Education? Does God Have an Opinion (Israel Wayne, Master Books, 2017)

Introduction

- "A person's worldview is the collection of his presuppositions or convictions about reality, which represent his total outlook in life." Andrew Hoffecker
- Primary goal is discipleship. To give Christian faith from generation to generation.
- Students spend 10,000 hours in classroom.

1. The Purpose of an Education
    1. Humanist worldview
        1. Man is exalted. He is measure of all things. Essence of humanism. NO objective standards outside of man's opinions.
        2. Knowledge for glory of individual. "Knowledge puffs us." (1Cor. 8:1-2). Seeks pride and career advancement.
    2. Marxist/Leninist worldview
        1. Education prepares you to serve the state
        2. Government control
    3. Capitalist worldview (silly section here)
    4. Christian worldview
        1. Harvard College original mission statement in 1636: "Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3), and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning." (13)
    5. How did we get here? Three schools of thought that has driven American education since Civil War: Christian worldview, modernism, and postmodernism
        1. Christian worldview dominant in American education until late 19th century, then came Nietzsche, Darwin, Freud, Dewey and Mann. Englightenment brought logical positivism/empiricism.
        2. Modernism: we only believe something if it can be scientifically proven or duplicated. Evolution can't but still believed. Art became meaningless. Music and art didn't reflect the character of God, only man's autonomy. Modernist teacher wants to give objective facts and let student d what he wants with those facts. No shaping worldview; everyone's opinion is equal. No absolute, transcendent truth.
        3. Postmodernism: Not really "after" modernism but "anti-monderism". Modernism was structure, order, authority, objective, rational, absolute. Hippie culture brought in postmodernism (like Romantic era in 18th 19th century); now spiritual, social, organic, subjective. Modernist started in 1859 with Darwin's *Origins.* until 1959. Modernism of atheists like Hume, Voltaire now passing away. New spirituality accepts all but Bible believing Christians. All about self-esteem and sexual orientation and multiculturalism and environmentalism. Christianity only mentioned in books with crusades and Salem.
    6. 10,000 hours of excellence
        1. Outliers and 10,000 hour rule.
    7. Achieving Goals
        1. Setting Goals - parents, have mission statement
        2. Assigning responsibility - never complete tasks until delegation of responsibility.
        3. developing strategy -
        4. Insisting on deadline
2. What About Government Schooling
    1. Quotes:
        1. **"We who are engaged in the sacred cause of education are entitled to look upon all parents as having given hostages to our cause." Horace Mann**, Father of American Public school system

2. "Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every American school is a school of humanism. What can a theistic Sunday school's meeting for an hour once a week and teaching only a fraction of the children do to stem the tide of the five-day program of humanistic teaching?" Potter, signer of first humanist Manifesto

2. State-controlled school began with Plato
    1. GS Encourages parental abdication
    2. GS based on naturalistic presuppositions, so it cannot teach morality.
        1. survival of fittest and evolution. Nietzsche taught if God is dead, we can live how we want. Hitler took Superman idea and killed 6 million.
        2. Luther: "Where the Holy Scriptures are not the rule, I advice no one to send his child. Everything must perish where God's word is not studied unceasingly. I greatly fear the high schools are nothing but great gates of hell, unless they diligently study the Holy Scriptures and teach them to the young people."
        3. Hodge: "I am as sure as I am of Christ's reign that a comprehensive and centralized system of national education separated from religion, as is now commonly proposed, will prove the most appalling enginery for the propagation of the anti-Christian and atheistic unbelievers, and of anti-social nihilistic ethics, individual, social and political, which this sin-rent wold has ever seen."
    3. GS defies God's order of government
        1. **"When an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side," [Adolf Hitler] said in a speech on November 6, 1933, "I calmly say, 'Your child belongs to us already…**What are you? You will pass on. Your descendents, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time, they will know nothing else but this new community,'" And on May 1, 1937, [Hitler] declared, "This new Reich will give its youth to no one, but will itself take youth and die to youth its own education and its own upbringing."
    4. GS is not, nor has it ever been, religiously neutral
        1. Humanist John Dunphy said: "I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—preschool, daycare, or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new—the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent with its promise of a world in which the never-realized Chrsitan ideal of 'love they neighbor' will finally be achieved."
        2. Ravi Zacharias: "The whole point of state-controlled education is that it gives to the government the power to shape the souls and write on the fresh slates of young hearts."
        3. Gordon Clark: "Now, in public schools, children receive a pagan education…the school system that ignores God teaches its pupils to ignore God; and this is not neutrality."
        4. Sproul: "There is no such thing as a neutral education. Every education, every curriculum, has a view point. That viewpoint either considers God in it or it does not. To teach children about life and the world in which they live without reference to God is to make a statement about God. It screams a statement. The message is either that there is not God or that God is irrelevant. Either way the message is the same there is no God."

5. CS Lewis: “There is no neutral ground in all the universe: every square inch, every split-second is blamed by God and counterclaimed by Satan."
6. Jesus: “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters (Mt. 12:30; Mt. 10:32-33).

