



News and Current Events :: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal...

Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal... - posted by ccchhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/3/7 11:09

Homeschoolers' setback sends shock waves through state

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Bob Egelko, Jill Tucker

Friday, March 7, 2008

04:00 PST LOS ANGELES -- A California appeals court ruling clamping down on homeschooling by parents without teaching credentials sent shock waves across the state this week, leaving an estimated 166,000 children as possible truant and their parents at risk of prosecution.

The homeschooling movement never saw the case coming.

"At first, there was a sense of, 'No way,' " said homeschool parent Loren Mavromati, a resident of Redondo Beach (Los Angeles County) who is active with a homeschool association. "Then there was a little bit of fear. I think it has moved now into indignation."

The ruling arose from a child welfare dispute between the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Philip and Mary Long of Lynwood, who have been homeschooling their eight children. Mary Long is their teacher, but holds no teaching credential.

The parents said they also enrolled their children in Sunland Christian School, a private religious academy in Sylmar (Los Angeles County), which considers the Long children part of its independent study program and visits the home about four times a year.

The Second District Court of Appeal ruled that California law requires parents to send their children to full-time public or private schools or have them taught by credentialed tutors at home.

Some homeschoolers are affiliated with private or charter schools, like the Longs, but others fly under the radar completely. Many homeschooling families avoid truancy laws by registering with the state as a private school and then enroll only their own children.

Yet the appeals court said state law has been clear since at least 1953, when another appellate court rejected a challenge by homeschooling parents to California's compulsory education statutes. Those statutes require children ages 6 to 18 to attend a full-time day school, either public or private, or to be instructed by a tutor who holds a state credential for the child's grade level.

"California courts have held that ... parents do not have a constitutional right to homeschool their children," Justice H. Walter Croskey said in the 3-0 ruling issued on Feb. 28. "Parents have a legal duty to see to their children's schooling under the provisions of these laws."

Parents can be criminally prosecuted for failing to comply, Croskey said.

"A primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the state and the nation as a means of protecting the public welfare," the judge wrote, quoting from a 1961 case on a similar issue.

Union pleased with ruling

The ruling was applauded by a director for the state's largest teachers union.

"We're happy," said Lloyd Porter, who is on the California Teachers Association board of directors. "We always think students should be taught by credentialed teachers, no matter what the setting."

A spokesman for the state Department of Education said the agency is reviewing the decision to determine its impact on current policies and procedures. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell issued a statement saying he supports "parental choice when it comes to homeschooling."

Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, which agreed earlier this week to represent Sunland Christian School and legally advise the Long family on a likely appeal to the state Supreme Court, said the appellate court ruling has set a precedent that can now be used to go after homeschoolers. "With this case law, anyone in California who is homeschooling without a teaching credential is subject to prosecution for truancy violation, which could require community service, heavy fines and possibly removal of their children under allegations of educational neglect," Dacus said.

Parents say they choose homeschooling for a variety of reasons, from religious beliefs to disillusionment with the local public schools.

Homeschooling parent Debbie Schwarzer of Los Altos said she's ready for a fight.

Schwarzer runs Oak Hill Academy out of her Santa Clara County home. It is a state-registered private school with two students, she said, noting they are her own children, ages 10 and 12. She does not have a teaching credential, but she does have a law degree.

"I'm kind of hoping some truancy officer shows up on my doorstep," she said. "I'm ready. I have damn good arguments."

She opted to teach her children at home to better meet their needs.

The ruling, Schwarzer said, "stinks."

Began as child welfare case

The Long family legal battle didn't start out as a test case on the validity of homeschooling. It was a child welfare case.

A juvenile court judge looking into one child's complaint of mistreatment by Philip Long found that the children were being poorly educated but refused to order two of the children, ages 7 and 9, to be enrolled in a full-time school. He said parents in California have a right to educate their children at home.

The appeals court told the juvenile court judge to require the parents to comply with the law by enrolling their children in a school, but excluded the Sunland Christian School from enrolling the children because that institution "was willing to participate in the deprivation of the children's right to a legal education."

The decision could also affect other kinds of homeschooled children, including those enrolled in independent study or distance learning through public charter schools - a setup similar to the one the Longs have, Dacus said.

Charter school advocates disagreed, saying Thursday that charter schools are public and are required to employ only credentialed teachers to supervise students - whether in class or through independent study.

Ruling will apply statewide

Michael Smith, president of the Home School Legal Defense Association, said the ruling would effectively ban homeschooling in the state.

"California is now on the path to being the only state to deny the vast majority of homeschooling parents their fundamental right to teach their own children at home," he said in a statement.

But Leslie Heimov, executive director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, which represented the Longs' two children in the case, said the ruling did not change the law.

"They just affirmed that the current California law, which has been unchanged since the last time it was ruled on in the 1950s, is that children have to be educated in a public school, an accredited private school, or with an accredited tutor," she said. "If they want to send them to a private Christian school, they can, but they have to actually go to the school and be taught by teachers."

Heimov said her organization's chief concern was not the quality of the children's education, but their "being in a place daily where they would be observed by people who had a duty to ensure their ongoing safety."

