

Public Education

A Look From a Biblical Perspective

Leonard Gilbert

Personal Information

- Born in Atlanta, GA (1959)
- Currently residing in Mentor, OH (30 + years)
- Graduate of Morehouse College – Math and Physics - 1983
- Graduate of Georgia Tech – Mechanical Engineering - 1985
- Married to Terri Gilbert for 29 years (Terri deceased June 2018)
- Two sons (Christopher and Kevin) – both homeschooled
- Attend Grace Covenant Church – Olmsted Township (Reformed Baptist) – 30 + years
- Employment – Avery Dennison – 33 years (Semi-Retired)
- JBS Member since 2009
- Interests -Cycling, Fishing, Writing and History

A Statement to Consider

Free education for all children in public schools.
Abolition of children's factory labor in its
present form. Combination of education with
industrial production.

Where is this statement found ?

Communist Manifesto

Different view points on Protestant Education for everyone

- Martin Luther (1524) persuasion of the German princes lead to state-supported schools in Gotha and Thuringia. Compulsory attendance also emerged.
- John Calvin (1536) persuasion in Geneva, Switzerland, created public education for the same religious reasons but inevitably there was a degree of independence and self government as opposed to state control. More like a partnership.

Education is inherently religious

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 4:5

Get Wisdom ! Get Understanding !

Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Puritans in the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1630)

- Calvin's education model adopted. The charter allowed for the extension of self government (as church members elected ministers and officers for the church, this principle was extended to government for the election of governors and legislators)

Moving Forward

- By 1720, Boston had more private schools than public.
- By the end of the American Revolution there were many places that did not have common or public schools.
- Colleges founded in Virginia (1693), Connecticut (1701), New Jersey (1746, 1766), New York (1754), Pennsylvania (1755), Rhode Island (1764), New Hampshire (1770).
- Adult male literacy rates from 70 to 100 percent (based on a study of various civil documents by Prof. Lawrence Cremin)

Moving Forward (1789 – 1835)

- New England had public or common schools that existed with tax support. (Some people still wanted some government support, but it was not by popular demand)
- The rest of the US educational systems were operating with little to no interference from government.
- Parents educated their children via using home tutors, private academies, and church schools. More private schools operating than public.

The Rise of Unitarianism

- First arose in Europe
- Direct attack on Calvinism
- Man centered as opposed to Christ Centered
- Takeover of Harvard 1805

Some Common Myths about Public Education

- It is necessary for America to stay competitive and critical to prosperity (The American Dream)
- It is necessary to promote diversity by bringing all the different races and ethnic groups together.
- Public Education is religiously neutral and preaches no doctrine.
- Since we spend the most money, we can provide the best education. **(We spend more money on education per pupil than any other industrialized nation, yet rank near or at the bottom in academic performance, especially in math, physics, and sciences)**
- Neighborhood schools have dedicated teachers and administrators and they answer to a local school board.

Reality about Public Education

- Taxpayers are led to believe that they have control of the school property and what goes on inside. But the truth is that it is externally controlled via the national education level and the bevy of government officials.
- Public Education has turned into a monster because it now employs people in all the towns/cities that includes teachers, administrators, school boards, etc. In 1977, public education accounted for about 81 billions dollars (Public education is money!)
- **With public education there is also a continued loss of true educational freedom as it once existed.**

Reality

An Interesting Fact

In 1970 public school enrollment was 45,909,088. In 1977 it had declined to 40,201,000, a loss of 5,708,088. Yet, during the period, the number of teachers rose from 2,061,115 in 1970 to 2,197,000 in 1977, and the total expenditures rose from \$44,423,856,000 in 1970 to \$81,097,000,000 in 1977. For some reason, five-and-a-half million fewer students required some 135,000 more teachers and 36 more billion dollars.

Ref. "Is public education Necessary" – Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Reality

An Interesting Fact

Horace Mann is referred to as the father of the American Public Education. But, another prominent figure was Edward Everett (part of the Unitarian Elite-Harvard Divinity School). He served in the House of Representatives for five terms and eventually was elected to governor of Massachusetts. Other names include James G. Carter, and James Savage. They also had influence in the legislator working with Everett to promote his agenda.

Ref. "Is public education Necessary" – Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Reality

- The real purpose of education for all or public education is so that all children can be indoctrinated and inculcated with the government propaganda, like "majority rules", and "pay your fair share".

