



Bringing Biblical Principles of Governance

Virginia: Rescue us from those who would destroy parental authority!

Greetings My Friends,

This Tuesday, Virginia voters will make a decision, choosing between Glenn Youngkin and Terry McAuliffe for their next governor.



Terry McAuliffe



Glenn Youngkin

Many will say it is Republican vs. Democrat. It is not.

Many will say it is Right vs. Left. It is not.

It is Right vs. Wrong.

It is Good vs. Evil.

It is Biblical vs. Anti-Biblical.

Why do I say this?

McAuliffe has made it clear that parents should not determine their children's education. Youngkin has correctly pointed out that parents are most certainly

to determine their children's education. Youngkin is right. McAuliffe is violating everything the Bible teaches on this subject.

The Well Versed team was just in the Fairfax County / Loudon County area in Virginia which has become the epicenter of the battle over our children. We met with many godly parents. They "get it." May God help the Commonwealth of Virginia to deliver a strong blow to the evildoers who would destroy parental authority, and to our national so-called "leaders" —such as Attorney General Merrick Garland and the National School Board Association — who have so maliciously labeled legitimately concerned parents as "domestic terrorists." Who are the real terrorists? The real terrorists are those who would destroy parental authority.

BACKGROUND:

My late wife and I adopted four children. When one of my sons was in third grade, he was to receive special counseling from a public school. I informed the counselor that I would sit in on the session. He promptly informed me that I would not. A discussion ensued.

I asked, "To whom does the child belong: to the parents, or the state (meaning government and government schools)?" He paused, feeling a bit trapped, not wanting to say, *the state*, but chafing at the idea of conceding the point by saying, *the parents*.

He chose to answer what he *thought* I wanted to hear. He answered softly and a bit begrudgingly, "The parents."

"Wrong," I responded. "Children do not *belong* to parents *or* the state." He seemed relieved, thinking we had discovered a middle ground. I continued, "Children belong to God. He made them. But He has entrusted them to parents for the first twenty years or so of their lives until they are able to make life work on their own. So as the one to whom God has given this child, I insist on remaining in the room if you, a complete stranger to me and my child, are going to have input into my child's thinking."

He refused to allow me to stay. Consequently, I graciously refused his counseling for my child, and we left. I have no regrets about that decision. This scenario repeated itself with other counselors in later years, and is a familiar situation for many parents.

Why on earth would the culture be so anti-parent? Because they — the state or the counselor — think they know better than we do as parents. Some of them are convinced we are buffoons. We don't know anything. After all, have we gone through all the courses that they have? No. So we need to be quiet and

let the experts talk.

THE ULTIMATE EDUCATOR AND PROTECTOR:

Now, let me be clear: we had positive interactions with 99% of our children's teachers, but we certainly ran into the above-mentioned attitude on occasion, and we have had too many of our friends encounter this attitude among educators, occasionally with catastrophic results.

My (late) wife and I have had our children in public schools, private schools, Christian schools, charter schools, home schooling, and in "non-public placement" schools. Frankly, we have had great relationships with almost all of them. We have had remarkable teachers.

But there were times when we had to be firm with some counselors or administrators by saying, "We are the parents. We are the ones making decisions for our children and their well-being. You will invest in them for a short time, and we appreciate it. But we have invested in them since they were born (or adopted), and we will be with them until we die or until they die, whichever comes first. I would take a bullet for my children. You likely would not, nor do I expect you to. So, we plan to be involved in our children's lives and direct their education journey because (1) we revere God and He will hold us accountable some day for how we raised them, and (2) we will do anything to see them established as strong, godly, productive citizens who experience *the joy of learning* and make it a lifelong passion." Structured education is not an end in itself. The goal of formal education is to help people fall in love with learning, to experience *the joy of learning*, so they will become life-long learners.

The American contemporary statist (meaning state-owned and state-run) educational system has it totally wrong. The children belong to God, and God has designated parents — and parents only — to guide their education process. Those parents may contract with tutors or teachers to aid in their children's critical educational journey.

Although we had great experiences with all the forms of schooling mentioned above, we were partial to home schooling. Why? Because home schooling taught us how, as parents, *to turn every event into a joyous and invigorating learning experience*. It stirred the inquisitive nature within us, for parents and students alike. In fact, we were able to actually live out the Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19 mandate to instill knowledge, truth, life lessons, reasoning ability, and even practical skills into our children throughout the day, making all of life a teachable moment.

Our degrees were not what made us good home schooling parents; it was our passion for making education fun and exciting. If school officials, administrators, teachers, and board members realize that the children belong to God and have been entrusted to parents, the learning environment shifts from surviving to thriving. The American model and culture has it backwards. The state is not the ultimate educator and protector of my child. The parents are.

THE PARENT AS PRIMARY EDUCATOR AND GUARDIAN:

According to the title of Hillary Clinton's book, our society would like us to believe that "it takes a village" to raise a child. A village *does* play a role, but it does *not* supplant the role of the parent. As Christians, we are called to teach our children diligently in the way they should go, in the principles and truth of God's Word. Psalm 127:3 says children are a reward from Him — a blessing and a gift. This blessing is entrusted to parents, not the village, and with that stewardship comes a great responsibility:

- Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (NKJV).
- Deuteronomy 6:6–7: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (NKJV).
- 3 John 1:4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (NIV)

Parents have a responsibility to train their children in the ways of righteousness, as Ephesians 6:4 says. That responsibility includes discipline, instruction, training, and education. However, we have an educational system in America that often strips parents of rights and choices.

ELIMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS:

Allow me to give a most bizarre example. When I took my two daughters to get their ears pierced at an appropriate age, I had to sign forms. Yet in my state (California), those same two daughters could have an extremely serious medical procedure — an abortion — without my even knowing it.

Today, thirty-eight states require minors' parents to be notified when receiving an abortion, which means in twelve states parents have no right to even be notified when their minor child receives an abortion. And in some states, children can actually undergo a sex change operation as early as fifteen years of age, paid for by the state, *without any parental consent*.

The Departments of Health and Human Services and Education recently drafted a potential government policy statement on family engagement, stating in summary, "It is the position of the Departments [of HHS and Education] that

all early childhood programs and schools recognize families as *equal partners* (italics added) in improving children's development, learning and wellness across all settings, and over the course of their children's developmental and educational experiences."

Notice: "equal partners." The government believes they have *equal rights* with the parent to care for the child! The underlying reasoning behind these new laws and statements removing parental authority is that the state and popular culture believe they know how to raise the child better than the parent.

This flies in the face of what Scripture teaches: that children are to submit in obedience to the parents and parents are called to give an account to God for those entrusted to them.

Colossians 3:20 states, "Children, obey your parents in every- thing, for this pleases the Lord." And, truth be told, our public education system growing more and more averse to Christian values and biblical principles is a tangible example of 2 Timothy 3:7. These expert educators are "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." No wonder Scripture is quite clear: parents are to be the primary educators and equippers of their children, and have the right and obligation to do so. "Listen my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Proverbs 1:8).

Parental rights are severely infringed on in the current American educational system.

EROSION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS:

This decline in parental involvement can be traced back to the early 1900s and a man named John Dewey, credited as the father of progressive education. Dewey was one of the authors of the *Humanist Manifesto*. Embracing humanism, he denied the existence of a creator and lawgiver and supported the beliefs of global government and world relativism. He was a key player in the founding of the National Education Association (NEA) and established much of the liberal doctrine the organization adheres to today (seen in the political candidates and policies it supports).

Dewey's focus was on the relationship between the individual and society. He developed a school curriculum that emphasized the child instead of the subject matter. Focus was equally distributed between the learning process and what was learned. You might be thinking, *Well that sounds good, right?* While it looks good in theory, it has had devastating consequences. This new method of learning overturned traditional education, which used to place all the emphasis on what was learned, not on a child-centered classroom.

Traditional education valued faith in a creator, moral absolutes, right and wrong, strict discipline, and hard work. However, these values, knowingly or unknowingly, were gradually cast aside as the focus on the child grew. The classroom became more about what the child thought was right and wrong rather than absolutes, and more concerned about protecting a child's fragile self-esteem than solid subject matter learning.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

It gets worse. Roughly eighty years after John Dewey's first education methods were established, the American Department of Education was formed. A cabinet-level department, with the Secretary of Education (appointed by the President) at its head, President Jimmy Carter signed this new department into law in 1979.

According to the Department of Education's website, the USDOE's mission is to "serve America's students — to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

While well-intentioned, this government-run department has stolen power from parents and local authority and, instead, created a federally-directed education system. One of the purposes of the department is "to increase the accountability of Federal education programs to the President, the Congress and the public."

SCHOOL CHOICE:

In addition to the removal of biblically-founded character training in schools, another reason why America is failing its children is a lack of educational choices and equal opportunity. We have an educational system that discriminates against single mothers and the poor by limiting their options. The system we have is a system that allows wealth to determine a child's education. If you are fortunate enough to buy a home in a good school district, your child has a better chance of receiving a strong education. However, if you cannot afford to live in a good district or pay for a private school, you have no choice but to send your child to the school located in your neighborhood, even if it's a poor performing school.

In America, we have a free-market economy where we have choices, but that hasn't been the case when it comes to education. Thankfully, parents' growing desire for quality education and choices for their children has led to the development of other options: charter schools and home schooling.

Charter schools began in the early 1990s as a variation of the public school

system. These schools provide the educators extensive freedom from many of the regulations found in traditional public schools. Parents can choose what school best fits their child's needs and interests. We now have charter schools that specialize in science, mathematics, technology, the arts, or other fields of interest.

Currently 2.75 million students attend charter schools in the United States. In the last ten years, we have seen charter school enrollment increase by 225%, and the number of charter schools increase by a whopping 118%. The demand has become so great that school acceptance depends on a lottery system; thousands of children are placed on waiting lists. In California during the 2012–2013 school year, over 49,000 students were placed on a waiting list, with 15,000 waiting students in Los Angeles alone.

The demand is great because charter schools are a sliver of opportunity and one choice closer to a free-market education system. The suffocating restraint of the teachers' unions is slowly being broken, giving parents the right to be, well, parents.

There is, however, another choice for parents. Those who are able to stay home with their children can provide in-home education through a wide variety of solid curricula, as well as local home schooling organizations that are incredibly well-equipped to ensure their child is adequately educated with a Christian worldview and the skills needed to tackle the challenges they will face in their lives.

We've allowed ourselves as parents to be bumped from the "table." We've allowed policy makers, school administrators, and self-interested teachers' unions to decide what's best for our children. This needs to change. Now

Virginia residents: Please elect a governor who know that parents were given – by God – the authority to determine their own children's influences and education! This is not a Republican vs. Democrat issue. This is Right vs. Wrong. This is Good vs. Evil.

Remember! Your support of Well Versed makes it possible for us to bring to you the World Prayer Network, founded in November 2020 by Mario Bramnick, my wife, Rosemary, and myself.

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