:-)

(<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/03/07/MNJDVF0F1.DTL>) CLICK HERE to read the full article.

Re: Liberal judges call CA homeschools illegal... - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/3/7 11:14

We homeschool our 3 children and will continue to homeschool our future children.

This is all about money and the Liberal agenda. When will people realize that PEOPLE can make their own decisions regarding their children WITHOUT the need of government interference when it comes to school.

This is not only shocking (semi shocking at least, we know it will only get worse before it gets better) but it is another attempt by the government to control every aspect of its citizens lives.

Sad.

:-) :-)

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal... - posted by ccchhhrrriiss (), on: 2008/3/7 11:25

Hello...

This law effectively outlaws homeschooling if a parent or homeschool teacher does not have teaching certification from the state -- which requires both a Bachelor's Degree AND a series of state teaching courses, observations and examinations.

If you are a homeschooling parent or student, I advise that you contact your Congressmen immediately -- even if you are not in California. While this ruling only affects parents and children in California, it is likely to be appealed to a higher court. The most outrageously liberal court in America is the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals, which decides cases affecting certain West Coast states (including California, Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington). A decision by the 9th Circuit to uphold the lower court decision could have widespread implications.

Teacher unions have long opposed alternative educational options for children (including vouchers and homeschooling). They are an extremely wealthy and powerful lobby, and they will want to push this case to other states. If the public outcry is loud enough, however, these unions will cower from supporting this decision. If you feel the need, you can contact your Congressmen about this issue. You could also write a letter to the editor of major newspapers in order to complain about this sort of government interference.

And to think that some liberal activist judges complain about the Patriot Act? It seems that they want BIG BROTHER in every aspect of our lives EXCEPT homeland security!

:-)

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 12:23

Micheal Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association is involved in this, and he is a lion of an attorney. He is also starting a movement to have parental rights added as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

This is not due to DSS or anything like that, but because the UN is trying to force us to accept a "rights of the child" law which would basically strip all parents of their rights concerning raising their children and putting it into the hands of the United Nations.

This is very dangerous! This UN law is also very much supported by Obama and Clinton, and McCane is neutral on it (meaning he's not against it).

If you want to get behind this movement to amend the Constitution to protect the rights of parents go to:

<http://www.hslda.org/>

<http://www.parentalrights.org/>

I urge everyone here to check these things out and join the fight.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 13:20

I'm listening to Focus on the Family right now about this issue, <http://listen.family.org/daily/A000000997.cfm>

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/3/7 13:36

Here is (<http://californiahomeschool.net/howTo/updates.htm>) an update from the California Homeschool Network. My wife and I are currently exploring an option to relocate to California. This doesn't make the state look very appealing from a Christian family point of view.

:-(

EDIT:

Here are the (<http://californiahomeschool.net/howTo/B192878.PDF>) actual Court document that show the Judges' "findings."

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 13:47

Quote:

-----This doesn't make the state look very appealing from a Christian family point of view.

No disrespect to my brothers and sisters on this forum from California (like Mike!), but aside from the beach, there is nothing about California that appeals to me... and we have beaches in North Carolina... so there ya go.

Seriously tho, California courts and government just make me scratch my head. And whats up w/ Berkley????

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 17:37

Are there no Christian schools that children can be sent to? I remember my friend sent her disruptive child to a Christian school and it did a world of good (she was homeschooling him but she wasn't getting anywhere with him). The problems in his life seemed to have ceased and he became a goodly boy. The school has all the credential needed to teach, and they don't teach evolution.

I like the idea of Home Schooling, but I have to agree with the state of *California that a teacher should have credentials to teach children, whether it be in a Christian or Secular setting. Children deserve an education that will be able to take their credits and apply them to a College or University.

*I don't agree with the reasonings and motives from these liberal judges, just that children who want to advance in their careers should be given the materials that will better their education. I went to a secular school, I turned out all right.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/3/7 17:43

Quote:

-----Parents can be criminally prosecuted for failing to comply, Croskey said.

This is a terrible step in the wrong direction. I wonder how long it will take for home schooling to be banned in Canada!

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/3/7 20:40

Quote:

-----I like the idea of Home Schooling, but I have to agree with the state of *California that a teacher should have credentials to teach children, whether it be in a Christian or Secular setting. Children deserve an education that will be able to take their credits and apply them to a College or University.

Should education be mandated or should it be available? If it is to be mandated, who should have the authority to mandate it?

Re: - posted by repentcanada, on: 2008/3/7 21:45

this is very scary. How long until we lose all our "freedoms" as Christians in the western world??

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 22:07

Quote:

Compliments wrote:

I like the idea of Home Schooling, but I have to agree with the state of *California that a teacher should have credentials to teach children, whether it be in a Christian or Secular setting. Children deserve an education that will be able to take their credits and apply them to a College or University.

Umm, that is being done right now without parents having teaching degrees/credentials. I have friends that have used their credits from homeschooling and obtained their degrees while saving a ton of money and time at the same time.

Quote:

I went to a secular school, I turned out all right.

I was homeschooled all twelve grades and my parents didn't have any teaching credentials, and I turned out all right...I think. :roll:

The question is, that Josh brought up, whose responsibility is it to teach children and moderate the influences that come into their lives? Is it the government or the parents? Who do the children belong to?

