

The World's Second Oldest Religion (I)

By Andrew McColl, 5/6/2012

God's way places responsibility on every man, whereas all humanistic patterns remove government from God and man to the state, or to the autonomous individual. God's law in every sphere limits the powers of man, church, state, family, and all human agencies. Its basic thrust is man's responsibility: "Thou art the man" (2 Sam.12:7). Statism assumes a caretaker role which denies implicitly that man is created in God's image and has a calling to govern himself and his spheres of responsibility.¹

One of the commonest mistakes people make in relation to education, is to view it in terms of academics. They want their children to be educated, and so they think primarily of subjects such as Maths, Science and History. Of course, these are *aspects* of education, but the fundamental issues of Education are not subjects such as Maths, Science and History. They are values.

Values are derived issues. They indicate *why* we think a certain way, and values are founded upon the religious presuppositions that people hold to. Christian values are derived from the knowledge of God in the Bible. This explains why a truly Christian education is fundamentally different to a Buddhist, a Moslem, a Hindu or a humanistic education. Christian values are derived from scripture, whereas other religions are derived from other texts or viewpoints.

Thus it is a vain thing for Christian parents to send their child to a State school, and ask for a class on religious education (of perhaps an hour a week), to be superimposed onto a humanistic curriculum. It is an affront to the First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex.20:3). It is saying to God, "You be Lord of 3%. The rest of my child's time at school, he/she will be devoted to paganism." And it's implicitly saying to a child, "I want you to be educated in the Bible for 3% of your week, and the other 97% of your school time, you may as well be a child of the devil."

The humanists have known this for a long time, a lot longer than Christians. They have engaged in what Gary North calls "ideological kidnapping." The humanists must be struck by how blind Christian parents have been now, for over a century. In 1983 a leading American humanist wrote

I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers that correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being ... The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and new. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing the classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—

¹ Rousas. Rushdoony, "Deuteronomy," 2008, p.9.

preschool day care or large state universities. John Dunphy, (“The Humanist,”
Jan/Feb 1983.)

To say that we Christians have been a bit slow on the uptake is to be charitable. Furthermore, a lot of pastors and preachers have not been a help; they have been compromisers too. When there’s mist in the pulpit, there’ll be fog in the pew. When church leaders are compromisers, what can we expect of the people?

Nonetheless, God holds Christian parents responsible for their childrens’ education. This has been His message since the law of Moses. As Rushdoony comments,

in Deut.6:7-9, parents are ordered to teach their children the faith. This is to be done “diligently.” The future of the family and the nation depends on the godly education of the generations to come...Failure to teach our children and to instruct them in the faith and in God’s law often rests on an implicit humanism.²

God’s message to Israel through the prophet Elijah was clear: “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people did not answer him a word” (I Kings 18:21).

What about you? What values do you want your children to hold to, right through their lives? It is an exercise in wilful deception to think, “We’ll give them a Christian education at home, and save money by sending them to the State school.”

Now is the time to make your position of obedience to God absolutely clear to all around, including your children. Yes, obedience to God’s Word can be costly, and may mean confronting issues you wish weren’t there. But Jesus said, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mat.6:10). He said also, “...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (Jn.8:32).

Do you really want your children meeting Jesus Christ at judgment day, having embraced the world’s second oldest religion?

² Rushdoony, p.117.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (II)

By Andrew McColl, 26/6/2012

The Bible tells us in the first statement about the devil, that the serpent was "...more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made" (Gen.3:1).

Not many Christians are crafty. Generally, I'm glad they're not. We're the ones who ought to be the straight-shooters; the plain speakers who never lie, and tell it like it is. But we make a dreadful error if we think that all people will be like us. They won't.

When you are dealing with a crafty person, it pays to be one step ahead of them, and to have some knowledge of their track record. How can you do that? Firstly, you have to know what they're like, and where they're likely to lead you if you give them half a chance. The Bible, speaking of the devil, tells us that "...we are not ignorant of his schemes" (II Cor.2:11).

What are his schemes? One of the first things we can see from the Bible is that the devil is a liar. Eve was right. After eating the fruit in the Garden, she responded to God's challenge saying, "...the serpent deceived me, and I ate" (Gen.3:13).

Jesus, speaking of the devil, said "...he was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (Jn.8:44).

Religions always involve the dissemination of information and knowledge, and separating facts from fiction. So when we think about education, we'd better realise that it's a deeply religious issue, and that there are lots of lies around, all of them coming (directly or indirectly) from the devil. What are some of these?

1. Parents can't educate their children. Only qualified teachers can do that.

Well, that's not what the Bible says. It puts the whole responsibility for education with parents. Don't believe me? Look at Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 11, and Ephesians 6:4. Dabney said, over 100 years ago,

The education of children for God is the most important business done on earth. It is the one business for which the earth exists. To it all politics, all war, all literature, all money-making, ought to be subordinated; and every parent especially ought to feel every hour of the day, that, next to making his own calling and election sure, this is the end for which he is kept alive by God-this is his task on earth.³

2. Governments are responsible for the education of children, so they'd know what's best.

Everyone is religious in one way or another, and governments are made up of religious people, elected from the community. People take their religions with them, wherever they go.

³ Robert Dabney, (circa 1890), quoted in Bruce Shortt, "The Harsh Truth about Government Schools," 2004, p.356.

If they start off as humanists, when they go to Parliament and pass legislation, then humanism is what they'll enact into law. Dabney also said,

It is the teaching of the Bible and of sound Political ethics that the education of children belongs to the sphere of the family and is the duty of parents. The theory that the children of the Commonwealth are the charge of the Commonwealth is a pagan one, derived from heathen Sparta and Plato's heathen republic, and connected by regular, logical sequence with legalized prostitution and the dissolution of the conjugal tie.⁴

3. Children need to be socialised amongst their peers, and that's where they'll learn how to get along. It takes a whole village to educate a child.

