



The 10 Most Popular Myths Christian Parents Believe

Answers to the question:

WHY DO CHRISTIAN PARENTS CHOOSE TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN IN A SCHOOL THAT EXCLUDES CHRIST?

Encouragement

"No one will read this!" This has been the feedback we have received from some who proofed this writing. They contend that most people are no longer willing to read anything more than a "sound bite." They tell us that the average person just wants the bottom line or the CliffsNotes version. "Just email me, or better yet, text me- it's quicker."

Our "bottom line" to you: please give this writing ten minutes of your time. Using the power and truth of Biblical principles, it contains information that may change your life and the life of your children forever.

A Difficult Message to Write

We have taken six months to write this booklet. It has been critiqued by parents, grandparents, and teachers both in the Christian and public school sectors. Some have said the message is terrific. Others have said it is preachy or self righteous. Still others said it was harsh. We listened to the criticisms and made changes that we hoped would remove any tone that would offend while not changing the truths herein.

We understand that what we have written will not win the praise of the world. However, we are not seeking that praise. This booklet is designed to bring truth to

minds of *Christian* parents who choose to have their children educated in a public school or a private non-Christian school. It is not directed to homeschool parents or non-Christian parents.

We could ignore what is going on in our culture and say nothing, but that would not be Biblical. Christians are called to be truth tellers, even when what we say may be unpopular. Please know our heart on this: we have written this booklet because we love the Lord, love the brethren, and love children. Psalm 40:9-11 says,

"I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation."

Our hope is that God will bless the sharing of His truth through this booklet.

Special note to Christian public school teachers and administrators: this booklet cites some of the unbiblical weaknesses of the public school in America. Please do not read this as a personal attack. We appreciate that you do not agree with the philosophy of the public schools and want to encourage you to be a warrior for Christ in that setting. Although we do not believe that Christ intended for children to be missionaries in the public school, He does intend Christian adults to speak His truth boldly wherever they are. We urge you to trust the Lord as you follow your calling.

Introduction

You have probably heard the term "like a

frog in the kettle." It refers to a situation where the frog sits in room temperature water in the kettle and neither knows nor feels the subtle changes that are happening in the water. Degree after degree, the water increases in heat and eventually the frog is boiled to death.

So it is with many Christian families in America. With the decline of Christianity in our culture and many in the American church behaving more like the world, many Christian families are being boiled to death. Instead of realizing that there



is a continual increase in the cultural temperature, Christian parents are being fooled again and again, believing misinformation that is killing the spiritual life of their children.

What about you? Are you being fooled? Have you bought into the secular perspectives that we are constantly bombarded with each day? Have you taken the time and energy to question the so called "facts" that we are fed from all angles?

Please read and consider the ten myths that Christian parents frequently believe. You still have time to jump out of the kettle.



MYTH 1: I am saving money by not paying Christian school tuition.

Actually, the costs to parents for not sending their child to a Christian school are potentially much greater. First, Jesus forces us to answer this question about what parents think is most important for their children:

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” Mark 8:36

In other words, what have you gained financially if you have lost your child’s soul for all eternity? There are no guarantees that a child will become a follower of Christ due solely to their school environment, but don’t you want to give your child the very best opportunity to hear God’s Word daily and believe it by attending a Christian school?

Then there are the monetary costs to consider that dramatically undermine the belief that parents are saving money by sending their children to a public school:

- According to Eduventures, Inc., a Boston-based market research and consulting company, American parents are spending billions of dollars per year on private tutoring because their children are not being properly educated. This spending has grown 7-10 percent each year for the last three years.
- Additionally, there is a quality of education cost when a student is not accepted into a quality college of choice because of a poor K-12 education.
- There is a cost to parents when they are forced to pay at the college level for their children to take high school level remedial courses before they are allowed to take core level classes. This is a monetary cost and a time cost as obtaining a college degree may be stretched to five years or more.
- There is a cost to parents of tens of

thousands of dollars more in college loans when their child doesn’t qualify for scholarship or grant opportunities due to a lack of quality K-12 education.

