educated in. I kept finding myself having to sift through the opinions of my teacher to find facts; and when I was done sifting, I discovered two things: not much was left after the opinions were removed, and very few students ever question such things. That was evident when the students got up in front of the class to give a presentation and recited opinions given by the instructor. This didn't just happen in that class; it happened in most of my classes. My tenth grade language arts teacher was a Buddhist. She had fits whenever myself or a friend of mine would share our testimonies of Christ and what He has done for us, even if we were just conversing with each other. Her liberal views and Buddhist beliefs were reflected in some of her lessons, and in the way she taught the district's curriculum.

Public schools are no longer about teaching kids what they need to know to be successful people; public schools are about teaching kids what they need to know to be a certain kind of successful people, and I'm pretty sure it's not a kind that God admires.

Sure, there are some public schools that aren't that way, but you'd be hard pressed to find one.

Re: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools? - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/30 18:01

A short 2 minute video i believe is right on about government education.

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?vLq_tcyPV7Vg) The children of Caesar

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 18:12

The Children of Ceasar...

Yes, this is exactly what I have been trying to say!! Excellent video...

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/5/30 21:31

Anybody watching the national spelling bee? I just watched the homeschooler from California...she's still going. :-D

Re:, on: 2008/5/31 11:31

Hey... I listened to this entire sermon. Y'all need to listen to this. It's good stuff.

Here's the link:

http://www.voddiebaucham.org/vbm/Podcast/Entries/2007/1/17_The_Centrality_of_the_Home.html

Krispy

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/5/31 13:04

Hello...

Does anyone have a curriculum that they would recommend for homeschooling? I've been speaking to my in-laws about this, and one has actually decided to homeschool his children next year. Ironically, he is a public high school AP teacher (Advanced Placement Trig and Calculus). He asked about which curriculum is most recommended. Any ideas?

I believe that Krispy stated somewhere that he used more than one. Which ones do you use -- and which do you find to be the most beneficial?

Thanks for the help!

:)

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2008/5/31 13:23

Quote:

-----Does anyone have a curriculum that they would recommend for homeschooling?

I can highly recommend (<http://www.clp.org/>) Christian Light Education. We have been using their curriculum for 3 years now and it provides sound, Bible based education through the high school level. I am pleased with the content and quality of the lessons. They also can offer achievement testing, records keeping, and a high school diploma through their "Homeschool Plus" program. It is affordable also.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: THE MYTH OF NEUTRALITY, on: 2008/6/1 0:46

The Myth of Neutrality

What has been the most successful lie in the history of Christianity? There can be no doubt: the myth of neutrality. This myth has kept Christians for two thousand years from developing explicitly and exclusively Biblical solutions to their problems. They have returned, generation after generation, to Greek, Roman, and modern philosophy and institutions, on the assumption that God and Satan, good and evil, Christians and non-Christians share certain fundamental beliefs, or at least share certain views of the world around them. But they don't. Every fact is an interpreted fact. Satan interprets the world in his way, while God interprets it in another. Satan sees this world as rightfully his, not God's; God sees it as rightfully his, not Satan's. There can be no reconciliation between these two views. All attempts at reconciling them necessarily lead to Satan's view: that God has no right to tell us how to interpret His world.

There is no neutrality. There may be indifference. A person may not care which athletic team wins a game, but he cannot be neutral about whose creation has made possible the game. Neutrality is the devil's most successful myth. He used it on Eve. He persuaded her to become a neutral experimenter. She could test God's word, to see whether or not she would die on the day she ate the fruit. "Just a neutral scientific experiment," he implied. "What have you got to lose?" The answer: everything.

The modern institution that is most self-consciously built in terms of the myth of neutrality is the "public" school, meaning the government school, meaning the taxpayer-financed school. Its legal foundation is the myth of neutrality. No religious or sectarian views are supposed to be taught in a public school, because people of many different religious beliefs are required by law to support it financially. Expenditures of tax money are supposed to be neutral, non-religious expenditures.