The Bible tells us that “he that walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov.13:20). If you place your child in an educational environment for 12 years (that's 14,400 hours of school time) with a large proportion of fools, the Bible promises a guaranteed outcome: **“harm.”** Is that being responsible? As Oswalt wrote,

It is of critical importance that we equip our children to be Christian before we demand of them that they change the world. It is a violation of both Deuteronomy 6:1-6 and Ephesians 6:4 to commit children to an ungodly structure.⁵

4. Children need a 'well-rounded' education.

Think of a curriculum with every aspect of Christian content carefully removed, that promotes atheism, Darwinistic evolution, same-sex behaviour, where children are exposed to consistently foul language, sexual perversion, drug use and bullying. Some people call that “a well-rounded education.” The Bible calls it an abomination. Martin Luther warned

I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount ...every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.

5. The Education Department will give you helpful advice about education.

The Education Department has a vested interest in perpetuating itself. Would any departmental person advise you to withdraw your well-behaved child from their school, when it will cost them funding? No children-no Department. They want your child there for the sake of the Department's longevity, and their job. But there's more.

The State's principal concern in overseeing the education of children has never been the educational development of children but merely its own control of the educational process.⁶

6. Your State School teacher will give you unbiased advice about your child's education.

Every State school is funded on the basis of numbers. More children: more money for the school.

⁴ Robert Dabney, “Discussions,”4:194, quoted in Gary Demar, “God and Government,” 2001, Vol.3, p.272

⁵ Leon Oswalt, in Gary North, (Ed.) “The Theory of Resistance,” 1983, p.339.

⁶ B. Adams & J. Stein, ‘Who Owns the Children: Compulsory Education and the Dilemma of Ultimate Authority,’ p.9. (Quoted in Gary Demar , “God and Government,” 2001, Vol.3, p.252.)

You want unbiased advice? Don't ask the State school teacher. If he loses too many children, he could lose his job. The best interests of the child are secondary. But there's more. As Nigel Lee wrote,

Like Hitler, Vladimir Lenin saw the value in monopolizing education and bringing it under the exclusive control of the State. The process for change had to begin with the children. The sooner they could be taken from their parents and broken from their links to the past, the sooner the reprogramming could take place. In his Principles of Communism of 1847, Engels had advocated the "education of all children, as soon as they are old enough to dispense with maternal care, in national institutions and at the charge of the nation."⁷

7. If children are educated by their parents, they won't be ready to face the real world.

What world do parents live in? They have to face all the issues of life that the rest of the community faces. Parents make great educators, they know their child better than anyone, and with the free market and the internet they can find all manner of educational resources, along with their own knowledge and experience. Oh, and forget about all the wasted time and money in cars, and on buses and trains getting to and from school.

8. A child educated at home would miss out; they couldn't ever go to university.

Miss out on what? An awful curriculum, a lot of wasted time, and a peer group busy with drugs, perversion and bullying. Compared to children who attend school, a similar proportion of home schooled children go to university.

Conclusion:

The devil is a seriously religious person. Since the Garden of Eden, he's been disseminating knowledge and information about his religion (humanism), and most people swallow his lies. Furthermore, he promotes lots of lies about one of the more serious religious activities- the education of children.

Here are my two final questions:

- 1) How many of these lies have you believed?
- 2) What are you going to do about turning this around and obeying God in relation to your children's education?

⁷ Quoted in Francis Nigel Lee, "Communist Eschatology: A Christian Philosophical Analysis of the Post-Capitalistic Views of Marx, Engels and Lenin," 1974, p. 351. (3) Quoted in Lee, "Communist Eschatology," p. 350.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (III)

By Andrew McColl, 26/6/2012

God creates us; He does not coerce us. Because the humanistic state is not our creator, it can only remake us into its appointed image by coercion. Thus, education in the hands of the state is coercive, compulsory, and a form of humanistic predestination. In every sphere, the state is coercive because it is anti-God, anti-Christ. It insists on playing the potter with the lives of the people. But nothing is more evil or more deadly than a non-god playing god. We then have the triumph of the demonic.⁸

Education in all parts of the world is not in a good state. Why? We've excluded God from it. The State, the institution that clearly has a vested interest in manipulating education for its own ends, has for 150 years in Australia made itself responsible for ensuring education took place, while the family has been quietly but systematically excluded from the process. And meanwhile, the Church has effectively had its head in the sand.

Whenever God is excluded from any human endeavour, we can expect that endeavour to go into a steep decline. It no longer has the ability to move forward with meaning or legitimate purpose.

How do we know this?

God's original command to Adam and Eve was to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen.1:28). But when this command is ignored in an educational context (or any other), there is no foolish, stupid or nonsensical idea that comes into the human heart, that will not be ignored.

We know this, because the Bible warns us of it in Romans 1:21-23:

...Even though they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

When the human heart rejects the knowledge of God, our hearts turn from the Creator to the creature-in worship! The very things we were supposed to rule over begin to rule over us, and we begin to idolise them: *corruptible man, birds, four-footed animals and crawling creatures*. This partially explains the modern environmentalist movement. Rushdoony's comments here are helpful:

To abandon the triune God of scripture and His infallible word is ultimately to abandon all things, to abandon meaning for nothingness. Modern man has

⁸ Rousas Rushdoony, "Romans and Galatians," 1997, p.178.