- All of the above may result in the greatest monetary cost- the difference in pay between a job that requires greater educational qualifications and one that requires less over the 40 year period of work that is ahead for the graduate.

MYTH 2: We can’t afford Christian school tuition.

If Christian parents feel they must have a home that is larger than they actually need, new cars every three years, a vacation home, significant travel, weekly dining out, a wardrobe that needs constant replenishment, and retirement accounts that get any leftover dollars, then this myth is not a myth.

However, the word to consider here is “priorities.” People always do what is important to them. The question is: are the things that are important to God the same things that are important to His people? Educating children in a Christian way is one of the Bible’s most important messages. A Christian education for our children must be a priority. Choosing to downsize the home, limit entertainment spending, and purchase practical transportation as opposed to luxury automobiles, will make monies available for Christian education.



“Material temporal things, or an education for my child that incorporates the things of eternal value?”

Granted, there are Christian parents who truly cannot afford to pay Christian school tuition due to situations in their lives that are out of their control (providentially

hindered). If this is the case, they must spend a great deal of time and effort to teach Biblical truth to their child daily through various ways such as family devotion time or Bible study. They might also apply for financial assistance at a local Christian school.

Other Christian parents have come under conviction that they must remove their child from the non-Christian school, but are unable to make the change because of past decisions that have now buried them under debt. There are resources (such as Crown Financial Ministries or Dave Ramsey) that can help a family take steps that will eventually bring them to a point where they can afford a Christian school- if they are willing to be disciplined and make the needed life changes.

MYTH 3: The public school and the Christian parent have the same goal in mind for the child’s education so my child is not being damaged spiritually by going to a non-Christian school.

It is impossible that this particular myth has any chance of being true. Why? Because the Christian parent is commanded to raise the child in a Christian way and the public school cannot educate children in a Christian way. The Bible tells us that there is no neutral ground in this world- you are either with Jesus or you are against Him:

“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” Matthew 12:30

Here we see a dramatic darkness versus light comparison. God tells Christian parents to feed children light (truth) which is only found in the Bible. The public school cannot feed them the light of the Bible and therefore the result is darkness.



Education fundamentally is about learning to think and thinking informs a person's actions. From God's Word, we find that all truth and therefore all true education is rooted in the truth of God.

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17

This is the case even if the teaching is not explicitly anti-Christian. Simply by excluding the teachings of Christ in the non-Christian school (a silent atheism), the child implicitly learns that it is not important to have God central to how we think and live and that there is a "neutral" place in this world when in fact, there is not.

Two huge examples of this darkness and light contrast are evolution and homosexuality. The Bible says that God is the Creator and the public school teaches evolution and other alternatives to Biblical truth. The Bible teaches that men are to become one with women and be fruitful and multiply. The public school supports the teaching of same sex marriages.

These teachings have implications that shape a person's thinking about purpose and direction in life, abortion, birth control, euthanasia, capital punishment, global warming, animal rights vs. human rights, and marriage and family- the foundational unit of our society.

A somewhat related myth is parents being fooled into believing that their child is being prepared for 35 hours a week in a non-Christian school environment by the 3 hours a week in Sunday worship and youth group. Think of a marathon runner who is training his body to run a two hour race by training two minutes a day. What kind of results can we expect from him?

Due to the overwhelming time and energy advantage (11 to 1 ratio), the battle for the mind and heart of the child is going to be easily won by the non-Christian school environment. The child has little spiritual

armor and the chances that he would be trained to think like a Christian are slim to none.

MYTH 4: Exposing my child to ungodly thinking and actions will prepare my child for the "real world."

