

The Forgotten History

There was a time in America's history where Christianity and the Bible were used as a basis for the education system. Although there seems to be no evidence of it now, there are early signs of it tracing back to the 1600's when the Puritans were living on America shores. For them, education was important both for teaching basic academic skills and core religious values to their children.

In 1642, the state of Massachusetts passed an education law known as "Old Satan Deluder Act" which assured children the right to read their Bibles. Connecticut followed suit and passed the same law in 1647. Furthermore, Connecticut passed the "Connecticut Literacy Law" which allowed its citizens to read the word of God and the good laws of its state. In the late 1680's the "First New England Primer" was published and released to schools in the American Colonies which contained the teachings of the alphabet, prayers, and poems, all derived from the bible. Come 1781, congress approved the Northwest Ordinance, and in Article 3 directed the territories to establish schools "to teach religion, morality and knowledge."

Elementary schools and High schools weren't the only establishments influenced by biblical foundation. In 1636, Harvard College was founded by a Presbyterian minister by the name John Harvard who would use that school as a religious school to train clergy in the Christian faith. Universities like Yale, founded in 1699 by 10 ministers was established to further the reformed Protestant religion. Princeton, Brown University, Queens College, and Dartmouth College between the years of 1746-1769 were also established with a religious foundation.

Thomas Jefferson in 1802 required the use of bibles in Washington D.C. classrooms. Even in later years, 1925 the state of Florida passed a law which required daily bible readings take place in public schools. In 1946, the public schools in Dallas published a book known as "Bible Studies Course for New Testament" which contained questions and answers about the life of Jesus Christ.

Christianity's roots in the education system may or may not come as a surprise. However, one thing seems evident, and that is the lack of its presence now. Within the last few years there has been a push to remove different aspects of history and a narrative to re-write it. In the wise words of Theodore Roosevelt "the more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

Teaching children the full truth about America is just one of the many responsibilities that fall within the scope of parenting. Not only the way it was founded, but the foundational principles that make America great. Although the founding fathers were flawed like all humans, they established this foundation on a sovereign perfect God. George Washington addressed the importance of God during his farewell speech by encouraging America to fully learn the teachings of the Bible so that this country could remain moral and just.

Perhaps, given the state of this nation where moral and social deterioration are evident; returning to America's foundational principles governed by morality and its author are worth exploring. There is no better time than now to bring to the forefront that forgotten history...till next time.

Your Mommy-Friend.