*retreated into nothingness in his flight from God. Even there, however, all things are unendurable, and modern man is haunted by dreams of terror, unreason, and destruction, because, having fled from God, he flees also from God's creation, which includes his own being. To flee from God to nothingness is to run headlong into judgment. Philosophy becomes pretension and evasion, and man's despair a façade for his wilful sin.*⁹

This explains why modern man has run to the hopelessness of existentialism and nihilism and any other ism he could find, that excused him from facing up to the God of the Bible. *Anything but God!* But like a man on a tread-mill, the more he runs, the more he realises he is going nowhere. He can't get away from the facts of God which he views every day in all of creation (including himself), so well expressed by the Psalmist's rhetorical questions: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there" (Ps.139:7-8).

*If God did indeed create heaven and earth and all things therein, then nothing can have any meaning or interpretation apart from God. Inasmuch as all things came into being by virtue of His sovereign decree, all things have meaning only in terms of His eternal counsel. The only true interpretation of any fact, including man, is in terms therefore of God the Creator and providential Controller.*¹⁰

Christians will never defeat humanism, the world's second oldest religion, until they are finally prepared to identify it accurately as a religion implicitly linked to Statism: an idol for destruction. It must be pulled up from the ground root and branch, and that process must begin in our hearts. Then, parents will be able to continue to ensure that the education of children is a family responsibility, completely unrelated to the State. And then, the nations of the world will have liberty they have never dreamed of.

*As Van Til puts it, 'Either presuppose God and live, or presuppose yourself as ultimate and die. That is the alternative with which the Christian must challenge his fellow man.'*¹¹

⁹ Rousas Rushdoony, "The Death of Meaning," 2002, p.83.

¹⁰ Rousas Rushdoony, "By What Standard?" 1959, [1995], p.9.

¹¹ Rousas Rushdoony, *ibid*, p.112.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (IV)

By Andrew McColl, 10/7/2012

It is the teaching of the Bible and of sound Political ethics that the education of children belongs to the sphere of the family and is the duty of parents. The theory that the children of the Commonwealth are the charge of the Commonwealth is a pagan one, derived from heathen Sparta and Plato's heathen republic, and connected by regular, logical sequence with legalized prostitution and the dissolution of the conjugal tie.¹²

The idea of the family began in God's mind, as we read in the Bible. Genesis shows us that God created a man and a woman, and they had children. Of course, all families have problems, but the true institution of human history for procreation, education and inheritance has been the family.

The family's potential for education, influence, social power and prosperity in the community hasn't gone unnoticed. The great rival for the family historically has been the State, which has very commonly resented the power of the family, and sought to control and misuse it, for the State's own ends.

Does this mean that the State Biblically, is somehow illegitimate? No, it is not. The Bible speaks much of the legitimacy of government. But the great problem the family and the Church has faced historically, has been the tendency of ruthless governments around the world to usurp the role of the family, even to the point of viewing the family as a threat, and trying to destroy it.

The Biblical evidence of this is clear. When Pharaoh had Israel in bondage, he viewed the high procreation rate of the Israelites as a serious threat. So he said to the Hebrew midwives, "when you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live" (Ex.1:16). North comments,

The more progressive modern socialist ideology appears, the more satanically backward it becomes. The spirit of Pharaoh still lives. The anti-dominion defensive spirit of modern socialism has its roots deep in the past, as well as deep in hell.¹³

1,500 years later, Herod's attitude was similar. Unlike Pharaoh, he was not threatened numerically by the birth of the baby Jesus, but he wanted Him killed, nonetheless. When the wise men displeased him by not reporting back to him where Jesus was, he "...became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all in its vicinity, from two years old and under..." (Mat.2:16).

These instances should warn the Christian family: do not expect evil, socialist rulers who hate God to be sympathetic to your cause, or your well being. Evil rulers attempt to control and manipulate

¹² Robert Dabney, "Discussions," 4:194, quoted in Gary Demar, "God and Government," Vo.3, p.272.

¹³ Gary North, "Moses and Pharaoh," 1986, p.27.

the family, and these attempts have been most ably illustrated in the field of education. Again, North comments that

No institution has been more effective in stamping out conservatism in the United States and everywhere else than the tax-funded school system. If I were given the choice of which to get rid of, the income tax or the public schools, I would not hesitate for a moment. I do not care if the federal government taxes my income, so long as local governments do not tax my income in order to fund the public schools. The battlefield for the hearts, minds, and souls of Americans has been fought in the public schools more than in any other arena.¹⁴

In Australia we have seen this plainly. The Victorian Minister of Education in 1984, Joan Kirner stated that “Education has to be about overthrowing the capitalist system, and making it socialist,” whilst only two years later, the NSW Minister for Education, Rod Cavalier, claimed in Parliament that “children belong to the State.” Not much has changed since then.

Thus the world’s second oldest religion still survives, and one of its clearest manifestations is through socialist, deceptive governments, which in their hostility to the family consciously set out to control and manipulate education.

The challenge in this is not so much that it happens, which is bad enough. What is worse, is that the majority of Christian families don’t seem to know, or if they do, they (unlike Joseph and Mary) are reluctant to do anything to protect their children from the ravages of an evil government, which through the arm of Education Departments sets about to ideologically kidnap them.

May God have mercy on these parents in their day of accountability.

¹⁴ Gary North, “The Greatest Single Failure of the Conservative Movement,” (his website), 19/6/2012.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (V)

By Andrew McColl, 17/7/2012

*The education of children for God is the most important business done on earth. It is the one business for which the earth exists. To it all politics, all war, all literature, all money-making, ought to be subordinated; and every parent especially ought to feel every hour of the day, that, next to making his own calling and election sure, this is the end for which he is kept alive by God-this is his task on earth.*¹⁵

The discipleship which Jesus Christ spoke of in the Great Commission (Mat.28:18-20), is not an isolated statement in scripture. It is predicated on lots of Old Testament teaching, beginning perhaps in Genesis 18:19, which is God's description of Abraham: "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what he has spoken about him."

