

Religion, Science & Education:



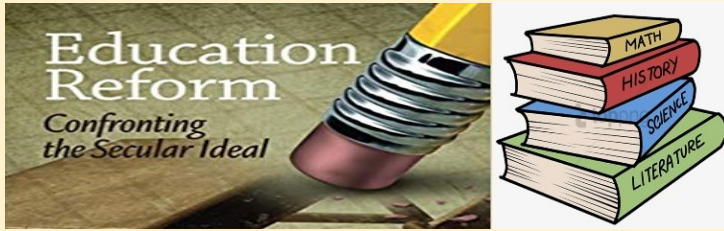
**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR CREATION**

**Exploring options for bridging the gaps
between public, private and
homeschooling.**

By James Stroud (IAC Board Member)

The International Association for Creation

www.AssociationForCreation.org



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUR RIGHTS

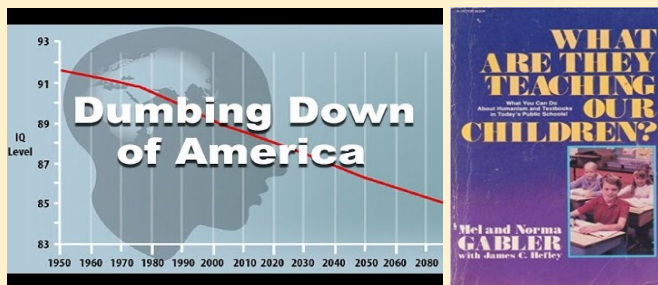
There is no question that public education has become more about politics than education over the last generation and it is showing badly as IQ levels continue to plummet ever since the alleged Flynn Effect began to reverse in the 1980s. Technology has increased but at the cost of overall intelligence. This simple booklet is put together under the guidance of over 50 PhDs from a variety of fields of knowledge. Whether one is Christian, secular or agnostic, it is our hope that we can all agree that **"critical-thinking"** is desperately needed if we hope to reverse the dumbing-down of public education. It is simply our hope to help equip both private schools and public schools with answers to the basic questions on Academic Freedom (where several of us work) while also offering **FREE** supplemental resources.



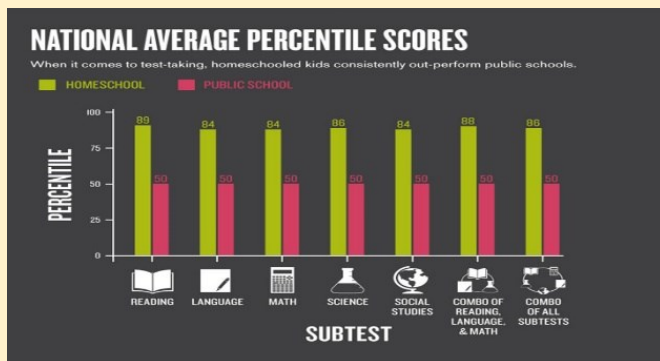
Socrates: "Take the argument wherever it leads."

Educational Reformation

There is no dispute that public education is in an abysmal state today. Much of this is due to the fact that student nor instructor are allowed to truly allow “critical thinking” today.

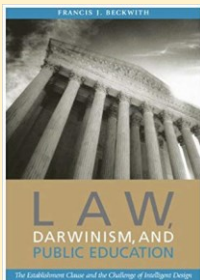


Mel & Norma Gabler began a grass-roots movement in the 1960s to expose the high percentage of errors in public-school textbooks and to the surprise of many, this couple was able to impact the educational system to such a degree that textbook companies (and schools) were forced to raise the bar of intellectual integrity (see: *What are They Teaching our Children*). This mirrors our own goal in encouraging *Critical-Thinking* instead of *Group-Think*.

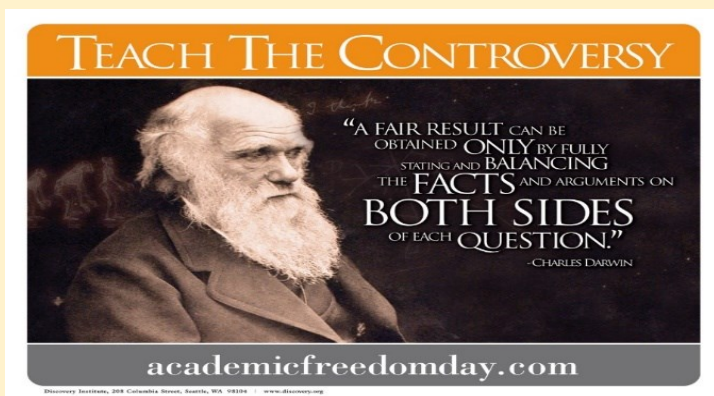


Ironically home-schools score higher in all fields on average.