This thinking is based more on the worldly slogan, "If it doesn't kill me, it will make me stronger" than anything found in God's Word. What we desperately need for our children is the opportunity for them to learn from the Bible how to deal with the world that is filled with sin and temptation rather than becoming like the world. The Biblical directive is to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Sending spiritually unprepared children into a non-Christian environment to learn how to effectively deal with sin is just the opposite of what the Bible commands parents to do and if carefully thought through, does not make sense. Sadly, believing this particular myth has horrible

consequences. Research groups such as the Barna Research Group are producing study after study reporting that 60-90% of churchgoing high school graduates are leaving the church as soon as they leave their homes.

Furthermore, the idea that the "real world" does not exist in the Christian school is wrong. The "real world" is a world of greed, theft, anger, hate, pride, jealousy, sexual temptations, and more. All of this exists in the heart of every person at one time or

another. Therefore, all of this exists in the Christian school! However, the difference in the Christian school is that the children are being taught to deal with the reality of evil in the world and in their own hearts by using the sword of the Spirit- the Bible.

It may be that this thinking is rooted in the parents' low view of personal holiness and spiritual growth. It has been said by many Christian parents who have personally attended a public school, "I went to a public school and I turned out OK!" We have to challenge that thinking by asking what a person means when they say that they "turned out OK." Do they mean that they got saved and are pretty

good people? If that is the case, we should all agree that their "goodness" is due to the grace of God. Rather, every Christian should say, "Praise God that He saved me in spite of the life that I have had!" Should we not look back at our lives and be grieved because we did not learn and apply the truths of God at an earlier age? The correct thinking should be:

"How much more I would have known and served the Lord if I began studying the Bible at 5 years old!"

MYTH 5: Children should be missionaries in the public school.

Parents are being fooled when they believe this for several major reasons. First, there is neither a Biblical command nor precedent for children to be missionaries. Second, the very purpose of a missionary requires that he be fully trained and





prepared to give an explanation of the scriptures and withstand the abuse and rejection that Jesus has promised from the world. A child is by definition an immature human being who is being taught how to live and think so he will be prepared to serve God effectively as a young adult.

To further refute this particular myth, two illustrations are helpful. First, let us examine a military example because the Bible gives us so many analogies of the Christian life to warfare. When have we ever thought that we should send a 6, 10, or 14 year old child to Iraq to disarm roadside bombs or negotiate with terrorists? Or let us ask a less militaristic question of how we use our children. Why do we not have our children driving cars at 10 years old or running for political office when they are 12 years old? Yes, these questions are somewhat ridiculous because the answers are so obvious! Children must have an opportunity to grow up to an age where they have both physical and mental preparation before we thrust them into such situations.

However, the Bible tells us that there are also spiritual dangers and the consequences of falling into temptations and snares are *eternally greater* than the physical or mental dangers in life! Christian parents must not ignore the Bible by placing their children into a battle for which they are not prepared.

"The devil is like a roaming lion

How do we think our children will REALLY fare in the war against spiritual darkness?



looking to devour someone." 1 Peter 5:8

Additionally, Christian parents may be fooled into thinking that their child has a salt and light effect for Jesus by simply being in a non-Christian environment. Again, this is not based on the Biblical directive addressed to men and women who can be salt and light - mature Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit and are equipped to restrain evil and bring truth. According to the Bible, God uses Christians who can share the clear teaching of His Word to change hearts and be that salt and light; something that is prohibited in the public school.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

Finally, the Bible contradicts the thinking that a well mannered, sweet child can be a spiritual change agent. In fact, the teaching of the Bible tells us that every child is born with a sinful nature that is bent toward sinning and is not prone to honor and obey God. Rather than a sweet, young person changing those around him for the good, the Bible tells us that it is more likely that those who don't obey and love God will change that sweet, young person for bad.

"Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals." 1 Corinthians 15:33

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." Proverbs 13:20

MYTH 6: My child will be best served by figuring out life while attending a non-Christian school.

