

# The College Search...

There are many factors to consider in the college search process:

The following is a list of things to consider when searching for a college. Before you begin your search, be aware that you are looking for the place you will spend your next two to four years. This place will be a large **influencer** in your life. You have the chance to decide who (what school) will be speaking into your life. Keep this thought in the forefront of your mind as you consider each option.

- **Location:** How far away from home do I want to go? Do I prefer the mountains or the beach? Do I want to be near a city or out in the country?
- **Size:** Do I find a large school exciting – or frightening? Do I find a small school comfortable – or confining? Larger schools can usually provide a wider range of experiences. Smaller schools can usually provide more personal support.
- **Programs:** Do I have my heart set on a particular course of study? Or, am I needing a liberal arts experience? What does the specific academic program of study look like? Does the school offer special programs that interest me – honors, internships, study abroad, club sports, faith-based organizations, theater? Can this school provide the academic experiences I am seeking?
- **Atmosphere:** What is the school's personality? What is happening outside of the classroom? Some campuses are very social. Some emphasize religion and morality. Some campuses are more politically active than others and may be liberal or conservative. Some campuses emphasize sports and other extracurricular involvement. Some emphasize faith and servanthood. Some campuses are quiet on the weekends because students go home. What do you want your weekends to look like?
- **Competitiveness:** Students often ask, "Can I get into ...?" This is the wrong question. The correct question is "Would I be successful at ...?" People respond differently to challenge. Do I want to start off as one of the smartest students in my class? Do I rise to a challenge and seek to be surrounded by students who find learning easier than I do? Do I do my best work when I start off near the middle of my class?
- **Public or Private:** Public schools tend to be larger and less expensive. Private schools tend to be smaller, with smaller class sizes and more personal support. The expense difference can become a complicated calculation, depending on individual family circumstances. One should not rule out a school based on the initial tuition cost; however, it is important to be realistic when it comes to the financial piece.
- **Admissions:** Though not the most important factor, at some point a student needs to be realistic about admission standards. However, do not give up on a school right away just because you think you will not be admitted.

## Why Choose a Christian College?

Should believers attend colleges or universities that are Christian? This is a question that every Christian parent and student should ask. Let me offer several important points for your consideration.

The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge (Prov 1:7) and wisdom (Prov 9:10). The very foundation of a good education begins with respect for God, the author of knowledge. Many colleges and universities promote the phrase, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." It is interesting that they fail to state that the phrase comes from the Bible. Christ said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31).

The world rejects God's truth. Many people want to have truth but deny that its source is God. The Bible describes them this way, "Ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim 3:7). This is exactly what is happening in many educational circles today. People professing to be wise have become fools because they have rejected God who is the very origin and epitome of truth.

The theory of evolution is a good example. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. Creation has God's handprint all over it, but if you refuse to acknowledge His authorship, then you must come up with some other explanation of how things came into being. Thus man came up with the theory of evolution. It cannot be scientifically proven. It must be accepted by faith. The faith is just not in God.

The same thing is true for all other fields of study. Either you accept the biblical position or you must accept man's explanation. True facts will never contradict the Bible. The issue is how are those facts going to be interpreted. What is the grid of paradigm through which the facts are viewed? A belief system dictates the way facts are interpreted.

The question then becomes what is the belief system a professor or college predominantly has? We know the answer. Multiple studies have shown that the vast majority of secular colleges and the professors that teach in them do not have a Christian worldview. In many cases these institutions will not allow biblical views to be taught. A recent study in the Educational Journal found that over 90% of professors had a secular view of the world. And it is getting worse. The Washington Times cited a study that in 1968 the ratio of liberal to conservatives was 2.7 to 1; in 2004 it was about 15 to 1; and today there are few conservatives to be found on most college campuses. On these campuses Christians are openly harassed and their faith challenged. That is why so many young people reject their faith while in college. They are not prepared to stand up to the pressure of a liberal, secular and in many cases anti-Christian environment.

So what are parents or young people to do? I think they should consider finding a good Christian college. Scripture makes it clear that we are not to put ourselves under ungodly teaching. (Prov. 19:27) Most Christians would not attend a church that openly teaches things that are contrary to the Word of God. Why, then, would we be willing to be taught at a college that openly rejects the Bible and promotes secular views of life? The truth is that God doesn't change from Sunday to Monday. He is equally to be Lord of the sanctuary and the classroom. He is Lord of all and is to be exalted everywhere we are. We may not be able to control what the world does about God, but we certainly should try to lead in what we and our children do. "As for me and my household we will serve the Lord."

*David Gruver*

## **Create a College Interest List...**

### **Visit College Fairs – (Virtual right now because of COVID-19)**

Upcoming Virtual Christian College Fair: Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm-11pm

- <https://myblueprintstory.com/christian-university-college-fairs>

For other fairs, check this website:

- <https://cfnc.org>

### **Visit College Campuses**

- Take an Official Campus Tour (many are currently virtual)
- Visit an open house or special event on campus
- Sit in on a class
- Talk to current students

Do your **RESEARCH! Research colleges online (see list of helpful resources)**