This is a very scary thing happening in California, but I know one thing, the homeschoolers in that state aren't going to release their rights passively! We cannot afford to let activist judges step out of their roles and make laws on this issue like they did with prayer in the schools back in the 1960s! Especially in light of the propaganda that is being pushed in California schools!

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/8 0:30

This whole affair is just another example of the tyranny of liberalism. It's typical socialism: a few self-appointed autocrats collect all the farms under the guise of wanting to feed the people. Then once they control the supply, they use their control not to feed people, but to make them servile tools of the state.

The irony here is that California's education is an embarrassment...what in the world would cause those who have failed at education to think they could instruct those who have their act together? The state of California should be asking homeschoolers for instruction on how to educate children.

MC

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal... - posted by davidt, on: 2008/3/8 1:11

Wow. And to think these things are normal largely elsewhere in the world.

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 8:19

Quote:

-----Are there no Christian schools that children can be sent to?

There may be, but it costs a lot of money to send your kid to a private school. (Christian or Secular)

My wife and I never thought of home schooling our children until this year, and now we don't know why we were ever against it. My primary issue with our public schools is the length of time it takes to educate our kids. Why do they need to be at school for 6-8 hours a day? Why do they need to go to school for 9 months? We started home schooling (Pa cyber school) my daughter at the beginning of '08, and she is now finished with the 2nd grade and has started the 3rd grade. I work at a private school for disadvantaged kids, and I see that much of the time is wasted during the day. There is not much learning going on when you have 20-30 kids in a classroom. Quality not quantity....that's what I want. Honestly folks, teaching is not that difficult. It starts with a desire to learn in both the teacher and the student. I have a wonderful old book, "The Seven Laws of Teaching", I wish every teacher in America would read this simple book.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/3/8 10:45

Hi Compliments...

Quote:

-----I like the idea of Home Schooling, but I have to agree with the state of *California that a teacher should have credentials to teach children, whether it be in a Christian or Secular setting. Children deserve an education that will be able to take their credits and apply them to a College or University.

I was not educated in a homeschool, but I have met quite a few bright children who have been. During one of my graduate classes in Public Policy and Administration, we saw some statistics that showed that homeschooled children often score the highest on their standardized tests (including college entrance exams). So I guess that homeschooling wouldn't necessarily be a problem. Besides, I believe that most homeschool curriculum is self-paced and learner-centric. This places the responsibility of learning squarely in the lap of a student. If a student is motivated to learn (and has parents who are willing and able administrators), it can be a great educational environment.

Besides, I also agree with the comments that the government is not supposed to be "BIG BROTHER" in every aspect of our lives. If they want to force California teaching certification on parents and children, then where will the extent of government involvement end?

:-)

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/8 13:13

Quote:
-----Besides, I also agree with the comments that the government is not supposed to be "BIG BROTHER" in every aspect of our lives. If they want to force California teaching certification on parents and children, then where will the extent of government involvement end?

We live in a small village, and find it possible, thus far, to send our children to public school. We monitor our schools closely, but we have no reason to treat them as the enemy. These judges would change all of that. Part of what makes it possible for to trust our small town system, is the leverage to critique them afforded to us by the right and power to homeschool.

Once the state has a monopoly over your children, the constitution of the United States will have already fallen without a shot fired. These monarchical types never seem to learn how they fuel revolution with their presumption...

At the end of the day, these foolhardy laws won't stop Christians from doing what is right for their families. It may very well be that widespread persecution in America does not come as a frontal assault through the front door of the Church as in China, but sideways in a flanking assault on her vital liberties.

MC

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 15:23

Quote:
-----I believe that most homeschool curriculum is self-paced and learner centric.

In our home setting growing up, going to school was considered to be a luxury that meant getting out of the house and a way from our father, it was a dread coming home. I remember a friend of mine who was homeschooling her children which she pulled out of secular school. The way she had things set up was chaotic. Screaming at the children etc and books and papers were all over the place, she'd spent hours looking for things plus doing house work on top of that. I thought that maybe she should have left them in school. The other 3 that went to secular school did well and one is even gone to bible college with her husband.

I know that I couldn't handle homeschooling, I couldn't teach if I was paid. But I do like the Christian Academy concept and we have one in our city that is great.

Roniya are those teacher that do have credentials to teach and homeschooling, are they too under attacked?

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 16:56

Quote:

Compliments wrote:
Roniya are those teacher that do have credentials to teach and homeschooling, are they too under attacked?

Are you referring to just this specific case or all teachers with credentials who teach their children at home?

Quote:
-----The governor's office said the ruling from the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles concluded "**all children ages 6 to 18 must attend public or private school full-time until graduation from high school or be tutored at home by a credentialed teacher.**"
(<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?faPAGE.view&pageld58298>) source

I don't know of cases of credentialed homeschool teachers being attacked, but I haven't researched it. And I don't often hear of cases of 'uncredentialed' teachers being attacked here in America except for California. Each state has their own laws in regards to homeschooling and it varies from state to state. And often if a family doesn't like the laws of that state in regards to homeschooling they will move to a state that is more 'homeschool friendly'.