What about the Law?



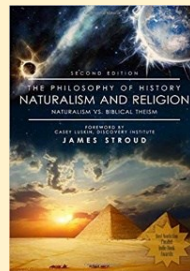
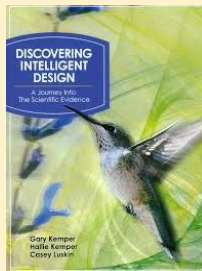
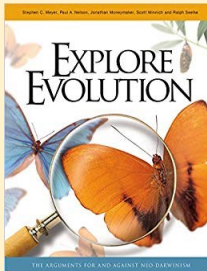
Groups like the ACLU use “scare-tactics” to attempt to bully schools into thinking they cannot support *critical-thinking* but this is completely without warrant. One of my partners (the Discovery Institute) will be more than happy to support your right to teach *critical-thinking* even if this means taking it to court. (The ACLU knows they will lose so please contact us if you are bullied or threatened; you have a 100% constitutional right to teach critical thinking which necessitates teaching pros/cons to a theory such as “Darwinism”. What the law states is you cannot “mandate Creationism or Intelligent Design” but you are free to teach these as supplemental and teach the weaknesses of a theory like Darwinism).



Isn't Science the Truth?

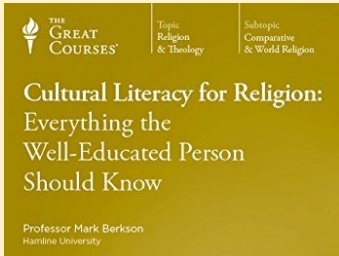


It is false to think of science and religion at odds with one another. I (James) have studied and debated the topic with many professors and atheists (as have my colleagues), and I can assure you that this is a *red-herring* (exaggeration). Unknown to most public schools is the fact that naturalism (the belief that everything can be reduced to nature) requires more faith than science. So why not expose our students to both sides of the argument including non-naturalistic hypotheses? If one side is false then it should easily be shown which one is (perhaps in debate). Encouraging critical thinking across the natural & social sciences will only increase critical thinking skills).



Exploring Evolution is a book by my colleagues from universities such as Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, etc. simply on the weaknesses of Darwinism. Why would such books (as well as my own against Naturalism) not be welcomed in the public arena?

Who's Scared of Religion?



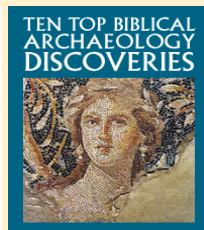
The *Great Courses* (no friend to Christianity) recently released a fantastic course *Cultural Literacy for Religion* where they argued that religion is a “**must**” for schools is one hopes to have a holistic education. Similarly, my friend from India Dr. Subodh Pandit spent 10 years researching whether there is a “God” and then another 10 years on “which God?” This is the same type of *search* that is critical for education of all stripes and should be endorsed by private as well as secular academia. Critical thinking means discussing/debating such topics whether we like it or not.



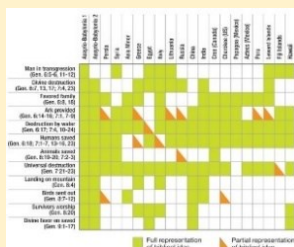
If naturalism is dead in the water (as Alvin Plantinga and many even secular scholars are now concluding) then why continue to encourage such a “flat-earth” theory to our students? Are secular groups that afraid of debate?

History and the Bible?

AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	NO. OF COPIES
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs.	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,350 yrs.	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,360 yrs.	8
Plato		460 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,360 yrs.	7
Caesar	Gaule Wars	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000 yrs.	10
Livy	History of Rome	59 B.C. - A.D. 17	4 th Cent. (partial), mostly 10 th cent.	c. 400 yrs, c. 1000 yrs	1 partial, 19 copies
Tacitus	Annals	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000 yrs.	20
Pliny the Younger	Natural History	A.D. 61-113	c. A.D. 850	c. 750 yrs.	7
New Testament		A.D. 50-100	c. 114 (fragment), c. 200 (books), c. 250 (most of NT), c. 325 (complete NT)	~50 yrs, 100 yrs, 150 yrs, 225 yrs.	5,368

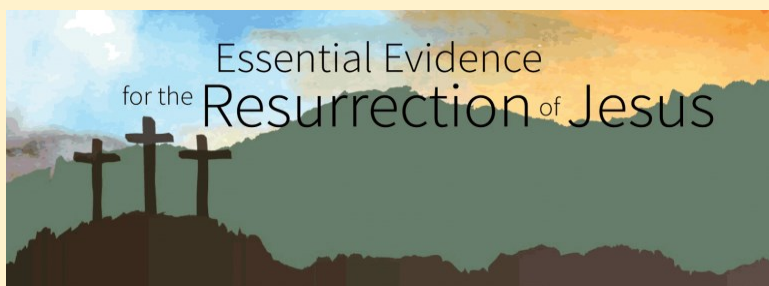


My background is specifically in the Philosophy of History; and though I was not brought up in a church home, I always found it astonishing that both qualitatively and quantitatively the Bible is without question the best ancient historic document we have which is truly astonishing. I always start off my talks by asking skeptics what the best historic book of ancient history is, which they are then forced to conclude “the bible”.