There is a lot more about the parental responsibility for education, in Deuteronomy, chapters 6 and 11, and the Book of Proverbs. This shows us that discipleship is firstly a family responsibility. I cannot claim to be faithful to God in playing my part in discipling the nations, unless I have begun with my children. It's a case of pure negligence for a Christian father to say concerning the education of his children, "Well, that's not my problem. I'll leave this to the Sunday School teachers, or the pastor." The pastor and the Sunday School teacher won't be there on the day of accountability.

This leads me to the next point. Many Christian parents whose children are attending a State school are awkward about identifying the humanist religion in public education. Why? It's embarrassing for them. If they identify it, they know that they'll need to do something about it, and they don't want to. So, they fall for the old lie that says, "if I ignore this problem, it'll go away." It won't.

I have an acquaintance who serves as a Chaplain in State Schools. He knows they're not good places to be, but he sends his 13 year old daughter to one every day. Why? He's been bluffed out by the system, and doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to take her out and home-school her.

All of this points to one thing: God will keep roughing up His people, if they fail to get the message. He warned Israel about this:

If you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it will come about that those whom you let remain of them will become as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides, and they will trouble you in the land in which you live. And as I plan to do to them, so I will do to you (Nu.33:55-56).

¹⁵ Robert Dabney, (circa 1890), quoted in Bruce Shortt, "The Harsh Truth about Government Schools," 2004, p.356.

Jesus spoke about accountability in His parable about the talents (Mat.25:14-30). The servant who refused to trade with what his master had entrusted him, Jesus described as a “wicked, lazy slave” (v.26). The master in Jesus’ parable commanded his servants to “throw out the worthless slave into outer darkness (v.30).

Is this merely an economic parable, dealing with money? No, for Jesus is warning us about ALL the things that He entrusts to us, and that includes our children.

Now, no doubt some could say to this, “Andrew, you won’t win many friends talking like that.” Well, I’m not interested in winning friends, as much as I am in warning Christians to obey the Lord. In fact, speaking of friends, Jesus told his disciples that “You are My friends, if you do what I command you” (Jn.15:14). He reduced the billions of people in the world whom He could classify as His friends, to one group of individuals characterised by one thing: obedience.

Now, here’s the test for you and me. According to our demonstrated obedience in relation to the discipleship and education of our children in the Christian faith, preventing them from being indoctrinated in the world’s second oldest religion (humanism), are we going to pass the grade?

The World's Second Oldest Religion (VI)

By Andrew McColl, 17/7/2012

*When an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side,' 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.'*¹⁶

*All of the German youth in the Reich is to be organized within the Hitler Youth. The German youth, besides being reared within the family and schools, shall be educated physically, intellectually, and morally in the spirit of National Socialism...through the Hitler Youth.*¹⁷

*This new Reich will give its youth to no one, but will itself take youth and give to youth its own education and its own upbringing.*¹⁸

*These boys join our organisation at the age of ten...and they will not be free again for the rest of their lives.*¹⁹

Like everybody else on the face of the earth, socialists are deeply religious people. They may of course deny this, saying "I'm not religious at all. I'm an atheist," why merely indicates which religion they actually hold to: humanism.

Hitler was a humanist and a socialist. To understand the ideology of Hitler and Nazism, is to begin to comprehend the ideological background of the State's compulsory education in the west of our era. Hitler and the Nazis were serious about the ideological indoctrination of German children. They wanted to ensure that German education produced good Nazis, who were willing to fight and die for the cause. They got the outcome they wanted-at a price.

That meant that the State in Germany under Hitler was paramount. This is the normal humanistic position. Family and community were now to be defined politically. Children were for the State. Whatever goals and aspirations a family might have for its future had to be subordinated to the goals of the State, set by the Nazi party, and Hitler.

State control of education has always been a key component of humanist and socialist ideology; an article of their faith promoted since Aristotle and Plato, and espoused by Marx and Hitler. Engels, (Marx's co-writer and supporter) claimed that,

*with the transfer of the means of production into common ownership,
[communism] the single family ceases to be the economic unit of society...The*

¹⁶ Hitler, Nov.6, 1933, quoted in William Shirer, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," 1968, p.343.

¹⁷ Hitler, December 1, 1936, quoted in Shirer, p.349.

¹⁸ Hitler, 1937, quoted in Shirer, p.343.

¹⁹ Hitler, December 4, 1938, quoted in A. Klonn, "Youth of the Third Reich," 1982, p.80. See "History of Quotations," M. Cohen & J. Major, (Eds.) p.759.

*care and education of the children becomes a public affair; society looks after all children alike, whether they are legitimate or not.*²⁰

For socialists, this is a very important issue. They either have control of children's education, or they do not, and they leave it entirely up to parents. But that's out of the question for them. Socialists don't want to miss a vital opportunity to indoctrinate children.

Julia Gillard, in her former role as the Federal Minister for Education, said in Parliament on the 25th of August, 2008 that *"parents of school-aged children are obligated to send them to school."*

In 2002, I became acquainted with the fact that Education Queensland was seconding Police officers to visit families who had not registered, and so had not received permission to homeschool their children with the Department.

The reason for the police visit? None was given. It was a means of Departmental intimidation.

Why? Put it this way.

Can you imagine what would happen to the Department, if thousands of families all over Queensland began withdrawing their families from school, and homeschooling them without the Department's permission? You might have a whole department that becomes redundant. Perish the thought! Hundreds of millions of dollars, saved by taxpayers! Under the guise of "the educational welfare of children," the Department was guaranteeing its security and longevity. Who was really serving who?

Socialist politicians want to engage in the religious and ideological indoctrination of children, so they can call on a government department to do the job. The Department is committed to its own security of tenure, and will if necessary then enlist the police to do its dirty work.