Compliments, do you think the only way a parent can be qualified for teaching their children is to go through school and get a piece of paper that gives them those credentials?

~Joy :-)

Re: Home Schooling California style - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/8 18:01

First heard this the day it broke on the way home from work. Something didn't quite sit right with the way it was being told. At any rate, here is a bit more to consider;

(<http://www.hsc.org/appellatedecision>) Appellate Court Case, Please Remain Calm *By Debbie Schwarzer HSC legal team co-chair*

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/3/8 18:16

Thanks, Mike...

I actually read that letter earlier this afternoon. While it is doubtful that California State Troopers will begin raiding home schools, it does give individual School Districts (considered "special districts") a legal leg to stand on for forcing parents to send their children to accredited schools (public or private). While this letter points out that it is highly unlikely for districts to press charges against parents, the possibility now exists for such prosecution.

Like this letter says, the safest way to fight it is through the Supreme Court. The current slightly conservative makeup of the Court will likely favor the parents (rather than "big government"). This is certainly a violation of parental rights. But since "parental rights" are not currently defined by the Constitution, the defense will likely proceed with a violation of the "Free Exercise clause" of the First Amendment (in which Congress cannot violate the free exercise of religious practice).

Still, it might be a good time to write Congressmen -- particularly if you are a homeschooler living in California or a western state. My wife and I may relocate to California this summer. As a result, we might also write a few letters.

:-)

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/3/8 18:34

Understood brother. I did fail to mention that I heard it on the local Christian radio station out here. They have a certain talk show that tends to rub me the wrong way more often than not. There was a certain sense of jumping to conclusions and that ... embellishment factor that starts raising red flags. *This could lead to ...* is a far different cry than *This means you could be arrested ... etc. etc.* according to one of the expert\lawyer\defender's they had brought on.

My aunt worked in the main school district for many, many years as an administrator. The public school system here is definitely not being exaggerated as to the poor shape it is in.

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 20:05

Quote:
-----Compliments, do you think the only way a parent can be qualified for teaching their children is to go through school and get a piece of paper that gives them those credentials?

Certainly not!

However, to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, I think that we should dot our lines and cross our T's when we are dealing with this world.

If the law requires that children be taught in a Private School, or be tutored at home by a qualified teacher then we should make the adjustments. It's not like they are saying, "Deny Christ or die". I think that we Christians do more harm by attracting attentions unto ourselves. Our citizenship is in heaven, not here on the earth. We can train up a child in the way of the LORD or in the way he should go when he is old he will not depart from it. I know this to be true in my own life. I went to a secular school. My mother taught us about faith, now that I am older, I have not departed from it.

I hear believers say, "It's our right", "We have rights". When did this come into effect? My bible says that we should live a quiet and peaceable life as we sojourn here. My bible says that we are to obey the laws of the land and to subject ourselves to the king,, queen, president, prime minister.

We should be in our prayer closet tearing down strongholds, not holding meetings on how to defend our "Constitutional Rights". Can you imagine a Chinese Christian standing up to the Communist Regime and saying, "Give us Christians the freedom to worship". He'd be squashed in a moment. Were not to hold rallies or find the best lawyers in the state. Cursed be the man that leans on the arm of flesh, our help comes from God.

I am just talking Joy, not aiming any of this at you, but mainly to myself and to us all.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2008/3/8 20:29

Compliments wrote

We can train up a child in the way of the LORD or in the way he should go when he is old he will not depart from it.

The sad truth is with what is being taught in public schools today it is extremely difficult to follow this command. For 180 days out of the year, six and half hours a day, even children as young as six in some states are taught very worldly, anti-Christ curriculum. Those worldly influences can be very detrimental to a young child's growth in the Lord. I guess for me the question comes down to why put one so impressionable and unable to discern in that situation at all. Father has given me the ability to care for and raise my children in accordance with His Word so that they will grow up desiring the things in life that He has for them.

God Bless
MJ

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 20:31

Quote:

Compliments wrote:

Quote:

-----Compliments, do you think the only way a parent can be qualified for teaching their children is to go through school and get a piece of paper that gives them those credentials?

Certainly not!

Good! I didn't think you did...but for the sake of the discussion wanted to know for sure. :)

Quote:

However, to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, I think that we should dot our lines and cross our T's when we are dealing with this world.

If the law requires that children be taught in a Private School, or be tutored at home by a qualified teacher then we should make the adjustments. It's not like they are saying, "Deny Christ or die". I think that we Christians do more harm by attracting attentions unto ourselves. Our citizenship is in heaven, not here on the earth. We can train up a child in the way of the LORD or in the way he should go when he is old he will not depart from it. I know this

to be true in my own life. I went to a secular school. My mother taught us about faith, now that I am older, I have not departed from it.

I hear believers say, "It's our right", "We have rights". When did this come into effect? My bible says that we should live a quiet and peaceable life as we sojourn here. My bible says that we are to obey the laws of the land and to subject ourselves to the king,, queen, president, prime minister.

