

Why a Regular College May Be Pointless, But a Christian College Isn't

I. Education always impacts worldview.

- **Everyone passively disciples.**
 - It doesn't matter if it's a tech college, nursing college, or business college, every professor and student will exemplify their belief system like a smell wafting from them onto your kids clothes. Only it's not really a smell, it's a spiritual influence that will bypass the nose and influence your kids without them even knowing it. Those failed worldviews and wicked theologies will cling to your children's very souls—especially if your children are unaware of the dangers.
- **Many actively disciple.**
 - Most of the students won't merely be passively leaving their smell on your kids, most of them will be actively advocating for their lifestyles and ever eager to tell anyone who thinks otherwise that they're evil, phobic, fascists.
 - And that's just the students. In every instance the teachers themselves are actually teaching their failure philosophies in class! In some classes your child's grades may depend on them toeing the professor's line. You don't have to search far or wide to see evidence of this in not only higher education, but also secondary, elementary, and even primary.
 - Even if your child were to receive an amazing education and get first pick of their choice employment, they will have to dodge and weave like a freshmen football player on an NFL team to avoid being impacted by the pervasive worldliness that will surround them at all times. And just like that freshman football player, your child will likely lose.
 - Secular education is not only going to have all the exact same failings that Christian education may have, but they also are all *definitely* going to be far more dangerous—from a biblical perspective—because of the rampant wickedness.
 - So, if our society has come to the place that it believes a college education no longer has the value it once did, then, yes, a secular university will be pointless for many . . . if it not all. But regardless of whether it's pointless or not, it's definitely dangerous.

II. Christian Education has many benefits.

- **Christian higher education can still greatly equip your child for certain occupations.**
 - Not every job is something for which you have to go to college, and I'm not even talking about the ridiculous and pointless majors offered in so many secular schools. Our culture is such that there are a lot of training opportunities both on the job and otherwise that can equip a person just as well as higher education can, but that's not true of every occupation.
 - It's not true of nursing, it's not true of law, and it's frequently not true of ministry. There are exceptions, but certain ministry opportunities will definitely be better equipped via higher education.
- **Christian liberal arts education seeks to do more than equip your child for an occupation.**
 - A good liberal arts Christian college or university is seeking to help your child be a well-rounded, mature adult. Sure, the standard for what accounts for an affluent adult has changed over the years. We might not need to study Latin anymore in order to reach the level of affluence, but the existence of internet search engines doesn't mean that mature adults aren't knowledgeable and capable in a wide range of skillsets.

- **Christian education is designed to disciple in Christ.**

- All education discipled, but like my biggest grievance with secular education, the question is for whom and to what your child is being discipled. Your kids are immature. They have foolishness bound up in their hearts. Turning 13 doesn't change that. Turning 18 doesn't change that. Let's be honest, becoming a parent doesn't change that. What changes that is spiritual growth.
- Discipleship should be the single most important facet of our lives. We should pursue discipleship relationships, we should be filling our lives with spiritual education in the form of podcasts and books and conferences and workshops. We should want our everything to happen within the formal of biblical discipleship if we can. That includes our academics. When we finish our formal schooling, we should continue to pursue aggressive discipleship as defined by the one another in Scripture. We should live for evangelizing the lost, discipling other Christians, and being discipled ourselves.
- But since this is not how the average professing Christian parent lives and thinks, the Christian discipleship of their kids is really just not that important.
- But—as we observed from the very beginning of this episode—education is discipleship. In fact, life is discipleship. So, since we're not pursuing biblical discipleship for our kids, we end up thrusting them into all sorts of situations where they're being discipled by the world . . . pure and simple.
- We're signing them up to be discipled by their teachers, their coaches, their bosses, and their friends. And what tiny little touches they receive when they attend church services absolutely cannot compare to the daily onslaught they experience.
- Your kids are being discipled *all of the time*. And even though every moment of their lives is formative, the discipleship they receive as part of their college experience is going to pull hard on the steering wheel of their adult choices.
- This is why most secular education is not merely pointless, but all secular education is dangerous.
- And this is why—though it's far from perfect—Christian education . . . when done correctly . . . is at least attempting to disciple your kids for Christ before they step out into the world.
- Some of you may agree. Some of you won't. So, if you disagree with the points made today, ask yourself this: on what are you putting your faith that your kids are going to learn to love God more when they're at school?
- Are they just going to do it naturally? Are you trusting the one day a week you hope they go to church? Are you convinced they're mature enough to fight off the sinful influences? Are you just believing that God is going to miraculously preserve them even though they don't necessarily seem that passionate for Him now? In what are you trusting?
- Those of us who warn of the dangers of secular education in America are putting our trust in the Bible's expectations for spiritual life and maturity. We're trusting that God's plan is the best plan. We're believing the multiple illustrations God has given us in His Word about how easy it is to lose a generation to the spiritual slide of immaturity we talked about last time.
- Now, of course God can and will do miracles, but I never want to presume on Him like that. He hasn't promised that He will supernaturally step in so that your child can be like Daniel. He has commanded that we bring them up on the nurture and admonition of the Lord and to surround them with a culture of biblical discipleship at home and in the church.
- Still, He may choose to preserve your kids through a secular college education . . . and I pray He does. But please make sure your faith is not in foolish or presumptuous things.