

Should Schools Teach Right and Wrong?

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That was the question posed by PARADE Magazine in the 8/13/95 issue. The following response is a clear example of what is wrong with much of America's public school system:

"Absolutely not. As a future teacher, I say the purpose of a teacher is to teach, not preach. When you start telling a student that he or she should/shouldn't do something simply because it's right or wrong, you are preaching values that have virtually no basis except that someone or a group of people has agreed they are right or wrong. And preaching has no place in schools" (Bruce Harrison, age 20, Cupertino, California).

The young Mr. Harrison, a *future teacher*, is a typical product of the American university system. He has been well indoctrinated as to the "evils" of moral judgment. Note carefully Mr. Harrison's belief that there is no basis for a value system; i.e., *there is no God who establishes right and wrong*. To him, morality is simply what the majority happen to agree upon at a given point in time, and he sees no reason to impose this upon his students.

Note also that Mr. Harrison has firmly decided that *"preaching has no place in schools."* He is subtly tying moral judgments to religion using the buzzword "preaching." And atheists have used the "wall of separation" argument to stamp out every vestige of religion from our public schools.

Do you ever wonder where your children get some of the ideas they come home with? Do you ever feel that your parental influence is being undermined by a force that you cannot see? Much of the moral erosion of the present generation has come at the hands of public school teachers like Mr. Harrison who have drunk long and deep at the fountain of humanistic values clarification philosophy. (Yes, there are school teachers with enough integrity and common sense to reject such drivel, but the damage that has been done by humanistic influence is undeniable in my opinion.)

But Mr. Harrison has a dilemma: how would he keep order in his own classroom without moralizing? His answer is dismally inconsistent and arbitrary: *"Sure, I'd take a stand on certain issues. I'd say, 'Don't hit, don't steal, don't cheat.' But I'd stress, for example, why I don't want them to cheat – that it's not fair to others, that you don't really learn."*

The more Mr. Harrison talks the more he sounds like a dirty rotten moralizing Christian.