And you thought this was about the education of children? It most certainly is, and this is the outcome when we leave education in the hands of government; our plans as parents are subverted by governments that have an ideological agenda to fulfil, that uses a department with a vested interest in ensuring its own perpetuation.

The best interests of children? They were forgotten, a long time ago.

Conclusion:

Humanists are deeply religious people, and they want to use social institutions such as State education to propagate their agenda. The Christian community must be aware of this, and act accordingly.

You want something different for your children? That's good. But don't expect the unilateral support of the status quo for your choice.

Hasn't that always been the way?

²⁰ Marx and Engels, 'Selected Works,' 1976.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (VII)

By Andrew McColl, 24/7/2012

No realm taken over by the state has escaped its coercive and punitive nature, to the detriment of its original function...Before the states in America took over education, the United States had the world's lowest illiteracy rate and a remarkably capable populace. Today...we have our highest illiteracy rate in history. Jonathan Kozol, in "Prisoners of Silence," (1980) gives us some very alarming estimates, from federal and other sources. The Office of Education estimates that fifty seven million Americans are unequipped to carry out the most basic tasks. This means over 35% of the entire adult population.²¹

There are a lot of downsides to State control of education. One of these is that children won't learn Christian standards. They do not learn "Thou shalt not kill." What do they learn? How to comply. How to do as you are told. How to win approval in the classroom, and with your peers.

Is learning to do as you are told wrong? No, so long as your obedience doesn't violate the commandments of scripture.

What are US soldiers doing in Iraq and Afghanistan? Fighting and killing, just as they did in Vietnam, when 58,000 US soldiers died. Has Afghanistan invaded the United States, or sent in bombers, or bombarded its coastline? Then what justification is there for the United States to send its soldiers half-way around the world, patrolling the land and killing people?

The war in Afghanistan, like the war in Iraq, is a monstrous evil. U.S. troops are not defending our freedoms, protecting America, upholding the Constitution, keeping us safe from terrorists, preserving our way of life, fighting them "over there" so we don't have to fight them "over here," or any of the other blather that passes for reality nowadays. To those on the receiving end of American bombs, missiles, and bullets in Afghanistan (and Pakistan, Yemen, etc.), U.S. troops are attackers, invaders, trespassers, occupiers, aggressors, and killers.²²

How did this come about? Go back around 170 years, when compulsory State education was introduced in the United States. Once the State has the capacity through legislation to indoctrinate children, it goes about this process in a subtle way. It doesn't want to say to parents, "we are taking your children away from you," but information is fed to children at school in such a way that children grow up with views, completely at odds with the Bible. God is seen to be irrelevant; not in the equation. In the 1920's, Gresham Macham commented,

[P]lace the lives of children in their formative years, despite the best convictions of their parents, under the intimate control of experts appointed by the state, force them to attend schools where the higher aspirations of humanity are crushed out, and where the mind is filled with the materialism of the day, and it is difficult to see how even the remnants of liberty can subsist. Such a tyranny ...

²¹ Rousas Rushdoony, "Roots of Reconstruction," 1991, p.502

²² Laurance Vance, "Should we Ask God to Bless the Troops?" Lew Rockwell website, 5/7/2012

*used as the instrument of destroying human souls, is certainly far more dangerous than the crude tyrannies of the past.*²³

The second thing we can see is that educational standards decline when the State controls education. Why? Because the parents who God made responsible for education, are largely shut out of the educational process. The responsibility is turned over to a self-serving Department, which then has a vested interest in suppressing ways of monitoring its success.

There is now widespread evidence that suppression of bad publicity concerning schools is a widespread policy in the United States, through such mechanisms as reducing the pass rate on tests, so that only an “acceptable” number of students fail. Also, authors such as Bruce Shortt have plainly shown,

*...10% of the students at 20 elite New England preparatory schools were designated as “learning disabled” for purposes of taking the SAT.*²⁴

Elite groups with power in society are manipulative. Departments of Education fall into this category. They have immense power to control the flow of information to children, and they also don’t want unsavoury information about the failure of teachers or the Department coming into the hands of parents.

But that’s not all. The Minister also wouldn’t be impressed with negative press, so the Department also has a vested interest in keeping him suitably uninformed. I mean, we wouldn’t want the minister getting hold of some bad publicity, and acting on it now, would we? That could be very serious! While ever he is in the dark, and only informed through suitable channels, that will be fine.

*It really is a wonder that anyone subjected to public schooling can think at all since the purpose of public indoctrination seems to be to fill the students' heads with error and carefully filtered information. It isn't so much a lack of education that hurts anyone, it's the errors that are taught as fact that do almost irremediable harm.*²⁵

²³ J. Gresham Macham, “Christianity and Liberalism,” 1923.

²⁴ Bruce Shortt, “The Harsh Truth about Public Schools,” 2004, p.144.

²⁵ Chris Sullivan, “Civics Lesson,” the Lew Rockwell website, 18/7/2012.

The Ten Fundamentals of Modern Statism

The following list first appeared in the April 1985 issue of the *Chalcedon Report* written by Rousas Rushdoony.

1. The first duty of every state is to protect the state, not the people.
2. Other states are occasional enemies; the people are the continual enemies.
3. The purpose of taxation is confiscation, control, the redistribution of wealth, control, the support of the civil government, and control.
4. All steps to increase state power must be done in the name of The People, but the people are to be used and stripped of freedom in the process.
5. Freedom is dangerous; controls are good.
6. Freedom must be redefined; it is a right to be morally loose and irresponsible, but Christian morality is social slavery.
7. Children are the property of the state.
8. The two great sources of evil are the church and the family.
9. The only world is the world; there is no God, no heaven, nor hell.
10. Anything the state operates or does is good, in any and all spheres: education, war, peace, spending, and so on. What is “public” or statist is good; what is “private” is bad.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (VIII)

By Andrew McColl, 31/7/2012

If liberty is not maintained with regard to education, there is no use trying to maintain it in any other sphere. If you give the bureaucrats the children, you might as well give them everything else.²⁶

When the modern church back in the mid-nineteenth century, decided it was really OK to let the government take control of education, it was a massive act of compromise and unfaithfulness to God. We said to government, “we will entrust the education of our children to you.”

