

Truth in Education

BY PAT MARCUM

CHRIStIAN LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY are identifying the public school system as a major detriment to children from Christian homes. The severe damage that has already occurred, and is continuing in an ever-increasing downward spiral, is shredding the very fabric of our Christian heritage and culture. The secular education received by children in government schools has more impact on shaping their social values, and consequently the culture, than do all of the various forms of media and politics combined. It only makes sense that rearing children year after year in a secular environment, with a secular philosophy and textbooks, will produce adults who think and act from a secular worldview. Most parents and churches have little time, by comparison, to counter these teachings with biblical truth. Statistics show that 70% of Christian children who attend secular schools leave their faith and their church within two years of high school graduation.

The secular worldview asserts that there is no God, and that even if He does exist, He is irrelevant to life. It teaches that man is inherently good, and that only man's physical and social environments, which are the causes of his problems, need to be changed in order for him to experience happiness. This is a problem for Christians, who believe that God created man in His image, and that He is both interested in and intimately involved with His creation. God's Word teaches that, due to Adam's fall, mankind is born with a nature to sin, and that the only solution to our sin is faith in Jesus Christ.

The secular world, in its quest to discover the origins of life, has concluded that the universe came into being simply by chance, that man has evolved from a lower form of life over millions of years, and has been left alone to figure everything out. This model of 'evolution' admits no accountability to either man or God, yet it has become the very foundation for teaching children that there is no such thing as absolute truth. This philosophy of relativism has led schools to the latest trend of teaching tolerance for everyone and everything. For example, students of all ages, in hundreds of schools across the country, are being taught to accept that homosexuality is a normal and acceptable lifestyle. In his book, *Christian Education for the Real World*, Dr. Henry Morris stated, "... the educational activities of mankind – as formalized in vast systems of public education – have become a chief instrument for turning man away from the truth..."

The enemies of truth have been hard at work in our country for many decades. Sadly, they have been quite successful in accomplishing their goals. The roots of secularism have been firmly planted in our public schools, producing much bad fruit in America. As Christians, we must begin to take responsibility for providing a God-honoring education for our own children. The secular system has barred God and our Christian heritage from the public classroom, and continues to teach ideologies that both deny and oppose biblical truth, while silencing Christian teachers and students. Abraham Lincoln said, "The philosophy of education in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."

Christian parents and leaders should revisit the writings of the Christian patriots who founded this great country. America's history reveals that her foundation was laid on solid, biblical principles, and was built by the great sacrifices of many godly men and women. Education in America was actually nurtured by the church until 1892, a fact that has been skillfully hidden and distorted by secularists. What America is, and will yet become, hinges on the ongoing battle for the minds of our children. How will they be educated:

in the truth, or in a completely secular worldview? The secular system has demonstrated a willingness to openly oppose Christianity, and to suppress truth in the classroom. Christians must resolve to oppose the secular worldview, and begin to make alternative choices for our children if we hope to provide them with superior academics and truth in education. ■

Pat Marcum is a homeschool marketing consultant, and was a homeschool parent for 19 years.

RESOURCE GUIDE

American Family Association: Suffer the Children. An excellent video that reveals how teachers are being instructed to manipulate elementary-age children into accepting the homosexual lifestyle. 662-844-5036 www.afa.net

Baptist Banner: T.C. Pinckney, editor. Delivered a speech to members of the SBC Executive Committee, entitled, *We Are Losing Our Children*. Provides an excellent chronology of the development of public schools, and calls for Baptists to set up Christian schools or to homeschool. For a transcript, e-mail: tcp@baptistbanner.com.

Exodus Mandate: *Let My Children Go*, by E. Ray Moore. A guide for pastors explaining the current state of our school system, and offering some excellent solutions. 809-209-8570 www.exodusmandate.org

Homeschool Legal Defense Association: The largest homeschool organization in America, with over 70,000 paid members. Provides information on state laws and association contacts, and helpful information on how to get started in homeschooling. 540-338-5600 www.hslda.com

Institute for Creation Research: *Christian Education for the Real World*, by Henry Morris. Many items about Creation available. 619-448-0900 www.icr.org

Issues In Education: Audio tapes & CDs of interviews with educational leaders, including those listed here. Request a complete list. 888-477-8379 www.issuesineducation.org

National Home Education Research Institute: *Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling: Facts & Stats on the Benefits of Home School*, by Dr. Brian Ray. Videos on homeschooling also available. 503-364-2827 www.nheri.org

Wall Builders: *Education and the Founding Fathers*, video. David Barton teaches the truth about America's history. A must see! 817-441-6044 www.wallbuilders.com

Use this guide to learn more about vital educational issues.