We should be in our prayer closet tearing down strongholds, not holding meetings on how to defend our "Constitutional Rights". Can you imagine a Chinese Christian standing up to the Communist Regime and saying, "Give us Christians the freedom to worship". He'd be squashed in a moment. Were not to hold rallies or find the best lawyers in the state. Cursed be the man that leans on the arm of flesh, our help comes from God.

I am just talking Joy, not aiming any of this at you, but mainly to myself and to us all.

Good post, brother. We need to keep all these things in perspective. And it isn't a life and death issue with public education. However, if we have opportunity to influence the laws that are made that effect our families, shouldn't we do so? (note, I'm writing this with the past couple of things brought up in relation to this court case in mind - not all court cases call for public action). In America this is still an option for Christians. Especially when it's a case of laws being made by judges and not in the proper order established by our constitution. That is what bothers me about this California court case, a judge declaring homeschooling to be against the law.

Thank you for your words. They bring in some good balance in helping to examine these issues in relation to Scripture and what God says about government.

Re: - posted by PassingThru, on: 2008/3/8 20:35

Quote:

-----A primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the state and the nation as a means of protecting the public welfare,..."

I'm all for good citizenship, but loyalty to the state depends very much on the state of the state.

Forcing all children to be 'trained' by the state is another step towards dismantling the family, by minimising parental influence on the next generation. It is an obvious step towards a form of government that views citizens as existing for itself. It craves control.

Another interesting aspect is the form in which this was done. A single, extreme case was used to project forced schooling as being sensible and beneficial, when in fact it is neither.

PassingThru...

*edit - minor grammar correction.

Re:, on: 2008/3/8 20:57

Quote:

-----The sad truth is with what is being taught in public schools today it is extremely difficult to follow this command. For 180 days out of the year, six and half hours a day, even children as young as six in some states are taught very worldly, anti-Christ curriculum.

When I was in school in the 70's, I never had curriculum that had anything that was Christian. I never read in any literature anything about Jesus Christ. It was shunned at this school and you were looked at as out of step with society. But I loved going to this school. Looking back I can see why I was different, the hand of the LORD was upon me and kept me from believing the garbage that was anti Christian, like evolution. But today's children are faced with other issues like accepting homosexuals as an ok lifestyle. God help our children.

Thanks for your post MJ.

Re: - posted by dantejones (), on: 2008/3/9 3:05

As a soon-to-be teacher myself, i'd like for it to be known that public education is one of the most de-federalized institutions in the country; states school boards have all the power in determining what is taught and by whom, so the actual government is not intruding on anyone, just the appeals court in California. However, this ruling is absolutely outrageous, and one that we should all stand against. How absurd!

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/9 3:11

I'm glad to hear that this is perhaps an overstated misunderstanding from the news. (Yet another example of why the news is untrustworthy.) But I think it's good for these legislators to see what kind of ire they raise when they touch our children...even if it was just a misunderstanding.

Quote:
-----We should be in our prayer closet tearing down strongholds, not holding meetings on how to defend our "Constitutional Rights". Can you imagine a Chinese Christian standing up to the Communist Regime and saying, "Give us Christians the freedom to worship".

Hi Compliments,

I hear this sentiment often at SI. I can certainly imagine they would say it if they lived here. They might wonder why you aren't and why you place so little value on something they would welcome.

The early Puritans, a most spiritually minded people that we often quote around here, fled first to Holland and then to the Americas for the ability to raise their families the way they wanted to. They traded their comforts, to risk death and work hard in a wilderness for this possibility. I dare say they knew the meaning of prayer more than most of us...yet they also discovered that in addition to prayer they could also get their families out of England and then out of Holland.

The freedom to worship and to raise our families as we see fit is not a trivial liberty. Now the first century Christians lived in an empire that persecuted them not of their own choice. Even they would have gladly been thankful for liberty had Caesar given it to them in a way that agreed with their confessions. Certainly Paul knew something about maintaining a prayer closet, yet he did not hesitate to appeal to Caesar. If he were as spiritual as some of us are around here, I think he should have just kept his mouth shut that day he was taken in Jerusalem, and passively submitted to the Romans as they beat him, denying his rights.

If we are persecuted because we have no choice then may God be with us. Truly there must be portions of Christ's comforting fellowship that are reserved for those suffering brethren whom the world is not worthy. Yet, shame on us if we, under the guise of being heavenly minded, let our families fall under persecution because we didn't have the good sense to take advantage of our citizenship, or because we thought living in persecution will cure us of our worldliness. Our children will suffer more than we for such carelessness.

My apologies for the civics lecture brother!;-)

MC

Re:, on: 2008/3/9 8:47

Quote:

MaryJane wrote:
Compliments wrote

We can train up a child in the way of the LORD or in the way he should go when he is old he will not depart from it.

The sad truth is with what is being taught in public schools today it is extremely difficult to follow this command. For 180 days out of the year, six and half hours a day, even children as young as six in some states are taught very worldly, anti-Christ curriculum. Those worldly influences can be very detrimental to a young child's growth in the Lord. I guess for me the question comes down to why put one so impressionable and unable to discern in that situation at all. Father has given me the ability to care for and raise my children in accordance with His Word so that they will grow up desiring the thin

gs in life that He has for them.

