

A New Beginning



Pat Marcum

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Introduction

As more and more Christian parents confront the myriad of problems that exist within the public school system, many are choosing to accept the responsibility to teach and train their children at home. Some parents do this not only to protect their children from bad influences or potential physical harm, but also to guide their children to be morally pure in their behavior and lifestyle. When children are at home daily, parents are able to provide them with Christ-centered instruction and materials, help them to pursue areas of unique interest and ability, develop strong ties as a family, and even more importantly, oversee their children's spiritual growth.

God calls all Christian parents to teach and train (disciple) their children in such a way as to be followers of Christ. When Christian parents send their children to public school, they can attempt only to counter the secular teaching and influence to which their children are

From inception, the public school system has been an institution with secular objectives.

exposed daily. They also must work hard to oppose the negative peer pressure brought on by the unbelieving companions with whom their children associate each day. It is not only crucial for children to learn what the Bible teaches, but it is also important for them to witness a Godly lifestyle lived out in front of them on a daily basis. This can take place most effectively as family members seek to emulate Christ in the home every day. No one leaves a newborn baby on its own, believing it can fend for itself; the same attitude should apply to spiritual babes in Christ. Parents, who are called to disciple their children, should strive to be living examples of Godly disciples themselves.

Secular Public School System

From inception, the public school system has been an institution with secular objectives. Its subsequent success in achieving a vast number of these worldly goals is clearly evident. However, in spite of overwhelming negative influences of public school disastrous consequences for their children, there is still a huge problem within the Body of Christ (the Church). The problem is this: more than 85% of Christian parents still send their children to atheistic government schools. Under the guidance and goals of this exclusively secular system,

youth are taught anti-God, anti-Biblical, worldly beliefs—all of which contradict the Word of God.

For a century and a half, most Christians have failed to see and accept the fact that the secular humanism taught in government schools is systemic. Every Christian parent should become acquainted with the tenets of humanism as set forth in the *Humanist Manifesto*. Indeed, the first two tenets of said manifesto clearly deny God as Creator. In classrooms across the country, this denial provided the root system on which additional secular teachings were grounded. As one well-known adage states, “The proof is in the pudding.” By effectively removing the instruction that God is Creator, and substituting His moral absolutes with relativism, schools have been able to infuse values clarification, diversity, tolerance, and many other secular agendas into the classroom. The system of public education has nearly decimated the influence of Christianity in the United States. In fact, public school attendance has had more influence on the decline of Christianity than all other secular entities combined.

Consequences of “Educational Choice”

The time has come for Christian parents to realize that sending their children to public school should no longer be looked upon as a mere “educational choice.” Over the last decade alone, overwhelming evidence—both spiritual and empirical—clearly shows choice to have been a huge error made by well-intentioned parents. This single decision has produced appalling consequences for many of their own children and for society at large. It has seriously stunted the spiritual growth of many families. Christians are accountable for knowing and obeying the Word of God, and they should not have given up their children to be educated by unbelieving strangers—not to mention placing them in the company of unbelieving companions for twelve years.

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It can no longer escape the mind of any thinking person that children in public schools have received even more “indoctrination” than they have “education.” To know this is the case, one has only to look at a time before the public school system existed and compare the morality of

society in the United States back then to what it is today. Before the days of public education, Biblical thinking prevailed in the United States. The rampant immorality that was once in the closet is today not only “out of the closet,” but it also permeates every aspect of society and life. This could not have happened in such a short period of time, except that the minds and hearts of generations of youth have been influenced to reject Godly beliefs and pursuits and to embrace secular ones. The greatest agent for changing the minds of Christian youth has been secular humanism, which is taught in the public school system. It is simply foolish to expect the Biblical instruction that children receive in church, perhaps on a weekly basis at best, to overcome the opposing secular teaching they receive daily in public school. If there is anything that now needs to be “out of the closet,” it is for Christians to realize and admit that the public school system has been a premier catalyst for changing society’s thinking and behavior from moral to immoral.

Before the days of public education, Biblical thinking prevailed in the United States.