Quick example: my entire university career has been secular and yet all my colleagues recognize that a great flood like mentioned in the bible is historically attested across all cultures with over 270 flood legends supporting a global flood, animals saved and a select family on a large boat which would make sense if it were true? Moreover, the Sumerian Kings List coincides with a pre-flood time and the Tower of Babel matches what anthropology/genetics say about the spreading of language and civilization.

The Resurrection and History?



CRUCIFIXION

Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.

Crucifixion was a common form of execution used by the Romans at this time. All four gospel accounts claim Jesus died by crucifixion. Paul and the rest of the New Testament writers affirm it. Non-Christian sources include Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Mara Bar Serapion, and the Talmud. Examinations of the medical evidence described in the accounts of Jesus' death have led experts to conclude that turning the crucifixion would not have been possible. Even the highly critical scholar, John Dominic Crossan, writes, "That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be."



APPEARANCES

After his death, his disciples had experiences that they believed were appearances of the risen Jesus.

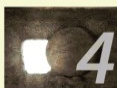
Paul, the oral tradition of the early church, and the written works of early church leaders all attest that the disciples believed that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to them. In 1 Cor. 15:3-8, Paul quotes what scholars consider a creed from less than 5 years after Jesus' death, which claims that Jesus appeared to the disciples. This was also asserted unanimously in the gospels, written within 20-30 years after the crucifixion, and by extra-biblical sources: Josephus, Tacitus, Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, and Justin Martyr.



TRANSFORMATION

The disciples were transformed from fearful panic to boldly preaching his resurrection, and were willing to die for their beliefs.

The entire New Testament and earliest chapters of church history testify to the transformation of the apostles from a group of cowards who cowered, hid, and denied Christ to bold proclaimers of his resurrection. Clement, Tacitus, Josephus, Mara Bar Serapion, Pliney, Hegesippus, and Eusebius attest to the martyrdom of the disciples and that they did not recant their faith. While even well-meaning people believe to be true that are actually false, they will not die for something they know is a lie.



EARLY PROCLAMATION

The proclamation of his resurrection was a central message of the Church, starting in Jerusalem very early, not decades later.

Contrary to popular theories claiming Christians invented Jesus' deity and resurrection as legends hundreds of years later, evidence shows that the disciples proclaimed his resurrection immediately, in Jerusalem where he was killed (and where claims could be easily disputed). While many facts from antiquity rest on just one ancient source, and 2 or 3 sources generally render the fact unimpeachable, the early proclamation of Jesus' resurrection appears in over 10 independent sources, dating within 5 to 10 years after Jesus' death.



JAMES' CONVERSION

Jesus' unbelieving brother, James, was converted by what he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Multiple sources report that James was critical regarding Jesus' public ministry, even seeking to remove him from the public eye, following him in secret. They also record that a few years after Jesus' death, James had become the leader of the early church at Jerusalem. The 1st Cor. 15 creed reported that prior to this transformation, the risen Jesus appeared to James, a claim he was willing to die for. His martyrdom is attested by Hegesippus, Josephus, Eusebius, and Clement.



PAUL'S CONVERSION

Paul, former persecutor of Christians, was converted by what he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

In his letters to the churches in Corinth, Galatia, and Philippi (all accepted by critical scholars), Paul writes of his conversion from persecutor of Christians to proclaimer of Jesus' resurrection, willing to suffer continuously for the gospel, to the point of death. These facts were also documented by Luke, Clement, Polycarp, Tertullian, Dionysius, and Origen.

When even skeptical experts accept these essential historical facts, they are compelled to address the evidence. Popular theories like the Swoon Theory, the Stolen Body Theory, the Hallucination Theory, and Legend Theory, etc., all fall short of these requirements. The resurrection is the most reasonable explanation. And if Jesus was raised from the dead — there are significant implications for our lives!

REQUIREMENTS for MINIMAL FACTS

- 1) Each fact must be confirmed by multiple independent sources.
- 2) There must be consensus among even critical scholars accepting the historical evidence.

The Importance of 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Scholars see this creed, received by Paul 5 years after Jesus' death, as an important early source attesting to facts about Jesus' resurrection.