God Bless
MJ

MJ and others,

My sons were brought up in the public schools and I can honestly say, that I've not been unhappy with what they were taught near as much as "HOW" they taught ~ without love and compassion by a few.

And in defense of teaching (I am also a high school teacher), I have to add that for 95% of us who teach in the public schools, we are way too busy following curriculum guidelines and standards to set aside time to teach an anti-christ agenda.

I'm not against homeschooling, but I do have an honest question... if we are the light of the world - how can we be when we hide ourselves away in our homes (under a bushel) and not go out into the world that our light and our children's light would shine?

One last thing, I've seen kids take a stand in the classroom for what they believe in and put everyone to silence! I just smiled and went on teaching. Sometimes, I wonder if we are doing our children an injustice by hiding them away. I don't know, I'm just asking an honest question.

God bless us all as we seek HIM!!!

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal..., on: 2008/3/9 9:17

Intens4Him said

Quote:
-----I've seen kids take a stand in the classroom for what they believe in

I didn't expect my children to make a stand until they were at least nine years old, which meant I was in the schools' face on their behalf in those early years, insisting the reading book was not about witchcraft, withdrawing them from school assembly (which was an unpredictable variety of myth, magic, meditation and faith), and insisting they be excused from any act of worship associated with other worship systems (such as Divali and at Eid) or acting out the practices of beliefs-in-other-gods in the classroom.

Nothing any school could say would persuade me that what was required in regard to religious obeisance (to any other than our God), was 'harmless'.

In this, I thank my mish-kid childhood during which it would have been unthinkable for any of us to do what the local people did (juju), for giving me the confidence that the gospel has something more to offer; because for sure, my Christianity was pretty hard work in those days. But, I'd met God many times by then and wanted my children to have the strong impression that He is alive, powerful, and worth fighting for.

Later, each of my children separately, made their own stand in the classroom. One over not having to make a Divali card to take home, and the other over not singing a song of praise to Pharaoh (Rameses II), while dancing in his honour. In the latter case, the headmaster asked for me to be more 'flexible', but I declined, :-D, firmly backing up my 9yo boy.

This is religious freedom in action.

But, I noted this quote in another thread:

'Obama Asks Evangelicals To Assimilate (7-5-06 -BP) "Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, considered a possible Democratic nominee for president in 2008, told left-leaning religious leaders at the Call to Renewal's 'Building a Covenant for a New America' conference June 28 that in order to sort through some of the 'bitter arguments' about religion in America today, **evangelicals need to water down their views to fit in better with the rest of society**

"'Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific, values,' Obama said at the event in Washington. 'It requires that their proposals be subject to argument, and amenable to reason. I may be opposed to abortion for religious reasons, but if I seek to pass a law banning the practice, I cannot simply point to the teachings of my church or evoke God's will. I have to explain why abortion violates some principle that is accessible to people of all faiths, including those with no faith at all. 'Now this is going to be difficult for some who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as many evangelicals do,' he added. 'But in a pluralistic democracy, we have no choice.'"

..

End quote.

That was a small extract from RevBenjamin's excerpts from

Reinventing the World

Obama, Warren, and the "Covenant for a New America"

Partnerships: Church + Politics + Business = Communitarianism

p15

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id21259&forum35&start140&viewmode=flat&order0) The Emerging Merger

Re:, on: 2008/3/9 12:01

Quote:

-----Yet, shame on us if we, under the guise of being heavenly minded, let our families fall under persecution because we didn't have the good sense to take advantage of our citizenship,

God Forbid!

I would be among those that would have fled England during that time of persecution just like the early Church did when they were under great persecution. God takes a select few to stay and stand firm for the things of God.

I am not against standing up for what is right, I am just against Christians rallying, marching in the streets, fighting with flesh and blood. We should do what we can and no more and leave the rest to the LORD. I don't think we should all lay down & allow our children to be railroaded, no siree. If my child is being bullied in school, I would want to know what the school is doing about it, and if nothing, then I might take action myself, but not to the place where I now am operating in the flesh. Do you see what I mean?

As dead men when we are reviled, we shouldn't revile back. We shouldn't return evil for evil. Why should we, we're dead. So I say again, there is a time to speak and a time to sit down.

Thanks for your post Compton. 8-)

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/9 13:19

Hi compliments,

Quote:

-----Do you see what I mean?

I do now. You make some good sense.

(edit; I said I couldn't resist leaving a comment about Senator's Obama statement...but I was wrong. I can. ;-))

MC

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2008/3/9 15:20

Greetings Lisa

You wrote.....

And in defense of teaching (I am also a high school teacher), I have to add that for 95% of us who teach in the public schools, we are way too busy following curriculum guidelines and standards to set aside time to teach an anti-christ agenda.

Let me clear up that I was not trying to imply individual teachers were plotting to teach our children an anti-Christ view, rather that the curriculum that is mandated by the states is very much in conflict with the Word of God and I do not wish to expose my children at an early age to that kind of material. For me its not just the curriculum though that is questionable but a great deal of other influences in the public school setting.