It is true that children will go through the years trying to figure out life for themselves. The questions they will ask and the answers they receive will likely shape their lives forever.

They will see evil in the world around them and will ask, "Why does God allow bad things to happen?"

They will wonder who they should believe while they are immersed in a culture that worships entertainment and fills their eyes and ears with music that so often tells them that nothing matters.

They will ask themselves who they are and will be told by the culture the answer can be found in the clothes they wear and the image they project. They will search for a sense of significance, but become distracted by the world of entertainment which replaces reality and numbs the mind.

They will see the moral failures of people around them, even their heroes, and wonder if there is a way that a person can be forgiven and restored.

They will question their faith and realize they don't really know why they believe what they believe. They may know some verses from the Bible, but will be unable to tie them all together so they can see who they are before a Holy God and who God is as sovereign over all of life, not just on Sunday.

The Word of God does have answers to all of the questions above! So, while it is true that every child will be trying to "figure out life" during these years, it may be devastating to the child who attends school where the truth of life (the Biblical answers) cannot be uttered.

MYTH 7: The prom, dating, and sports are vital school experiences for my child and can best be experienced in a public school.

The idea that a Christian parent who loves the Lord would place such importance on one night in a person's life where many students become involved in various kinds

Will my child be directed to the Bible as the only source of truth?





of substance abuse or gratuitous sex is perplexing indeed. Christian parents are correct in thinking that an experience like the typical high school prom will make a permanent impact on their child. The loss of sexual purity in the middle and high school years along with the gain of mental pictures and the possibility of catching sexually transmitted diseases are things that their child will never forget. For Christian parents, our God has a great deal to say about purity! However, it is almost as if some Christian parents regard some areas of life as a “legal sin time”-a time that God does not see or hate. However, is there any area of life that God does not reign over and expect Christians to be faithful?

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things.” Philippians 4:8



Sports, scholarships or life in Christ. What's the priority?

Perhaps there are proms in some public schools where Christ is honored, but if Christianity is banned in the public schools of America, they would be a rare find. A God honoring alternative to the typical public school prom of this day is a Christian school that enjoys a banquet celebration of some kind where students and parents are invited to rejoice and reflect on the ways God has blessed the child through his school years.

Dating is probably a more controversial issue among Christian parents and often seems more tied to the parents' personal experience rather than what the Bible says about this part of life. Most Christian schools would likely say that dating creates a distraction for students who need to be focused on their schoolwork, limits friendships as “couples” tend to cut others off from their lives, and provides a steady

stream of sexual temptation. However, while a Christian school can limit public displays of affection on campus, it cannot mandate that students not date. Parents can allow their children to date while attending a Christian school. Therefore this is not a good reason to attend a public school.

Sports have become one of the most important things in our culture (a kind of god to our culture) and that fact includes the American churchgoer. Sports are healthy for our children's bodies, build strong character, are simply a lot of fun, and should be a balanced part of

a Christian education. However, God says that anything that is more important than Him is idolatry. That may seem harsh, but it is His Word, plain and simple.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3

Therefore, the Christian parent must ask himself

if he is trading the daily exposure to the Word of God in the Christian school for a larger sports program in the public school. If the response to that question is, “but I am hoping he can get a scholarship to college”, then there is another issue that is revealed: does the parent trust God to provide the means for the child's college education?

“But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:30

MYTH 8: My child is receiving a good education in the public school.

The statement above begs the question: “What do you mean by ‘good’?” We have already addressed the fact that only an education which has Christ at the center can be considered good in God's eyes. However, we will analyze myth #8 using the common perception that a good education is one that is academically strong and does not have Jesus Christ at the center.

Assuming the function of education is to prepare children academically for life, a staggering number of facts tell us that by any sensible measure, children in America are not getting a good education.