All this talk of neutral education is sheer nonsense. You cannot teach without ultimate concepts of true and false. Label one idea false-the evolution of the universe out of random matter that exploded with a big bang 15 billion years ago-and you have attacked some taxpayer's deeply held religious convictions. Label another idea true-the evolution of mankind from lower animals, for example-and you have attacked a different taxpayer's deeply held religious view. You are using his money to indoctrinate his children with ideas that he despises. Without exception, the major victims today are conservative Christians whose children are under deliberate religious and intellectual attack by taxpayer-financed schools.

Everything on earth is a battle between the principles of the Bible and anti-Biblical principles. A war is in progress. But Christians have refused to face this fact for well over a century in the field of education. It would involve giving up "free" humanist slop in the trough.

Nowhere is this war more clearly in progress than in the battle for the minds of men. And the major battlefield is the field of taxpayer-financed education. Men are battling for the loyalty and obedience of the next generation. And for a hundred years, Christians have been losing the battle. Why? Because they have decided to grant to their rivals the fundamental point: the myth of neutrality. They have accepted as morally valid-indeed, morally preferable-the tax-supported compulsory school. Since the 1840's in the United States, this institution has been the targeted prize of God-hating, humanist kidnappers, beginning with Massachusetts' Horace Mann, who used the God-hating, man-deifying, evil school system of apostate Prussia as his model for the public schools.

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What is a school system that teaches mankind's evolution out of meaningless slime, if not whoredom? What is a school system that makes it illegal to teach God's law as the only valid moral standard for mankind, if not whoredom? What is a school system that the U.S. Supreme Court says is not even allowed to post the Ten Commandments on a wall in the classroom, if not whoredom? What is a school system that teaches that the Bible is not a God-inspired book, but at best "literature"-no better than Shakespeare's plays, Hemingway's novels, or for that matter, the Marquis de Sade's novels? Everything is relative, after all, says the myth of neutrality.

Christian parents may protest, our children do not necessarily believe everything their public school teachers tell them for twelve years (or sixteen, or twenty), eight hours a day, five days a week, eight months a year, plus homework. No, our children will believe what we tell them (after they spend three hours a day watching television), and what they learn in church on Sunday. Are we to believe that moral atmosphere and moral temptations count for nothing? Of course they count. Then how can any Christian believe that the public school environment counts for nothing?

Christians who would not tolerate for a moment the idea of state-supported compulsory churches are strong supporters of state-supported compulsory education. They are intellectually schizophrenic.

Christians want their education, but they want it cheap. So it has cost them almost everything, just as it cost Eve.

by G. North

Re:, on: 2008/6/1 14:28

Quote:

ccchhrrriiiss wrote:
Hello...

Does anyone have a curriculum that they would recommend for homeschooling? I've been speaking to my in-laws about this, and one has actually decided to homeschool his children next year. Ironically, he is a public high school AP teacher (Advanced Placement Trig and Calculus). He asked about which curriculum is most recommended. Any ideas?

I believe that Krispy stated somewhere that he used more than one. Which ones do you use -- and which do you find to be the most beneficial?

Thanks for the help!

:-)

Depending on where your in-law is located, he might want to check out homeschool curriculum fairs. It's a great way to look over different curriculum and talk to people there. These fairs usually take place in the spring...but there are some in June also I think. (<http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com/calendar/events.htm>) Here is a link that might be helpful in that direction.

(http://www.bjupress.com/distance_learning/bjhomesat/support.html) BJU Homesat is an excellent program if the parent wants to use video classes. My younger sister did the biology course this past school year and loved it. BJU is probably the most similar to the classroom experience since with some of the live classes there is student involvement with the teachers (calling, etc). Some Christian schools or private schools use BJU's homesat program.

There's a ton of curriculum out there and a lot depends upon the teaching methods that the parents prefer. Some parents stick to one curriculum base like Abeka, while others use this and that, and then there is also classical education like (<http://www.triviumpursuit.com/index.php>) Trivium Pursuit.

So there's a few suggestions...I'm kinda surprised you haven't had more input on this subject...

