

Parenthood (21): Children and Secular Education

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For decades, the public school system worked hard to earn the trust of the American parent. In fact, for a government bureaucracy, the school system did a pretty good job. Children were well educated in a relatively moral and very safe environment.

But over the years things changed. Evolutionary theory invaded the curriculum; humanism introduced “value-neutral” teaching; prayer and meaningful references to God were prohibited; “rights” advocates attacked discipline; drugs and violence escalated; and scholastic quality plummeted.

As bad as public schools have become in general, one thing has remained: people still have a blind trust in the school system. Why? For one thing, the changes have occurred so gradually that many have accepted such wretchedness as a natural extension of society.

Further, some of the baby-boomers look at schools through nostalgia-colored glasses. School was a wonderful experience for them and they want the same for their children, no matter how tightly they have to shut their eyes.

Several years ago, some religiously-minded people began to doubt the educational status quo and realized that they could do a much better job of educating their children and do so in a much healthier moral environment. People were mortified that “home-schoolers” were depriving their children of valuable “socialization.” You see, the school system had so ingratiated itself into American culture that the public depended upon it to *socialize* their children rather than *educate* them. And socialize them the schools did, leaving many Christians scratching their heads wondering why their children didn’t believe in God.

This article is not to promote home-schooling. It is to help us see that the public school is often a moral, social and religious threat to our children and we should not blindly trust it to educate them without recognizing the potential danger. Gone are the days when parents could confidently hand over their children to an authoritative organization for seven hours a day free of worry.

Home-schooling is not for everyone, but all of us parents had better be taking a good hard look at what is in our children’s textbooks and what assignments they are being given. If we merely hand over our impressionable charges to others without oversight and discernment, we are failing our parental duty and asking for heartache.