Reality (Biblical Perspective)

- Education has always been a private matter. If you study history, the public school system is a result of the communist influence and another negative consequence of the enlightenment period.
- A free market system, which is what the Bible supports, also works with education. A parent wants his or her child to get a good education or transfer of knowledge for a fair or reasonable price. A teacher is willing to provide that service for a wage supported by the market or market demand.
- In Exodus 20:15, it clearly states that “You shall not steal”. Taking money from me to pay for someone else’s education is theft. Regardless if it is deemed legal by the state. Secondly, parents are responsible for their children’s education. Not the state. For the Christian, all education should be God centered (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 9:10).

Biblical Consequences

Martin Luther said, "I'm afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of youth." With our government-run education system, we can see this unfolding right before our eyes. And yet we spend time trying and dying to fix a system that is ungodly from the core. At best, this is a fools errand.

Psalm 9:3

The wicked shall be turned into hell.

And all the nations that forget God.

Biblical Consequences

Pastor and author Douglas Wilson summarized the following :

"For over one hundred years, Americans have been running a gigantic experiment in government schools, trying to find out what a society looks like without God. Now we know." ¹

Education expert Samuel L. Blumenfeld stated, "The plain, unvarnished truth is that public education is a shoddy, fraudulent piece of goods sold to the public at an astronomical price.

1. Douglas Wilson, *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* (1991), Quote contained in *Let My Children Go* (Gilead Media, 2002).

Biblical Specifics

Not taking control of your child's education or putting them in public schools is being disobedient to what God has called parents to do.

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Biblical Specifics

There is no fear of God being taught.

"Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children' (Deuteronomy 4:10).

Biblical Specifics

You can not have success apart from God.

**The Bible says, "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."
(Deuteronomy 8:18).**

Further Biblical Considerations

The family is the first government ordained by God.

**The Bible says, "Do not be deceived:
Bad company corrupts good morals"
(1 Cor. 15:33).**

Further Biblical Considerations

A biblical education is family centered.

A person reared and schooled in the doctrine that he has a responsibility to care for his parents as need arises, provide for his children, and, to the best of his ability, leave an inheritance of moral discipline and example as well as material wealth, is a person highly attuned to responsibility. (Rousas J. Rushdoony – Institutes of Biblical law Volume 1)

Further Biblical Considerations

The very foundation of public education is antibiblical.

In a biblical educational system, the state is not the responsible party, the family is, and the man has a duty to be a competent head of his household, and the wife a skilled helpmeet to her husband. The abandonment of a family-oriented education leads to the destruction of masculinity and it renders women either fluffy luxuries, for men or aggressive competitors to men.

(Rousas J. Rushdoony – Institutes of Biblical law Volume 1)

Important Considerations

Public schools are based on four false premises:

1. Welfare works,
2. Socialism works,
3. Parents have insufficient wisdom, and
4. We can teach character without mentioning God.

The direct contrast of Biblical Reality:

1. Responsibility works,
2. Freedom works,
3. Parents have more wisdom than politicians, and
4. To teach character, we must integrate three factors: the reason for morality, examples of morality, and instruction in morality.”

(Marshall Fritz, *The Plano Star Courier*)

Summary

1. For there to be peace in a nation or family, then all the children must be taught by the LORD and about the LORD. (Deuteronomy 6 and Isaiah 54)
2. Freedom of thought is more important for Liberty than convenience. To have freedom of thought, you must have parental control of education.
3. To have a strong nation, you cannot have a dependency or entitlement mindset.
4. Vouchers take away educational freedom under the guise of providing it.
5. The goal and content of private and government education is different. Private is to prepare children to be self-governing for their own safety and happiness whereas the State school is to prepare children to conform for the so-called good of the collective. These opposing goals cannot be paid for by the same source.
6. Education is inherently religious. The idea that the civil government can provide a secular education that is neutral is a logical impossibility.
7. Control follows money. He who pays controls. Government money comes with government strings attached. The civil government cannot throw money in the streets. Regulations are inherent to all voucher schemes.
8. A person values what they have to pay for. Until the method of funding education is changed, there will be no substantive change in the result of education.

(Dr. Marlene McMillan – Speaker for Why Liberty Matters)

Path Forward

Many parents have come to the realization that the public school system is a lost cause. Parents are removing their children from public schools. When this occurs, not only is it better for the student, it also helps to build a better nation.

The teachers union has become one of the most powerful forces in the political arena. The dues are being used to promote radical agendas to support social engineering and candidates that support it. When the kids are removed from the public schools this helps to weaken their power.

The federal department of education is unconstitutional. This institution, as well as agencies on the state level will inevitably crumble.

QUESTIONS ?

Resources

- The Institutes of Biblical Law (Volume 1 – Rousas J. Rushdoony)
- Is Public Education Necessary (Samuel L. Blumenfeld)
- Lee Duigon – Writer and contributing editor for the Chalcedon Report.
- Dr. Marline McMillan – Speaker for Why Liberty Matters