

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #40
“The Education of a Generation”

We will take this verse from Proverbs as our foundational text:

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

Here we have a very clear commandment from God to one generation on the education of the next generation and a precious promise that goes with it.

This is a critical message in our War of the Worldview series! Because...

The near total abandonment of God and a radical commitment to the secular worldview in the institutions of American public education has brought our nation to the brink of anarchy and cultural collapse.

“A lack of a comprehensive Biblical worldview has left Christians open to a blind-side attack from humanists who have developed a comprehensive secular worldview.”

Gary DeMar, “Something Greater is Here”

The World has mastered the application of their worldview to every area of life while the Church has largely limited the biblical worldview to private life.

“Non-Christians have no problem secularizing law, economics, ethics, journalism, education, politics, foreign affairs and environmental issues. The sad thing is that many Christians believe that the steady secularization of every area of life is inevitable and that Christians should not involve themselves in the “Christianization” of every area of life. We therefore have witnessed the steady decline of the family, politics, education and law, to name just a few.”

Gary DeMar

The Christian flag is no longer even on the field in the matter of public education; but it wasn't always so!

I. A History Lesson

A. A Definition

Education

**The process of giving or receiving systematic instruction
Oxford Dictionary**

1. Notice that education is not an instantaneous thing; it is a PROCESS of SYSTEMATIC instruction.

a. That means that all education is based on a system or a WORLDVIEW; that there is always a foundational SYSTEM of belief behind the PROCESS of what is taught.

2. The origins of America are rooted in this understanding.

“America’s founding fathers immediately established a system of education including Christian colleges: During the colonial period, from 1636 when Harvard was established to 1769 when Dartmouth was founded, nearly all colleges were organized as Christian institutions.”

Gary DeMar

3. Even a casual study of the great American colleges confirms this:

a. Perhaps the oldest is Harvard University had this in their mission statement in 1636, almost 150 years before we became a nation:

“The goal of higher learning is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life.” (John 17:3)

Harvard University mission statement, 1636

b. The origins of what became Yale University in 1701 was 500 Puritans in the “New Haven Society” 1638...

“Every student shall consider the main end of his study is to know God in Jesus Christ and answerably, to lead a Godly, sober life”.

c. At Princeton University, even those who did not enter the gospel ministry were expected to know their Bible “from cover to cover”.

4. Today, these once-great universities are breeding grounds for socialism, secularism and anarchy. What happened? Take Harvard:

“Harvard moved from its Calvinistic foundation to Arminianism, then during the 18th century to Unitarianism.

“The takeover of Harvard in 1805 by the Unitarians is probably the most important intellectual event in American history—at least from the standpoint of education.”

Samuel Blumfield, Is Public Education Necessary?

a. Harvard began to leave its Christian roots in 1805 and embraced the Unitarian (secular) worldview to the point where its new goals are nothing less than the defeat of anything that resembles a biblical worldview.

b. Consider this statement by Chester M. Pierce, who served as Professor of Education in the Faculty of Medicine and Graduate School of Education until his death in 2016:

“Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill, because he comes to school with certain allegiances toward our founding fathers, our elected officials, toward his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural Being, toward the sovereignty of this nation as a separate entity. It’s up to you teachers to make all these sic children well by creating the international children of the future.”

Chester M. Pierce, (1927-2016)

(Average cost of attending Harvard today: \$60,000)

40% of American 4th graders are reading below basic levels. In a 1998 competition among 21 countries, U.S. 12th graders ranked last in mathematics and general knowledge.

Martin L. Gross, “The Conspiracy of Ignorance: The Failure of American Public Schools”

II. What is the Biblical Worldview of Education? (3 Points)

A. First: The Responsibility of the Education of the Next Generation Is Upon This Generation

1. God has laid the responsibility of the education of the next generation upon the present generation.

2. The primary passage for this principle is found in the Book of Deuteronomy, where Moses is giving instruction to Israel about how He will give them the Land. It begins with the first foundation to be laid in the education of His people:

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!*" 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

a. The Jews were careful to begin here; they quoted it twice a day; they wrote it on their phylacteries; 1500 years later, the Messiah would come and call this the greatest of all the commandments!

3. But Moses goes on:

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart."

Deuteronomy 6:6

a. Notice! God begins with the present generation; the love of God and His commandments must be with the parents! Then he goes on...