Where we got this idea from, I don't know. It certainly wasn't from the Bible. How do I know that? The Bible says, “do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom is no salvation” (Ps.146:3). We walked into the lion's den, accompanied by our trusting children, foolishly thinking we could safely and securely leave our children in the care of predatorial governments that have a particularly self-serving agenda. Now, over a century later, we are saying to one another, “what went wrong?”

I'll tell you what went wrong. We departed from God. We thought we knew better than the Almighty. That alone is the essence of humanism-the devil's lie. God's Word made it abundantly clear (see Deuteronomy 6 and 11) that the education of children was a parental responsibility. But the Church said, “we don't want that task. Let the government do it. That will save us the work. We can do what we want to do, and the children will be educated quite well, thanks very much.”

The problem then, is not that the world was (or is) humanistic. We were, and we are. We were the ones that said “no” to God. We thought we knew better than the Almighty. Now, there's pain. As Rushdoony wrote in 1991,

It is not an accident that the de-Christianisation of schools and state [in the U.S.] since World War II have been followed by a great increase in crime, drug use, illegitimacy, sexual crimes, perversions, pornography, and more.²⁷

Now, we have governments all over the world that are taking every opportunity (explicitly or implicitly) to show their hostility to God, and to the Christian faith in general. The solution is not political change.

Why? The solution is the leaven of the Church (see Mat.13:33). God uses evil, ungodly governments as a means of reminding His people, that their first responsibility is to obey Him. And if we find ourselves with hostile governments that want to use and abuse us, we are foolish indeed if we think we'll just fight them. We have to get back to the God who authorises wicked governments in the beginning. He allows them to do their work, as a means of rebuking and chastising His people. Look at what Isaiah says:

²⁶ Gresham Machan, “Shall we Have a Federal Department of Education?” 1926, p.98.

²⁷ Rousas Rushdoony, “Roots of Reconstruction,” 1991, p.288.

*Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter?
Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the Lord,
against whom we have sinned, and in whose ways they were not willing to walk,
and whose law they did not obey? So He poured out on him the heat of His anger
and the fierceness of battle; and it set him aflame all around, yet he did not
recognise it; and it burned him, but he paid no attention” (Isa. 42:23-25).*

Take this example. Hillary Clinton is the US Secretary of State. She is a well-known humanist and feminist, and has been attributed with the statement, “it takes a whole village to educate a child.”

Humanist Hillary can say this, because that’s what the US Church accepted one hundred and fifty years ago. But it won’t be political activity that thwarts people like Hillary in the future. It will be the obedience of the Church, refusing to accept the lies of Satan, expressed by people like her.

It was the Lord who said to Moses, “...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples...” (Ex.19:5). He also said, “if you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword” (Isa.1:19-20).

The Church has some big decisions to make, which come down to two options. We can either:

- a) Continue our Satanic compromise with governments that want to perpetuate the world’s second oldest religion, through Departments of Education and public education.
- b) Turn to God in repentance and with humbled hearts, acknowledging the sinful, humanistic choices we have been making, asking Him to forgive our rebellious, sinful ways, and have mercy on us, giving us grace to now take appropriate steps of obedience for our children, that He gave us.

What’s it to be?

The World's Second Oldest Religion (IX)

By Andrew McColl, 7/8/2012

I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers that correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being ... The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and new. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing the classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—preschool day care or large state universities. John Dunphy, ("The Humanist," Jan/Feb 1983)

While the Church slept soundly in the twentieth century, her enemies were hard at work to undermine the Church, and take over social institutions. How could they do this? Well, it was easy when the Church was sleeping soundly, unperturbed by thoughts of conflict. If you cannot see that Darwinism or Marxism provide a religious, ideological and educational challenge for your children, why bother to contend with these alien belief systems? If you aren't aware that there is something worth fighting for, or that there is a war or even a battle taking place, why would you ever get out of bed?

For over a century in Australia (and in most the West), we have had compulsory, State education. Officially it seems, the responsibility for the education of children (which is commanded in the Bible) has passed from parents to a government instrumentality, and all while the Church was asleep. Today, it costs the Australian taxpayer around \$13,500 per year to educate each child in a public school. This is one of the real costs of transferring the responsibility of education from parents to the State. There are many more.

Now, we have governments institutionalising Child-Care, for children aged from as young as a few weeks old. Some children will spend 10 hours a day at these institutions. By the age of ten or twelve, they may have had only a very modest amount of interaction with their parents. And we wonder whether there was a deliberate plan. North points out,

The modern State seeks to steal the legacy of the faithful: the hearts and minds of children. The educational bureaucrats today have imposed a massive system of *ideological kidnapping* on the voters. This is the inherent nature of all compulsory education, regulated education, and tax-funded education. Education is not neutral. The bureaucrats have built a gigantic system of humanist indoctrination with funds extracted from all local residents...²⁸

²⁸ Gary North, "Inheritance and Dominion," 1999, ch.28.

The outcome? Weak and poorly functioning families, dependent on the State for hand-outs and other forms of deliverance. And with the Australian 1975 Family Law Act (which was deliberately structured to permit “no-fault” divorce), these weak families are much more likely to divorce.

What does this teach us?

