

Education is Discipleship

May 20th & 21st, 2017

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples...”

Teach: to instruct or to train

“Disciples are not just taught what to believe, but how to obey...”¹

Disciple: one who is taught or trained to follow the doctrine or instruction of another.

Educate: “To bring up, as a child; to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill into the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion, and behavior. To educate children well is one of the most important duties of parents and guardians.”²

Jesus said, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”

❖ Discipleship and Education are synonymous terms!

The following quote contrasts Christian teaching and secular teaching.

“The American university tends to be fairly hostile to the conservative movement. One of the core tenets of conservatism is the Judeo-Christian teaching [e.g. Jesus’ teaching] that humans are fallen creatures. Moral right and wrong are objective categories, and human nature tends toward the wrong in absence of coercion. God-given social structures, e.g., family, community, and government, help restrain wickedness.

Progressivism, on the other hand, tends to view the human spirit as intrinsically good. [e.g. Freud, Skinner, Maslow] For some progressives, ‘good’ becomes a relative term defined by the individual. The only “bad” is to infringe on another person’s ability to express their own version of ‘good.’”³

What did Jesus teach and how does it differ from Secular Humanism today?

Theology

- Jesus: One True God

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

- Secular Humanism: Atheism, Agnosticism, Skepticism

Psalms 14:1 “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ ...”

Origin of Life

- Jesus: Creationism

Mark 10:6 “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’”

- Secular Humanism: Darwinian Evolution; Right to Die

Philosophy

- Jesus: Supernaturalism

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

- Secular Humanism: Naturalism

“Visit a typical science classroom and you will discover far more than empirical facts being taught. The dominant worldview among scientific intellectuals is evolutionary naturalism, which holds that humans are essentially biochemical machines.”⁴

Ethics

- Jesus: Moral Absolutes

John 12:47-48 “If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”

- Secular Humanism: Moral Relativism

“You have your way, I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.” - Friedrich Nietzsche

Psychology

- Jesus: Eternal Soul

Matthew 25:31-46 “... And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (verse 46)

- Secular Humanism: No Life after Death

“Religious Humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man’s life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now.”⁵

Sociology

- Jesus: God created and defined marriage between a man and a woman

Matthew 19:4-6 “He answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.’”

- Secular Humanism: promotes re-definition of marriage to include gay marriages; LGBTQ agenda (finding your sexual orientation; transgenderism)

Government:

- Jesus: Respect Government as given by God

John 19:11 “Jesus answered him, ‘You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. ...’”

- Secular Humanism: Man-made law.

The Great Commission of Jesus
to every Christian is to make Disciples!
“Go therefore and make disciples...”

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

³ Garbarino, Collin. "Moral Relativists In The University: They Aren't Who You Think They Are." *Canon and Culture*. The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention., 12 Aug. 2014. Web.

⁴ "Nancy Pearcey." *BrainyQuote.com*. Xplore, Inc. 2017. Web. <<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/n/nancypearc530931.html>>.

⁵ Kurtz, Paul, ed., *Humanist Manifestoes I*. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1980. Print.

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