5. Humanist education vs. Christian education
    1. Rushdoony: “The focus of education is not on the child nor on the parents, nor on society. It is on God. Education is thus primarily theological, God-centered, not vocation-centered nor knowledge-centered. Because of the biblical doctrine of calling or vocation, the Christian school will strive to excel all others in preparing its pupils, but the focus will be on our necessary service to God. Because God’s revelations give knowledge, and because knowledge is an aspect of God’s image in us, we will seek to surpass all others schools in this precutalso.
    2. We don’t reform street gangs and brothels. We don’t reform governments schools thus. It is futile to do such.
6. What about the salt and light argument
    1. You don’t hav a barrel of bad apples and put one good one to fix it
    2. Prov. 13:20, 1Cor. 15:33
    3. If so, why just send them to Islamic school where they will *really* be light.
    4. Admit the truth parents, it is easier to send your kids to free curriculum school.
    5. And since 80-90% of Christian parents send their kids to public school, you’d expect them to be more Christian. In fact, more hostile to Christianity. They’ve lost their saltiness.
    6. Christian teachers in public schools are very limited. Can’t change system. Also, Christian teachers in PS give parents false sense of security. Most that go to public schools who claim to be Christian will leave the faith later.
    7. We can’t use Daniel, Samuel, Joseph and Moses as examples to send your kids to public school.

3. What about socialization?
    1. **“Do you charge us with wanting to stop the exploitation of children by their parents? To this crime, we plead guilty.”** Communist Manifesto
    2. “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Pr. 13:20
    3. Where did most modern beliefs about socialization originate?
        1. Kids are peer dependent today, can’t stand alone.
    4. Why can’t kids stand up against peers?
        1. Want to fit in and be loved. Peers most important in lives. Biggest influence should be parents. If kids know they are loved and accepted by parents, they will try to please their parents. Problem when peers are biggest part. If studying Scripture is cool, they’ll do it. Drinking, they’ll do it. All consuming thirst for advancement among boys and desire to fit in with clothes, friends and amusements.
        2. Parents must mold kids. Most critical element is time. Only by this will relationship deepen.
    5. What is the answer?
        1. “I believe it is safe to say that, in our American culture, most children face a much greater risk of being over-socialized than being socially underdeveloped.” (43)
        2. Everyone is so busy. No more time for family.
    6. Miscellaneous
        1. Careful about sleepovers. Wayne has some odd comments about sports.
4. Christian School vs. Homeschooling
    1. “Let us not fool ourselves—without Christianity, without Christian education, without the principles of Christ inculcated into young life, we are simply rearing pagans.” - Peter Marshall

2. Regulative vs. Normative Principle
    1. Regulative is only do what God commands. Normative principle is doing what God allows. Wisdom issue.
    2. Goal of education is discipleship. Interaction with teacher and child is very important.
    3. Three teaches in every school: "teacher", curriculum and students.
3. Etc.
    1. Most kids in Christian schools look church but are not real Christians. Many loves drugs, movies, sexual activity etc. Most thirst to fit in.
    2. Pressure to have boyfriend and girlfriend immense.
    3. Top reasons parents choose religious schools: (1) strong curriculum with reading and mathematics, (2) good study habits, (3) strong critical thinking, (4) strong verbal and written communication skills. They want academics first and foremost. Most are not after Christian worldview. Many Christian schools just have chapel and that is only difference.
    4. Rushdoony: "[Many 'Christian schools'] are humanistic schools with Bible added to a humanistic course of studies….The triune God is totally the creator of all things and, thus, totally their Lord and determiner. All subjects are either taught from a biblical, theistic perspective, or the are taught from a humanistic, man-centered perspective."
    5. EXCEPTION: True worldview training. Small classes sizes, low student-teacher ratio. This may mean a non-accredited school, so parents sending kids there would have to be very intentional.
    6. Machen: **"The most important Christian educational institution is not the pulpit or the school, important as those institutions are; but it is the Christian family.** And that institution has to a very large extent ceased to do its work."
4. Low student teacher ratios are almost always better for students. Can't beat the ratio of homeschooling.
5. From 2012-2013, it cost American taxpayers an average of $12,296 per year, per child! Religious schools about $8,850, homeschooling about $900!
6. Homeschoolers often out perform traditional schools, Christian and public. [PS: not so sure here]
7. A few cases for homeschooling (single parents, health issues, special needs, illegal etc.)
8. Sum: going to Christian school won't change the child much, no better socialization, academics, instruction etc.

5. What about Homeschooling?
    1. Wayne really believes HS is a biblical mandate. Rule not exception. Gives Dt. 6:5-7 etc. Calls traditional classroom teaching man-made and artificial substitute for parenting.
    2. Key is to teach *how,* not *what.* Teach your kids practically, not just paper and books.
6. Biblical worldview education
    1. It is a grid a set of presuppositions we hold to in how the world works.
    2. Everyone has a worldview.
    3. Worldview influences massively how we approach and teach apologetics, art, music, economics, education, ethics, government, history, literature, math, philosophy, religion, science, history etc.