It is likely that unbelievers don’t concern themselves very much about the moral transformations that have taken place over the last several decades; in fact, many would even applaud them. Unbelievers, especially those in positions of leadership in the educational establishment, know all too well what they

have accomplished by capturing the minds of the youth for several generations, and they undoubtedly rejoice in their overwhelming victory.

Believers, however, should be in great fear for having acted contrary to God’s Word so readily by putting their children in harm’s way academically, physically, and spiritually. As Christians continue to ignore or disavow the negative effect that attending public school is having on their children, Christianity in the U.S. will continue to decline and eventually may be rendered completely ineffective. Vast numbers of Christian parents still cling to the artificial hope that “it’s not happening in my school.” Nevertheless, if by chance some of the public institution’s most insidious secular agendas have not yet arrived in your school, you can be assured that they *are* coming.

Hostile to Christianity

Regardless of the overwhelming evidence that the government school system is extremely hostile toward Christianity and its teachings, most Christian parents and their pastors continue to

support and defend it. Based on the history thus far, it appears most Christians have such a dependence on government schools that they remain in denial about how bad they really are. Indeed, waking up to reality would entail personal accountability and necessitate change, which seems to be more than most parents can bear to handle. Of course, God neither recognizes dependency as an excuse nor excuses denial of reality. He sees this dependency as sin and sees denial as a hardened heart.

The Bible is profoundly enlightening when it states in Luke 16:8 that *“the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”* It is these children of the world who began leading the way for Christians to send their children to government schools to learn secular ways. Christians have been following their lead ever since. Christians in the U.S. were not forced to attend public schools, regardless of the so-called “compulsory education laws.” Every Christian adult should know that he or she is to *“obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29b)

Any Christian can look inside his own soul and see how wrong it has been to give God’s children to a worldly institution to learn godless thinking under the guise of “education.”

Any Christian can look inside his own soul and see how wrong it has been to give God’s children to a worldly institution to learn godless thinking under the guise of “education.” In addition, one can now look outside and research the empirical evidence—the origin of government schools, their history, and their purpose—and personally examine the results of the many studies on this subject. Indeed, caring Christians can now prove for themselves that, in fact, it has been wrong to send their children to government schools for years and years. The most pertinent question on the table now is, What will it take for average Christians, i.e. the Body of Christ, to understand this ignominy in order to institute a Godly remedy?

Good News

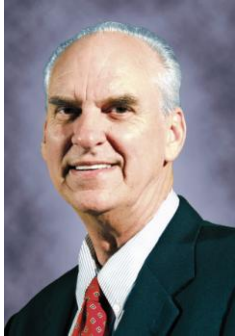
The good news is that God is patient, loves His people with an infinite love, and desires a genuine and deep relationship with them. The clear and irrefutable information on the godless

foundation of the public school system, its subsequent history, and current state should make it evident, in light of His Word, that God now wants His people to wake up and recognize their mistake.

There may be some parents who made the decision to teach and protect their own children for reasons other than those set out in God's Word and still others who have not fully understood His commands or the information about the public school system and its effect on youth as presented here. Readers are encouraged to prayerfully consider this appeal, so that their families may discover a newfound sense of purpose—that through their example and witness many more families may experience a new beginning.

Further Resources

- ✓ *Let My Children Go*, by E. Ray Moore, Jr.
- ✓ *The Harsh Truth About Public Schools*, by Bruce N. Shortt.
- ✓ You can also Google: *History of Public Education* and “*Humanist Manifesto*.”



Pat Marcum and his wife began homeschooling their children in the early 1980s. Pat is a marketing consultant, developer of the successful Homeschool Headquarters marketing program for retail bookstores, and is an author and speaker on Christian homeschool issues. Pat believes all Christians must consider the important spiritual implications of placing children under the authority of a secular institution where they receive a godless education. He encourages parents to keep their children home under their protection and spiritual guidance.