Year after year, the reports from the public schools tell us that they are trying many things to increase test scores and the quality of education. An incredible amount of time, money, and gray matter has been wasted over the years as wave after wave of “new and better” ways to teach have come and gone. For example, experiments in teaching higher level thinking skills apart from foundational principles or sight word reading instead of phonics based reading, have given us generations of students who are not prepared to succeed.

The 25 year long push for promoting self esteem has resulted in abject failure. Changing the truth and accuracy of grades, not using red ink when marking papers, or doing away with anything that may make a child feel badly has not resulted in children who are duped into feeling good and subsequently succeeding but instead have lowered the bar of expectations and reduced healthy competition. *Even the students know that they are not being told the truth by the adults when clearly they are not succeeding in the classroom.*

When we look at actual test results, they



Without making Christ the center of education, can the government really have my child's best interests at heart?



may be up or down a few percentile points from year to year, but there is little real improvement. Part of this is due to the nature of the scores themselves. Generally, test scores are reported as “percentiles.” A “percentile” score is not the same as a “percentage” grade. When you read about percentiles, that number indicates the percentage of students who scored lower than the given student or school. For example, if Johnny (or a school system) has a 65 percentile score, it means Johnny scored better than 65 percent of the students who took that test. By definition, then, a 50th percentile score is an average score – 50% of students scored lower, 50% scored higher. That means the percentile scores are not a measure of how well students do in relation to a standard of excellence, but are comparing students with one another. If a school system's percentile scores increase, it can mean one of two things: either the students in the system achieved at a higher level than previously (thus doing better in comparison to others), or it could mean that most other students achieved at lower levels than previously (thus lowering the “average” score).

Percentile scores are, in a sense, comparing

students to mediocrity (the “average”).

STATE TEST RESULTS

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is based on good intentions, including a desire to raise standards of achievement and to bring all students up to those standards. However, as with many broad, sweeping laws, there are unintended consequences which actually prevent reaching those goals. Under NCLB, each state determines how to define “adequate yearly progress” – the improvement that should be seen, and how that improvement will be measured. In some cases, this is like allowing a math student to come up with the answer key for his own math test – there's little doubt he will get a high grade on that basis! But even when the standard for progress is appropriate, the result is all too often that teachers reduce their teaching to just those things which will be on the test. Class time is spent on endless drill and practice tests, just so the class and school will perform well on the all-important test, while the concept of a well-rounded, in-depth education is lost. So instead of producing students who know the content well and can apply that content in many areas of

life, such classes produce students who are adept at taking tests.

NATIONAL/WORLD RESULTS

The future of American competitiveness is in danger. Report after report is sounding the alarm bell that our children are woefully behind many other countries. For reams of data on the subject, you can go to web sites such as:

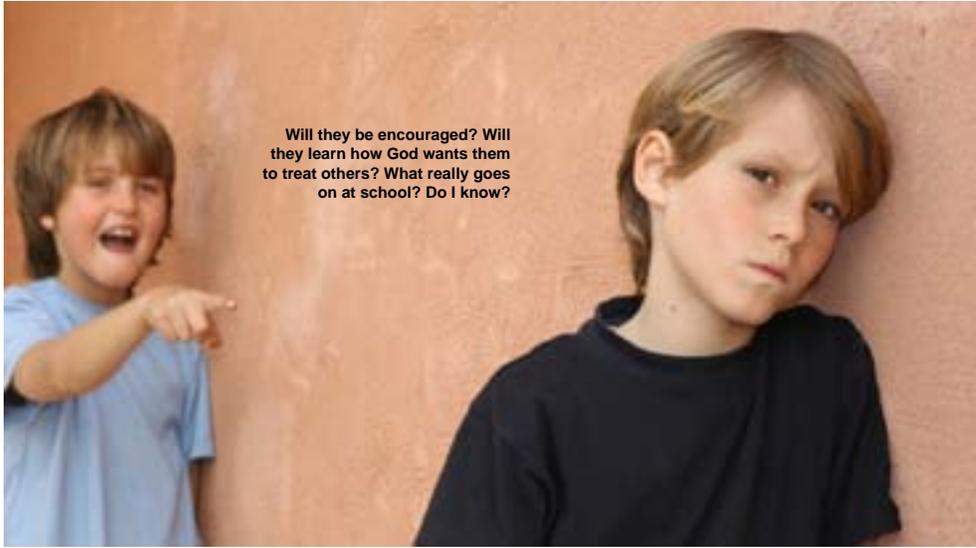
<http://ncesed.gov/index.asp> or

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

MYTH 9: **The learning environment in the public school is good.**

What constitutes a good learning environment? Some parents look at the shiny gymnasium in the public school and believe that that is the definition of a good learning environment. However, if you consider that many public schools in America have instances of drug transactions, sexual acts being committed in the halls, bathrooms, locker rooms, and classrooms, overcrowded classrooms, teachers who are in fear for their physical well being, classrooms that lack discipline and structure, bullying, gangs, and lax security and safety, then it should be impossible to believe the myth that the learning environment in the public school is good. Parents can obtain statistical information about criminal activity from their local county's public school administrative offices.

By contrast, like instances are rare in Christian schools. While the “real world” does exist and can be found, cases of sin are handled with the intention of exposing the guilty to truth, furthering their individual sanctification and protecting and developing the school community as a whole. No good can come of an environment where these activities are allowed to become commonplace. Eventually the student comes to believe that this is “normal.”



MYTH 10: The ultimate in myth telling to Christian parents in America may not be because the myth is being created for belief by the public school administrators, public school teachers unions, or politicians. It may be that parents are creating a myth that they want to believe for themselves.

Sadly, there are Christian parents who really don't want to think about educating their children in a Christian way. Rather than examine the readily available facts on education in America and the Biblical directives from God concerning the education of children, they would prefer to suppress the truth or continue to believe the misrepresentations that they are fed. However, a fact remains that should be sobering to all: we will give an account to God for how we raised the children that He gave us. Lord help Christian parents in America to see that God's priorities for His people will not allow for anything less than a God honoring education for the children.

Conclusions

Many Christian parents think that the public school system can be fixed and if

they wait a little longer, things won't be so bad. Some people lay blame on the teachers in the public schools, but that is not the root problem. Some blame the politicians or the bureaucrats for not doing enough or not being willing to make the hard decisions that will bring reform. Those things are not the root cause.

The root cause is the foundational starting point and philosophy of public schools in America; one that does not begin with the teachings of God in His Word. The public schools simply cannot serve two masters.

A philosophy that excludes Jesus Christ in the teaching of children simply cannot succeed. The effect of Christianity or lack thereof, permeates every aspect of education. Some examples of the effect include defining classroom discipline, the view of authority, the level of parental involvement, respect for the family, the role of parents, the role of the teacher, the stewardship of tax dollar spending, the determination of priorities, the work ethic and motive of teachers, who teaches our children about sex, acceptable sexual activity in our schools, dress standards, who or what children worship, and where children get the answers for the most important questions they ask.

By the way, there are Christian schools that have some of the same problems that

non Christian schools have. We encourage every parent to be careful to investigate each school carefully and not assume a school is excellent simply because it has Christian in its name.

The question for Christian parents today is, "are you going to continue to believe the myths and choose an educational environment for your child that is not for our Lord and continues to flounder academically, or will you follow the Biblical teaching for children and trust God for the results?"

The hearts and minds of our children and the future spiritual condition of our country await your answer.



When my child leaves the home, for college or work, have I done all I can to arm them with the tools for life, or have I left that up to the government system...?

Cherokee Christian Schools
www.cherokeechristian.org



Cherokee Christian Schools, Inc.
 3075 Trickum Road
 Woodstock, GA 30188
 678-494-KING

©2008 • CHEROKEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cherokee Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational and admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.