Hope that clears up what I meant

Have a great day and God Bless
MJ

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/3/9 23:52

Quote:

dantejones wrote:
As a soon-to-be teacher myself, i'd like for it to be known that public education is one of the most de-federalized institutions in the country; states school boards have all the power in determining what is taught and by whom, so the actual government is not intruding on anyone, just the appeals court in California.
However, this ruling is absolutely outrageous, and one that we should all stand against. How absurd!

Hey dantejones,

My wife is a certified teacher with a teaching degree in 1-9 to the North of you (Wisconsin). I would like to point out that you are correct in some regards of what you say.

The school board does have a say in what is being taught, but Federal dollars are allocated either higher or lower depending on what is taught and if what is taught coincides into what the Federal government wants to be taught.

The Teachers Union is one of the most prolific and powerful unions in America. You have a better shot going against the Teamsters than you do the Teachers Union. That is how powerful a lobby they have.

The Teachers Union is in place for one reason, and that reason is to do what is best for the teacher in its union, AND for the union itself, not for the children that are in the schools that those teachers work in. The union DOES NOT want kids

in homeschools...Why? Less federal dollars are allocated to schools with lower enrollments. If more and more kids pull out of governmental (city) schools, less money will be given to those schools. Which in turn means less money for teachers. Which in turn means less power for the teachers union. See where this is going?

I do want to state that I am not anti-teacher. My wife is a teacher (former at this time), and we choose to homeschool our children. This is because the State mandates curriculum that we deem inappropriate. Can we get a waiver from these teachings? Yes. BUT, we do not want to put our children into a system that promotes child sex (sex ed and birth control handouts), has about 30:1 ratio student/teacher, and for the most part, our children can be taught more effectively at home where there is someone present who truly cares for their future.

I commend you for going into the schooling industry. For the most part, teachers do want what's best for the students. I do not know one teacher that "is in it for the money" since there is not much included with it. Its good old Big Brother that I have issues with.

Blessings

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/10 1:53

This thread confirms to me that schooling is perhaps the most explosive issue in America, even beyond abortion and legalized civil unions. I wonder if our brethren from other nations looking in can understand the volatility of this issue to American Christians. The ability to home school represents the last remaining flames of the American revolution for liberty... and if the United States government wants to really see the drowsy church mobilized and radicalized from sea to shining sea...let them try and take away the home school. There will be both spiritual and civil convictions stirred up. If the social engineers are smart, they would let sleeping Christians keep sleeping.

This quietly rumbling volcano of an issue has the power to truly awaken the sleeping giant within these borders like no other. Would such an awakening represent a 'great awakening?' I could not say, but I do know that for the love of their children's souls, even the most compromising segments of the American church would be forced to choose sides on this issue.

If I seem radical on this issue, I'm not a tenth as radical as I could become...currently I'm not even a homeschool parent! (We were just a few years ago.) But I understand that I am benefiting from homeschoolers; everyone, both friend and foe alike understands that homeschooling parents give all parents the ability to critique their local tax-funded system. Without homeschooling's challenge to state education...well consider the ramifications of a state monopoly on mind molding.

MC

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal... - posted by rookie (), on: 2008/3/10 8:39

Quote:
-----"A primary purpose of the educational system is to train school children in good citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the state and the nation as a means of protecting the public welfare," the judge wrote, quoting from a 1961 case on a similar issue.

I met a brother from Germany recently. Their supreme court ruled against home schooling. The purpose was stated, according to my brother, To prevent groups of individuals from forming societies outside of the main stream German society. He is considering moving to another country that allows homeschooling.

Just a thought.

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2008/3/10 9:00

I don't understand what the big issue is at all in California with homeschoolers. There is no reason for this big upheaval at all. I homeschooled my kids and each year they were evaluated by a teacher with credentials. If these children are being neglected or not evaluated properly then they need to just fix the system. This to me is nothing but an excuse to get children back in the public schools because they either do not like the way they are being taught or they just want the money that the public schools are losing by not having them there.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/3/10 9:41

Quote:

-----He is considering moving to another country that allows homeschooling.

We'll take him. :-)

MC

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/3/10 10:41

I just would like to encourage anyone who does send their kids to public school to have *real* times of discipleship. I know of families who send their children to public school for hours a day, yet don't spend 2 hours a week outside of a church service teaching them from the Bible. Or not even necessarily straight from the Bible (as in verse after verse) but things that relate to a Christian world view.

As far as rights are concerned, I see the subject of educating children to be much more than a right but a command. I'm a single guy but if God ever gives me a family I do have some strong views on education in the family. Maybe one day I'll loosen up or reality will hit, but right now I feel pretty strongly about it.

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God one LORD:

Deu 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Right after God told Israel to love him, He said to teach your children. I think the two things are linked together.

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal..., on: 2008/3/10 20:13

A few weeks ago, someone posted a thread from which I've extracted this, which may be of interest to those of you who missed it the first time.