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

b. Notice how God lays the responsibility of education of the next generation upon the present generation! This is a principle that never changes.

c. There are 7 things here:

- First, shall teach them the Word of God *diligently* (point to constantly)
- Second, when you sit in your house (God believes in home schooling!)
- Third, when you walk by the way (During your daily comings and goings)
- Fourth, when you lie down and when you rise up (morning and evening)

- Fifth, you shall bind them on your hand (refers to all you DO)
- Sixth, make God's Word as "frontlets between your eyes"-governing all you see
- Seventh, you shall write them on the doorposts of your house (for protection) and on your gates-the Word of God and His commandments are to govern all that enters your home

d. All 7 commands are to parents about the education of a generation.

4. Several generations later, Solomon would give us the famous Book of Proverbs; 31 chapters of wisdom from the wisest man who ever lived. But did you realize that the whole book is nothing but a father INSTRUCTING his son?

The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David...to give insight to the simple and knowledge to the young. (Proverbs 1:1,4)

**8 My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;**

**9 For they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head,
And chains about your neck.**

Proverbs 1:8-9

a. Notice the father is commanding his son to listen to his INSTRUCTION and commanding him not to forsake the LAW of his mother

b. Why? Because their teachings would have a positive effect on the "head" and "neck" of the children: a graceful ornament on their "head" (governing how the child thinks) and chains about their "neck"-an idiom for the will of the child; that which would restrain youthful disobedience and stubbornness!

Review: Point #1 is that the education of the next generation lies upon the present generation. But where do we begin? Which is my 2nd point: In the biblical worldview...

B. Second: All True Knowledge and Genuine Wisdom Must Begin With the Fear of the Lord

1. Again we go to the Book of Proverbs for 2 verses:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

a. Here we have a contrast that determines the destiny of a generation: on the one hand, those who begin their pursuit of knowledge on the foundation of the fear of the Lord. On the other hand, a foolish generation that “despises” God’s wisdom and instruction.

(Is this not what we have today?)

2. Then another verse...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
Proverbs 9:10

a. The Bible makes a distinction between knowledge and wisdom:

- They are related but not the same
- Knowledge is information gained through experience or reasoning; but wisdom is “the ability to discern or judge what is true or right
- Knowledge can exist without wisdom; but not the other way round; wisdom presupposes that one has knowledge
- **Knowledge knows a tomato is a fruit; wisdom knows not to put it in a fruit salad**
- Knowledge knows how to use a gun; wisdom is knowing when to use it or when to put it in the holster!

“Knowledge has something to say; wisdom knows when to say it.”

3. A worldly education centers on knowledge; a biblical education gives knowledge and wisdom together.

Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore, get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.
Proverbs 4:7

a. We have many educated idiots in this world; it is the elite intellectuals that are destroying America!

4. Notice that in the biblical worldview, both knowledge and wisdom begin with the “fear of the Lord”.

The fear of the Lord means to have respect and reverence for God, with a wholesome dread of displeasing Him.

a. As to education, it means that our respect and reverence for God is the beginning of all the knowledge and wisdom we seek combined with a wholesome dread of embracing anything that contradicts whatever He has said.

Review:

(1) God has placed the responsibility for the education of the next generation upon the present generation

(2) The beginning of education, that is the beginning of all true knowledge and wisdom is the fear of the Lord; the commitment to respect His word above the word of all others

And finally, my closing point...

C. Third: The Future Rises or Falls on Who Does the Education of the Next Generation

1. We are losing the War of the Worldviews in American culture largely because of the failure of the present generation of parents, grandparents and churches to take on the responsibility for the education of the next generation.

2. The public schools in America are no longer safe places for Christian kids to learn.

a. I you have a child in the government run schools, you better be doubling down on what I have presented today about teaching in the home.

3. The colleges of America are designed to destroy the faith of the Christian kids who attend them, as shown above.

*A recent survey showed that 7 out of 10 students from Christian church youth ministries fall away from the Christian faith during their college years!

The reason 75% of Christian Kids leave the faith after 18 years is because we have ignored their intellect. We have their hearts but not their heads.

Brace E. Barber, Christian Apologetics speaker

4. It will take all of us to turn the tide!

a. Our own Larry Tomczak, wrote a recent article: “You Won’t Believe the Anti-Biblical Vales Your Kids Are Learning at School” said:

“Mothers and fathers are primarily responsible for their children’s welfare. But today, we need to rally all the support we can from God-fearing grandparents, like-minded Christian friends, and a genuine church community.”

Larry Tomczak

5. This is a word to every people-group within Christianity!

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

a. But what KIND of education = what KIND of world!

“The Bible is the foundation of all education and development.”

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

6. We can never win the War of the Worldviews without a commitment to the biblical worldview of education!

III. Conclusion:

Review

- The education of the next generation is the responsibility of the present generation
- All true knowledge and genuine wisdom must begin with the fear of the Lord
- The future rises or falls on who does the education of the next generation

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