

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Should the church fear Christian education?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. What is (or perhaps – was -) “Christian Education” – in the relatively recent experience of the church?
  - a. Came out of the same church fellowship
  - b. Faculty, staff, students typically from the same fellowship
  - c. Which meant that most everyone was on the same page doctrinally. What does that mean?
  - d. Stricter dormitory rules than secular colleges
  - e. Required certain bible courses each semester
  - f. Required daily chapel attendance
2. In the Christian schools, how is that which is generally accepted as ‘education’ any different than the secular school across town?
  - a. For example, does a Christian university teach English, math, history, science, etc., differently than a state university?
  - b. Should it?
  - c. How can a teacher or institution provide Christian-centered thinking in ALL types of courses?
  - d. What are the connections to Christianity and Christ in the typically “basic” education classes?
  - e. Is the challenge with this thinking why Christian education was labeled an oxymoron at the beginning of the video?
  - f. Is this why the observation is made that what is called a Christian education really isn’t a ‘Christian education’?
3. How would Jesus teach these subjects?
  - a. Is that a fair question? (Matt 13.52)

- b. How would or could a Kingdom-centered, Kingdom-focused institution or teacher teach English, engineering, science, math, history, computer science, differently than a secular institution? (2 Pet 3.1-6; Heb 11.1-3; Gen 7.10,11; Job 38-42;
4. Does the church have anything to fear, or, to be concerned about, from education?
  - a. No – in what sense? That pure, or true, education is the pursuit of truth, of facts.
  - b. Yes – in what sense? That institutional thinking and educators – in the pursuit of advanced degrees – have in many or most cases, obtained their education in a secularized environment and that they are now affected (perhaps ‘infected’) by secularized thinking and beliefs. (Ro 1.20-2.1)
  - c. What is the difference between ‘education’ and the ‘educational system’?
5. What is secularization and what are some examples of how this may have compromised “Christian education”.
  - a. Christian universities also emphasize income potential or materialistic goals. (Matt 6.19ff)
  - b. Service is minimized or is connected to wealth potential rather than its own higher good. (John 13.12-17 esp 17).
  - c. Higher secular education begets pride or arrogance. (Prov 6.16,17; 16.18; 18.12; 1 John 2.15-17)
  - d. Faculty and post-graduate students began to think they are something special when really, they are not. (Ro 12.3; Gal 6.3;
  - e. How does Romans 1.22 pertain these compromises?
  - f. What about Isaiah 5.13-21. Does this urge caution for God’s people? Does this truth apply in this context?
6. What is evolutionary creation? Is this supported or taught in scripture?
  - a. Compare evolution; divine creation; and evolutionary creation. (Gen 1; Ex 20.11; Ex 31.17; Job 38.1-12)
7. Is or should Christian education be something more than secular education with a few bolt-on features?

- a. Should or can it be 'fundamentally different' at its core if Christ truly is in the classroom? (Ro 11.33-12.2; Eph 4.1-6)
- b. The bottom line: what should "the faithful" be most concerned about with respect to "Christian" schools?
  - i. (hint: there is no real difference from the secular institutions anymore. (2 Tim 3.1,5).