"Also look at the New Freedom Commission

(<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/reports/FinalReport/FullReport.htm>) <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/reports/FinalReport/FullReport.htm>

this directly affects every single child in America, saved an unsaved alike. The definitions for mental health conditions such as depression and incredibly vague and could lead to false diagnoses, especially if there is a legitimate issue within the environment causing people to feel disheartened:

Goal 4 - Early Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Referral to Services Are Common Practice

In a transformed mental health system, the early detection of mental health problems in children and adults - through routine and comprehensive testing and screening - will be an expected and typical occurrence. At the first sign of difficulties, preventive interventions will be started to keep problems from escalating. For example, a child whose serious emotional

If disturbance is identified early will receive care, preventing the potential onset of a co-occurring substance use disorder and breaking a cycle that otherwise can lead to school failure and other problems.

Quality screening and early intervention will occur in both readily accessible, low-stigma settings, such as primary health care facilities and schools, and in settings in which a high level of risk exists for mental health problems, such as criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems. Both children and adults will be screened for mental illnesses during their routine physical exams.

For consumers of all ages, early detection, assessment, and links with treatment and supports will help prevent mental health problems from worsening. Service providers across settings will also routinely screen for co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Early intervention and appropriate treatment will also improve outcomes and reduce pain and suffering for children and adults who have or who are at risk for co-occurring mental and addictive disorders.

Early detection of mental disorders will result in substantially shorter and less disabling courses of impairment.

For consumers of all ages, early detection, assessment, and links with treatment and supports will help prevent mental health problems from worsening.

To aid in transforming the mental health system, the Commission makes four recommendations:

4.1 Promote the mental health of young children.

4.2 Improve and expand school mental health programs.

4.3 Screen for co-occurring mental and substance use disorders and link with integrated treatment strategies.

4.4 Screen for mental disorders in primary health care, across the lifespan, and connect to treatment and supports

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id21904&forum48) Thread from which the above excerpt was extracted

This also ties in with another thread I posted, in which the names of 15 year olds who had new Driving Licences, were being stored on a computer ready to be forwarded to a different computer when they were 18. This may not seem to have anything to do with homeschooling, but I see that a Driving Licence instantly links homeschooled children into the same system.

However, for the mental health screening/treating programme to work properly, kids need to be in school, where they can first of all be detected as troublesome and then treated for the good/benefit of their peers.

I noted that Michael New, the soldier who couldn't bring himself to work for the UN, had been homeschooled conscientiously. (There is a video about his experience trying to resist from within the military, posted on the stopthenorthamerican union site.)

Re:, on: 2008/3/10 20:19

Quote:
-----I met a brother from Germany recently. Their supreme court ruled against home schooling. The purpose was stated, according to my brother, To prevent groups of individuals from forming societies outside of the main stream German society

God forbid if you have a huge family. What do they do then, break up the family?

Re: Liberal judges rule CA homeschools illegal... - posted by awakenwithin (), on: 2008/3/13 15:14

here a update I just got on this topic,

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From the HSLDA E-lert Service...

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HSLDA: Update--Defending Homeschool Freedom in California

Dear HSLDA Members and Friends:

The following is an update on the developing situation in California from Michael Farris, Chairman, Home School Legal Defense Association.

State Superintendent Supports Homeschooling

On Tuesday, March 11, Jack O'Connell, California Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced that he believed that homeschooling is still legal in California. O'Connell's statement is welcome news. To read it visit <http://hslida.org/mlink.asp?ID=4893> . Some might conclude that the statement ends the controversy. However, it is not the end of the matter; it is just an important step along the way.

His clarifying statement was probably the result of the massive public outcry against the February 28 decision of the California Court of Appeal which effectively ruled that homeschooling is illegal in California unless conducted by a credentialed teacher and that parents have no constitutional right to homeschool.

O'Connell's statement is helpful, but the courts will undoubtedly take the position that their determination of the meaning of state law is final even though they should give serious deference to the position of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

It should also be remembered that local school districts make the decision about when to initiate prosecutions for truancy, and they are not officially controlled by the state agency on these matters. However, many local officials may be influenced by O'Connell's positive statement.

Did the February 28 Ruling Intend to Affect All Homeschooling Families?

Some have contended that the decision of the Court of Appeal in In Re Rachel L. only affects that particular family. While a court order can only direct one family to stop homeschooling, the case clearly sets a legal precedent that will be binding against all other families if this case is not reversed. (Technically, the decision is binding only in the Second District which consists of Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. However, other appellate

districts will normally treat it as persuasive precedent. If ratified by the Supreme Court of California, it formally binds all California counties.)

Re:, on: 2008/3/13 17:04

Quote:
-----I met a brother from Germany recently. Their supreme court ruled against home schooling. The purpose was stated, according to my brother, To prevent groups of individuals from forming societies outside of the main stream German society

Actually, homeschooling was outlawed in Germany by Adolf Hitler in the 30's when he took over. His reasoning was that public education was the best way to educate and train the master race (i.e. Nazi's). The Soviet Union the same... except instead of a master race, it was the furtherence of Communism.

So the courts in Germany didnt strike down homeschooling... they upheld a law instituted by Adolf Hitler.

This court in California would fit right in with Hitler and Stalin. Same reasoning, same rulings, same goals just with different names. It's to uphold the "state"... no room for individuality. And thats about as anti-American and anti-Christian as you can get.

Krispy