



November 2016

Kingdom Education: The Danger of Dualism

Dear Parents,

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, most American children in schools across the country learn of the festive celebration between the Wampanoag Indians and Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, during the early 1620s.

Too often what is absent from these lessons are the words from former presidents like George Washington, who in his 1789 Thanksgiving proclamation stated this “Holy Day” (now holiday) was established “to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.” In 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the fourth Thursday in the month of November a national day of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” The omission of such quotes from students’ lessons are classic examples of dualism, which can be defined as the practice of dividing life into different parts and operating within each part from a different worldview perspective. As a Christian family-school community, we are aware of this danger and thus strive to raise our children “...in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, KJV).

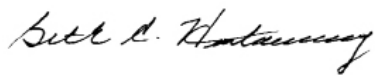
The practice of dualism, or living our lives from both a man centered and God centered worldview, can result in people becoming cultural Christians whose hearts can be turned towards other gods (wealth, entertainment, career, et cetera). We avoid dualism by remaining in a devoted relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Dualism can lead parents into believing that as long as a teacher is a subject matter expert in a chosen field and teaching in a “neutral” environment that what and how they teach won’t impact their child’s view of God. This is simply not true. There is no such thing a “neutral worldview”; every view is seen through some “lens” that provides a unique perspective. Teaching in a neutral/secular environment is not neutral because it excludes Christ and is therefore antireligious.

Conversely, a Kingdom education, like the one we strive to provide at Prince, requires that we teach all our subjects from an eternal perspective. This week I had the privilege of speaking to the men and women of the Oconee County Leadership organization to educate them about our school. When asked what the most enjoyable part of my job was, I responded the responsibility of ensuring we teach from a biblical worldview, or one that provides an eternal, Christ centered perspective contrary to a temporal perspective, which the Bible teaches us will turn to dust.

In order for a kingdom education to be effective, we must avoid dualism. A kingdom education necessitates that God's Holy Word is the foundation for all instruction, not just Bible classes. As parents, teachers, and administrators, we must feed our students a healthy, consistent diet of Jesus; Jesus is the only antidote to dualism. Thank you for your continued partnership in raising the next generation of leaders for Christ.



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References

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