For too long we have ignored what the Bible says about education, and have entrusted this vital parental task to an institution that doesn't have the grace from God for the task. We have foolishly entered the lion's lair and taken our children with us, but the lion is just as predatory and rapacious as ever. Why? Because there is a lot at stake: jobs, money and power, and the self-serving and the rapacious won't give these things up easily.

The solution?

We get out of the lions' lair with our children, and take up the responsibility for their education, which we were supposed to from the beginning. It's not that hard. The consequences within a generation for individual families, for churches and the nation at large, could be absolutely amazing. But the scriptural warning is clear:

...if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword... (Isa.1:20).

The World's Second Oldest Religion (X)

By Andrew McColl, 14/8/2012

From the late nineteenth century until today, leading American educators have been forthright in their public pronouncements of their agenda. This agenda is deeply religious. John Dewey, the "father" of progressive education, dedicated humanist, and philosopher stated his position plainly: "Our schools, in bringing together those of different nationalities, languages, traditions, and creeds, in assimilating them together upon the basis of what is common and public in endeavour and achievement, are performing an infinitely significant religious work."²⁹ More than this: "In such a dim, blind, but effective way the American people is conscious that its schools serve best the cause of religion in serving the cause of social unification. . . ."^{30 31}

No one likes rude shocks. I don't. But they happen. Because 98% of the Church has been sleeping for over a century, our enemies have crept up on us. We've been intellectually and ideologically ambushed, attacked and abused; left bleeding on the side of the road. When we sent our children off to a State school, we found that their faith in God (which we encouraged them in) was undermined by the teachings of Darwinism, and questioned by the doctrines of socialism taught at school. Then, they were ridiculed by their peers.

What had happened? We disobeyed God, and there were consequences: ugly ones. Now, we can see it was our own fault; we let this happen, in acts of moral cowardice we will give account for.

But what now?

If we possess anything of a Christian conscience, we cannot let this century-long practice of disobedience in the Church to continue. Obedience to God always requires our action, in one form or another. It's time for our acquiescence in the face of this evil to stop.

The public education system is no place for a Christian child, because it communicates the fallen, alien faith of humanism as legitimate, truthful and right. Over a twelve year period, that means 14,400 hours of religious/educational indoctrination. Is it any wonder that so many Christian children abandon the faith?

Schooling is a form of adoption...you give your kid away at his most plastic years to a group of strangers. You accept a promise...that the State (through its agents) knows better how to raise your children and educate them than you, your neighbours, your grandparents, [and] your local traditions do, and that your kid will be better off...in the key hours of growing up, strangers have reared the kid.³²

This is in direct and blatant conflict with the command of scripture, to "train up a child in the way he should go..." (Prov.22:6). It's contrary to God's command, that we should "teach them [the words of God] diligently to your sons when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when

²⁹ See Rousas Rushdoony, "The Messianic Nature of American Education," 1963.

³⁰ John Dewey, "Religion and our Schools," 1908. Reproduced photographically in David Noebel, "Clergy in the Classroom: the Religion of Secular Education," 1995, p.19.

³¹ Quoted in Gary North, "Inheritance and Dominion," 1999, ch.28.

³² John Taylor Gatto, "State Controlled Consciousness," 1990(?)

you lie down and when you rise up” (Deut.6:7). And it’s at variance with God’s command through the apostle Paul, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph.6:4).

Christians can make some pathetic excuses, like these:

- 1) “Everyone else in my Church sends their children to the State school.” OK, but when did God call us to be like everyone else? He told us to imitate and obey Him, absolutely.
- 2) “I can’t afford it.” Can’t afford what? Can’t afford to obey Jesus Christ? Are you looking forward to meeting Him at the Day of Judgment, with that kind of attitude?
- 3) “I don’t know how to begin.” OK, step one is to take the children out of harm’s way: WITHDRAW them from the pagan institution, and start looking for some good curriculum. It’s around.
- 4) “My family will think I’m weird.” Nothing new about that. Jesus’ family thought their boy was pretty unusual too.
- 5) “My pastor thinks it’s weird.” Suggest he reads Deuteronomy 6 and 11, and ask him what he is doing to disciple his children in the faith, and what level of success he’s had.
- 6) “I could get into trouble with the authorities.” Who would you prefer to have trouble with: the judge of all the earth, Jesus Christ, or some bureaucrat?

Children are a God-given inheritance for our conquest of the world for Christ. They are a means of subduing the earth and exercising dominion under the Lord. If we give our children to state or private schools which are not systematically Christian in their curriculum, we are then giving the future to God’s enemies, and He will hold us accountable for laying waste our heritage.³³

Conclusion:

The twentieth century was marked by something God was not impressed by: insipid and compromising Christians. Will He consider you one of these on Judgment Day?

Get out from under His judgment and take the education and discipleship of your children very, very seriously, like Abraham did with Isaac (Gen.18:17-19). You might just taste His blessing instead.

³³ Rousas Rushdoony, “In His Service,” 2009, p.20.

The World's Second Oldest Religion (XI)

By Andrew McColl, 28/8/2012

Parents are pulling their children out of the government schools. This is happening across the USA.

In city after city, enrolment is declining. This is not a recent development. It has been going on for a half a decade. It has taken place in half of the nation's largest districts.

The trend looks irreversible.

As the Web offers better programs free of charge, the public schools cannot compete. The inner city schools are catastrophic. They are getting worse. As whites and Asians flee the cities, the inner-city schools get worse.

The tax base shrinks. The teachers union demands more pay and smaller classes. The city governments are trapped. Solution: cut programs, fire teachers, and enlarge classes back to (horror!) 1959? 33 students.

