

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