Appendix

How to Begin Homeschooling

1. **Discuss With Your Spouse:** Educating your child at home is a huge decision and should be one that is made with your spouse. Do not begin unless you are in agreement about this decision. You will need the support of your spouse not only at the beginning, but also throughout the year.
2. **Research the Homeschool Laws Applicable in your Area:** Be fully aware of the legal requirements before you begin and especially before you take a child out of public school. For the U.S., each state's legal requirements can be found on the www.HomeschoolLegal.com website. Internationally, refer to www.HSLDA.org.
3. **Research Styles of Home Education:** There is no single right way to educate your child at home; however, there are many differing philosophies you may want to consider.
 - **Charlotte Mason:** Based on a method introduced by nineteenth-century educator Charlotte Mason, this approach includes nature studies/journaling, narration, and living books.
 - **Classical:** Based on Dorothy Sayers' *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which child development is broken up into three "stages" of learning commonly called "the Trivium."
 - **Delight Directed:** This puts the learning in the hands of the child, based on his or her interests. Parents help facilitate this type of learning with appropriate instructional materials.
 - **Eclectic:** A mix of philosophies and curricula to accommodate each child's abilities and interests. Parents choose from any method or style only those components that fit their specific needs.
 - **The Principle Approach:** An approach based on the principles of our Founding Fathers and an emphasis on God's Word as the basis for every subject.
 - **Traditional Textbook:** Normally uses a full-range, packaged, textbook-type curriculum that also may include a scope and sequence, testing, and recordkeeping.
 - **Unit Studies:** All or most core subjects are covered while studying any one topic or unit of study, using a variety of resources and supplemental activities.
 - **Unschooling:** A relaxed setting where learning is directed by the child. Parts of this philosophy are based on research by John Taylor Gatto and John Holt.

- 4. Find Support:** After finding your style of choice (or a mix of more than one choice), you may want to choose a support group that reflects that specific style or just a general homeschool support group in your area. Meeting with other home educators offers encouragement as well as knowledge and assistance with your homeschool questions. Often, organized classes or activities for your children are offered through support groups as well. For information about homeschool support groups in your area, check these listings:

U.S.:

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/Homeschool_Nations/State_Listings.php
www.HomeschoolLegal.com

UK:

<http://www.home-service.org/>
<http://www.heas.org.uk/>

New Zealand:

<http://www.che.org.nz/>
<http://hef.org.nz/>
<http://www.ahe.org.nz/>
<http://www.homeschoolers.wellington.net.nz/>
<http://community.library.org.nz/cgi-bin/display.pl?id=296>

Guam:

www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/guam
<http://www.tumon.com/ghsa>

Australia:

<http://www.hea.asn.au/hea/>

Canada:

www.shbe.info
www.machs.mb.ca
www.aheaonline.com
<http://nshea.webcentre.ca/>
<http://www.eho.org/support/canada.asp>

- 5. Gather Resources:** Some families start with a complete curriculum package, while others start with a notebook and a library card. Choosing your resources depends on your style or method of education and your own interests. If you are financially burdened, there are free homeschooling resources on the web, as well as discounted, used books in abundance.

You Can Do This! Parents around the world are taking back their God-given responsibility to educate their children, and you can too. We have developed two downloads to help you get started:

- ✓ [Homeschool With Confidence](#)
- ✓ [Simple Recipes for Successful Homeschooling](#)

Disclaimer: The above information is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Please check the legal requirements in your area.

To a Homeschool Mom **By Amelia Harper**

He gave this gift with gentle hands,
A treasure rich and rare;
But sand and rock and rugged stone
Obscured the gem so fair.

“I give this gift to you,” He said,
“To polish and to prime;
The future lies within your hands,
So make use of the time.”

Some others placed their precious gifts
Within another’s care,
Because they knew the craft took time—
And time they could not spare.

But you were not content to trust
This task to other hands.
You sought to teach yourself the craft
That such a task demands.

For, you said, “No other hand
Can craft this gem so fair;
My loving eyes can better see
The treasure hidden there.”

So carefully you chipped away
Till brilliance sprang from stone.
You shaped each facet, smoothed each face,
Until the task was done.

Some days you feared that you would fail;
Some days, you saw success.
But still you labored on with love
And gentle tenderness.

Thus, soon the gem He gave to you
Reflected Light sublime;
And then you knew no other task
Was better worth your time.

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