The Empty Tomb

The fact that the private tomb where Jesus had been buried was found empty after his resurrection is backed by significant historical evidence.

It is not usually included in the Minimal Facts argument because it is not as universally accepted by skeptics (about 75% support it).

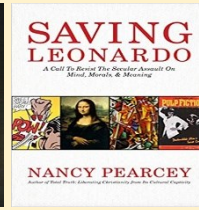
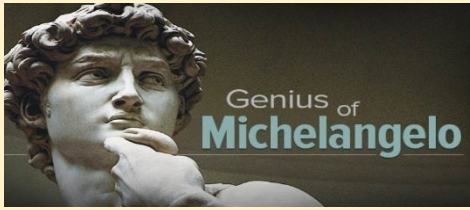
Even so, it remains an important part of any defense of Jesus' resurrection.

For more resources for defending the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, visit summit.org/telescope/resurrection



Did you know that even the most skeptical of historians accept not only the existence of Jesus but also the above-mentioned points? This is "history" regardless of what one's personal feelings toward religion are. Can you imagine if we took George Washington or World War 2 out of our history books simply because we didn't like Washington as a president, or the atrocities committed during WW2?

The Arts and the Bible?



The Arts as well as the great works of literature are quickly disappearing or being brushed aside in public schools to our children's peril. Dr. Nancy Pearcey has spent decades not only as a professor and researcher/writer on the degradation of public education, but also on why the Christian worldview provides a strong counter-point to secularism. Nancy has brilliantly written on this topic and is a sought-after speaker who has shown time and time again how a Christian worldview helps a student "think critically" about such topics and how the public schools can easily compare/contrast the Arts from a Christian/secular perspective without promoting religion. The Arts are just as important as the sciences, and a Christian perspective on Art's ontology has never been stronger than it is today.



How can we get started?

Conclusion:

1. God is the best explanation of the origin of the universe.
2. God is the best explanation of the fine-tuning of the universe for intelligent life.
3. God is the best explanation of objective moral values and duties in the world.
4. God is the best explanation of the historical facts concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
5. God can be personally known and experienced.

Review **YouTube** debates with my colleagues such as William Craig, John Lennox, Stephen Meyer, etc. and judge for yourself where the evidence points.



Why not hold a debate if you feel the Christian worldview is fallacious or out of date? At the very least this would provide the students with both sides?

If a public school would like to host a discussion/debate or just a Q&A would be a good starting point; nothing to fear and I would be more than happy to speak with you personally, give you a background of my own work or a tour of our museums/gallery so please contact me or one of my colleagues and we'd be more than happy to talk with you.

Resources:

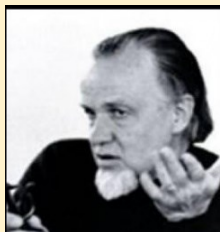
Please contact us as we are eager to help even if it is just as a supplement to your public/private/home school group. Also if you are in the Arkansas area please contact me (James) and we can setup a personalized tour of our 3 great museums, Passion Play and Holy Land tour as well as a ton of **FREE** books/DVDs to help encourage critical thinking and analysis.

5 Recommended resources:

1. **Law, Darwinism and Public Education** by Francis Beckwith
2. **Darwinism, Design and Public Education** by John Campbell and Stephen Meyer
3. **Explore Evolution** by Stephen Meyer
4. **EXPELLED: No Intelligence Allowed** – movie/documentary hosted by Ben Stein
5. **Total Truth** by Nancy Pearcey

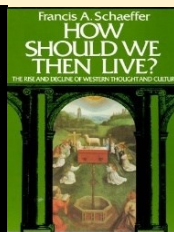
5 Recommended Websites:

1. www.associationforcreation.org
2. www.discovery.org/c/intelligent-design/academic-freedom
3. www.home-school.com
4. www.answersingenesis.org/store/curriculum
5. <https://freescience.today>



Christianity is the greatest intellectual system the mind of man has ever touched.

- Francis Schaeffer -



Invitation:

Please contact us as we are eager to help in any way we can
(100% **FREE**):

www.AssociationForCreation.org

www.LogosResearchAssociates.org

Email: CreationHistory@yahoo.com

Address: 935 Passion Play Rd, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Secular Academia: Invitation to a dialogue/debate at your school with myself or one of our speakers to help promote critical thinking. Please feel free to bring by your class or just faculty for a discussion and tour of our museums and gallery.

Private/Home Schools: Invitation to a personalized tour of our museums, art gallery and a series of workshops if needed on the topics of creation, philosophy, and apologetics all 100% Free. *We also have a small science wing here available anytime for your student's use (elementary - high school)

Churches: Invitation to discuss getting an apologetics conference and/or workshops setup at your church. Apologetics is not optional in today's world especially (1 Peter 3:15).