A quote I found this morning by Andrew Murray that seems to tie in well with this thread:

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"The future of the Church and world depends, to an extent we little conceive, on the education of the day. The Church may be seeking to evangelize the heathen and be giving up her own children to secular and materialistic influences. Pray for schools and colleges, and that the Church may realize and fulfill its momentous duty of caring for its children."

~Andrew Murray

Re:, on: 2008/6/2 12:47

Roniya is correct, get to a curriculum fair or a homeschool used book sale. Also, google homeschool curriculum.

I will warn you that because homeschooling is becoming very popular there are those who figured out that there is a lot of money to be made... we've become a "market". Not all homeschool curriculum is equal.

My wife has a very eclectic style of teaching, meaning that she draws from many different curriculums. Some BJU stuff, some Abecca (not sure I spelled that right!), etc.

Some people are able to do it like my wife does, but some people won't be able to, and need curriculum that's already laid out for them.

Point is though, there is no lack of homeschool curriculum being offered out there, so do some googling and I'm sure it won't be long and you'll be suffering from information overload.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/6/2 13:09

Since the last day of public school is tomorrow for my kids I usually go to the library to get them caught up in any areas where they are lagging behind. One of my daughters needs help in geography so if anyone knows of any good websites please let me know.

I'm thinking about homeschooling them at night after they get home from school each day and even more on the weekend. Nothing heavy but maybe just sit at the table and do their homework with them. That way I can get involved in what they are learning.

I used Abeka when I homeschooled my kids and they did really well and got them off to a good start in public school. I'm glad that I at least was able to teach them how to read---that was very rewarding.

Getting involved with your kids in every area of their life is important along with homeschooling.

Re:, on: 2008/6/2 16:34

I agree with you about being involved in the lives of your kids. I wonder though if "homeschooling" them at night and on the weekends after all that time in the public school all week isn't going to burn them out. They need to be kids.

My kids usually get started on their school work about 8 in the morning and are finished by around 1pm. Depending on the day and the schedule sometimes they don't get to their school work until after lunch... but once they are done... they are running out the back door to go play. Our two older boys have odd jobs they do for some of our neighbors, etc.

Kids need to be kids. As stated before, while we consider education to be one of the highest priorities... raising godly men is more important.

Just wondering... is there a reason you're not homeschooling now?

General Topics :: Should Christian Parents send their kids to public schools?

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/6/2 20:46

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

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Krispy

Oh I agree I just like to get involved with helping them with their homework. Especially when it comes to History and Science because the public school system does such a poor job in those areas. We do alot of fun stuff too like crafts. All of my girls are learning how to knit, crochet and quilt. Right now they are making some things for the pregnancy center. Girls need to be taught how to do what girls do and that is to be keepers of the home.

I don't homeschool anymore because my husband prefers that I work and that means they have to attend public school. He would rather have me save for them to go to college but I'm sure we will still have to take out a loan in order to do that. He will ultimately leave the decision up to them but I am trying to teach the girls God's way and that is to be a keeper of the home and raise their children. The souls of your children are so much more important than money but if you have to put them in a public school like I do than God is sufficient and I believe He can keep them from falling.

We pray alot together and try to have devotions every night. My husbands said that if things get unbearable in the public school system than we will bring them home.

Re: - posted by JRuth (), on: 2008/6/11 17:27

I am home schooled, and would want it no other way. Its really great to be able to have your Mom as your teacher. I think there are some advantages in being home schooled also... I learned to read before I was 4, and I know that I would have a problem going to any type of school, because I do best when there is nooooo talking, and some music on in the background (which you can't do in a school) :-D Just to name a couple!!!

Well, thats my idea at least!!! 8-)

Re:, on: 2008/6/11 19:46

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JRuth wrote:

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Well, thats my idea at least!!! 8-)

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Amen. It can be a wonderful learning environment. Praise God, that your parents were able to homeschool you. :-) Parents are the experts when it comes to knowing how their own children learn best. It's the best way to go.