Nobody is supposed to talk about this. It is time to talk about it. Public education will not recover. The longer the decline takes place, the more parents will conclude that there is only one solution: pull their kids out.³⁴

Despite the attempts of government to stifle and control it, the free-market is vigorously at work in education in the US, and around the world. And what's it saying? Public education is inflexible, bureaucratically driven, union-dominated, ineffective, and frightfully expensive.

A student enrolled in public education costs the Australian taxpayer about \$13,500 annually. When that child is homeschooled by his parents, it costs the taxpayer nothing. Sometime, (and it may require an economic crash to bring it about), the economic realities of public education are going to strike home, and they won't be comforting for public-school teachers, who thought they had security of tenure.

Governments have believed this lie: the more you spend on education, the more you must be committed to it. That's very convenient when you're part of an extremely inefficient and expensive public education system. But that nonsense is going to go out the window, when governments do the sums and figure this out: when families homeschool their children, it costs the government nothing.

All of this is good, and positive; in fact, it will be huge. Why? Because governments have monopolised education for over a century, saying, "We will deal with this, on your behalf, with your tax monies." Well, thank you Mr Government, but you haven't dealt with this one very well.

³⁴ Gary North, "Exodus Out of Tax-Funded Schools in Major Cities," Lew Rockwell website, 26/7/2012.

In fact, western governments have done a perfect job of showing they just don't have the grace from God for this.

Why? Because God gives grace to parents to educate children, not governments; it is a parental responsibility, according to the Bible. Where responsibility rests, authority lies, and with authority comes grace.

Big changes are going to happen over the next generation in education, and it will be exciting to behold. A sharp rise in private sector involvement, particularly in homeschooling, and a corresponding decline in government controlled and funded education.

That doesn't mean there won't be some fights, no sir. The educational establishment won't take this one lying down. They'll see the bull-dozer coming at their house, and will throw everything at it. But that is all part of what needs to happen; public debate on a very important subject- the future of our children, and society as a whole.

Educational freedom is a great thing, and we will see a great deal more of it in the west, soon. It is going to facilitate the preaching and growth of the Christian faith, the strength and positive development of the Christian family, and the growth of the Church.

The potential outcomes are exciting. The collapse of the false religion of humanism, a tremendous saving to the taxpayer, and cultural changes over time that will be remarkable.

Will you be part of it?

The World's Second Oldest Religion (XII)

By Andrew McColl, 11th September, 2012

Here are the basics of education:

*One size doesn't fit all.
The lowest common denominator slows down the process.
Students learn best at their own speed.
The best way to learn any subject is to teach it.
Students can tutor other students.
Digital technology is decentralizing everything.
Free is cheap.
The division of labour works.
Wikipedia already offers the basics.
Each social group has its own agenda.
The Establishment has its agenda.
This agenda is at best a compromise for everyone else.
All gatekeepers are losing ground.
There are many valid ways to certify competence.
If you can pass the exam, you don't need a classroom.
Bureaucracies are not efficient.
Unionized bureaucracies are the least efficient bureaucracies.
Monopolies are not efficient.
State-run monopolies are the least efficient monopolies.
Control over education is the most important political monopoly.
The state is going bankrupt.
Therein lies an entrepreneurial opportunity.³⁵*

When rats are leaving a sinking ship you know there's something wrong. Public education is doomed. It's not for me to try and predict how long till it sinks beneath the waves.

What is my challenge is to explain that this great demise is going to be great for children, for parents, for families, the church and society. And most of all, it is an opportunity that every Christian family should be excited about, because of the phenomenal opportunities it will bring for every society, in terms of tax-savings, advances in culture and education, and the liberty and prosperity of nations under God.

Any long-term solution to our education problems requires the decentralization that can come from competition.³⁶

Centralisation is the tool of tyrants, but decentralisation means greater individual and family freedom. The prospects are truly enormous and exciting for us, but they are predicated on one thing: the

³⁵ Gary North.

³⁶ Walter Williams, "Dumbest Generation Getting Dumber," Lew Rockwell website, 3/6/2009. (Williams is Professor of Economics at George Mason University.)

obedience of Christians to the Word of God as it applies to their children's education. This is the very thing that can lead to national transformation.

How do we know this? Jesus said of His disciples, "you are the salt of the earth" (Mat.5:13) and "the light of the world" (Mat.5:14). He also predicted that "the kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened" (Mat.13:33).

What does this mean? It's not rocket science. Christians are to take the kingdom of God all over the world, and transform societies with the gospel. This means discipleship, it means liberty, it means changes to law (according to God's law), and it means cultural change. Nothing is to be left out of the influence of the kingdom.

You say, "*even culture as well?*" Absolutely. Jordan writes,

Culture follows from, arises from, and is dependent upon faith. Spiritual loyalty to God, in faith, must precede and be the ground of all cultural change. It not only must be, it inevitably will be. The gospel has inevitable consequences, and so does Baalism.³⁷

OK, it may take centuries. So what? We've had twenty and the job hasn't been completed, yet. That's the Great Commission (Mat.28:18-20), and that's the job we've been given. Jesus said, "the kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour **until it was all leavened**" (Mat.13:33). He predicted the total change of the world, through the leavening impact of the kingdom of God, through God's people.

It begins with God's people obeying the Word of God with their children. That means extricating them from the citadels of humanism, public education, and discipling them: preparing them for a life of service and dominion; what Adam and Eve were placed here for (see Gen.1:26-28), and what we are here for.

It means moving away from the centralising pattern of State control: "one size fits all. Everyone do it this way! No variations allowed!"

*Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family...The best way to improve education is to return control to the parents who know best what their children need.*³⁸

We'd better get ready. Why? Because God said "all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Nu.14:21), and we've got a job to do.

Have you started yet?

³⁷ James Jordan, "Judges: God's War on Humanism," 1985, p.59.

³⁸ Dr. Ron Paul (US Senator), 2007.