



WRIGHT TRACK MINISTRIES

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WRIGHT TRACK VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Youth Education and Ministry **Advice from Noel Wright**

There has never been a more critical need for Bible based Sunday School ministry to youth than now. We must touch and reach our youth with the truth of the Word of God. We have a mandate to make disciples and this is the time when we as a church need to roll up our sleeves and help our youth to cope with being in the world and not of it so that they may grow up as a strong Christians.

The great experiment in value-neutral education is over. This movement, which advocated the idea that parents and educators should refrain from teaching young people moral values to allow them to determine their own values, has been a tragic failure. The results include an escalating rate of sexually transmitted diseases, higher rates of children born out-of-wedlock and broken marriages.

Not teaching any values tells young people that nothing is wrong. Everything is okay! In such a vacuum, no wonder so many young people make poor choices that affect them for the rest of their lives.

Parents who have agonized over whether or not to teach their children religious values should notice what God says. In Ephesians 6:4 the Apostle Paul said, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." Paul did not advocate value-neutral education. He, by contrast, encouraged fathers to teach their children God's values. This statement was simply a continuation of the same principle God gave the Israelite families in the Old Testament.

The following article is a "wakeup call" to our Churches to strengthen their Sunday Schools!!!

The vice-president of a large Christian university recently observed: "Students come here with a love for God in their hearts but their minds think like pagans!" Christian college students thinking like pagans? What would cause this administrator to make such a statement?

To answer this question, the Nehemiah Institute surveyed high school students nationwide to determine their worldview. Students were asked a number of questions relating to important issues of the day. How they responded would help researchers discover whether the young people viewed the issues of the day from a biblical perspective or from a humanistic perspective.

The results revealed something that should be a wake-up call to Christian parents everywhere. The average score placed most of our Christian teens squarely within the secular humanist camp! Now keep in mind these young people were all members of evangelical churches. Most of them would tell you that they love Jesus. But when it comes to important cultural issues, they think like, well, pagans.

What has brought us to this point, where the younger generation of Christians is falling victim to secular ideas? In his book, *Clergy in the Classroom*, author David Noebe documents how education has changed over the past hundred years, from the influence of a Christian worldview to secularism. Since the time of John Dewey in the 1890s, the humanists established themselves in departments of education in our major universities. From there, they took control of public education.

Charles Francis Potter, a signer of the Humanist Manifesto and author of a book titled, *Humanism: New Religion*, made the comment that, "Education is the most powerful ally of Humanism. . . . What can the theistic Sunday Schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?"

As it turns out, Potter's challenge to the church was prophetic. As recent surveys indicate, the Sunday schools have not been very effective at "stemming the tide" of humanist indoctrination and its lock on the nation's schools.

But what can Christian parents do to break their kids from thinking like pagans? Well, we can meet the challenge by teaching them to "understand the times. In other words, young people need to know the humanist and naturalistic ideas that are so influencing our culture. And they need to know how a biblical perspective is superior to the current popular trends.

A new Sunday school curriculum, called *Worldviews in Focus: Thinking Like a Christian*, does precisely that. This 12-week Bible study guides the young person through ten crucial areas from theology and philosophy to law and politics, and the study offers a comprehensive understanding of the value of a biblical worldview.

Josh McDowell calls this "one of the most important youth Bible studies to come out in recent years," and I agree. The only way we can prepare our kids to survive is to prepare them to look more deeply at the values they're being offered, to be discerning about worldviews that are hostile to biblical theism.

We may not be able to stop the onslaught of humanism and naturalism in our culture, but we can equip our kids with a Christian worldview that will give the next generation the resources they need to fight the good fight.

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Books and Resources for Youth Workers

- **The Disconnected Generation: Saving our Youth from Self Destruction** by Josh McDowell, Zondervan Publishing.
- **Don't Check Your Brains at the Door** by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, Word Books.
- **Josh McDowell's Handbook on Counseling Youth** by Josh McDowell, Word Books.
- **Play It! Great Games for Groups** by Wayne Rice and Mike Yocanelli, Youth Specialties.
- (If you have to plan parties or activities for Youth...you need this book! Rice & Yocanelli are SUPERB!)
- **Get 'Em Talking** by Mike Yocanelli and Scott Koenigsaecker, Zondervan Publishing.
- **Help I am A Small-Group Leader!** by Laurie Polich, Zondervan Publishing.
- **Help I am a Volunteer Youth Worker** by Doug Fields, Zondervan Publishing.
- **Teaching Youth: Leaders, Lessons and Lifestyles** by Allen Jackson and Richard Barnes, Lifeway Press.
- **Youth Sunday School for a New Century** by Chuck Gartman and Richard Barnes, Lifeway Press.

You can order these books and others through our website from Amazon.com. A portion of your purchase is donated to **Wright Track Ministries** without adding anything to your cost. Just click on the icon below and a portion of your purchase will go to support this ministry . God Bless You and Thank You!



Links to Internet Resources

ChristianAnswers.Net

Dawson McAllister Association

Teen Questions and Answers

Campus Life

Youth Workers Network

Josh McDowell Ministries

Good News Magazine

Idea Zone

Tips and Ideas for Youth Workers and Ministers

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JER for NMW3 10-15-2000