

# Is Education Neutral?

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Those who oppose the idea of Christian education often argue that Christian schools are unnecessary.

Their first argument in support of this claim is that the state schools are not opposed to Christianity but are neutral. The schools themselves and the government which supports them often use this same argument to justify their existence. Is this true? We do not believe it is.

We believe that any organization that is not actively promoting Christian teachings and values *as an organization* is actually opposing them. Jesus Himself says this: "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). We believe, therefore, that in spite of some Christian influence the basic philosophy and aims of the secular schools are anti-christian. They are scattering rather than gathering our children.

For example, a school which teaches evolution in the science classes is not neutral. In teaching that the human body is merely a product of evolution, our children are taught that their bodies are their own to use or abuse as they please. This ignores the Bible's teaching that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). Such teaching, therefore, is not neutral.

Another argument against Christian education recognizes that we live in a corrupt world, but insists that it is good for our children to be exposed to the world around them, even from a very early age. But this is not the teaching of Scripture. Scripture says that it is our calling to be spiritually separate from the wicked world (II Corinthians 6:14-18).

It is especially important for our children, who are compared in Psalm 128 to young olive plants, to be protected from evil influences. No young plant can be immediately exposed to the elements and to the full heat of the sun and be expected to live. Nurture (Ephesians 6:4) is not exposure.

For the sake of the children themselves, then, and for their spiritual good, we as Christian parents must provide the protection of Christian schools for our children. Only in that way will we be faithful to them and to God who gave them to us.