



Christian Citizenship

“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.

Building in the Midst of a Collapse

Today our major universities are revealing themselves to be hotbeds of leftist propaganda, with their students often graduating with enormous debt without the knowledge and the skills that they and their employers need. It has gotten so bad that much of the public is turning against the higher education establishment, with many employers realizing that they don’t need to require a college education after all.

Meanwhile, colleges—small so-called liberal arts schools, many of them church-related—are closing right and left. Reportedly, an American college is closing every week. As much as they try, they can’t compete with better-known schools. Their enrollment declines as expenses soar until they have to shut down.

Surely, this is not the time to start another college, is it? Actually, it is the best time. Today’s crises make clear both the failure of current approaches to higher education and the urgent need for a better approach. And because it is easier to start a new institution than to reform an old one, the time is right for a school like Luther Classical College.

Today’s universities are in thrall to postmodernism, the dogma that truth is relative, that truth claims are nothing more than the construction of those in power and are thus acts of oppression, and that the business of education is to “de-construct” those truth claims as a way to liberate oppressed groups (namely women, homosexuals, the transgendered, racial minorities, and Islamic terrorists).

Naturally, such a climate will be actively hostile to learning. It will require subjecting students to intense propaganda and indoctrination. This will include discrediting the legacy of the past, punishing

ideological dissent, and pressuring students to discard not only their religion but also their belief in objective reality.

Students who succumbed to this indoctrination are bringing such thinking to elementary schools, government bureaucracies, and corporate offices. Many students, to their credit, do not take the “woke” ideology seriously. And many professors dissent from the party line, though they lay low lest they jeopardize their careers.

No wonder academic achievement is in decline! How could it be otherwise? But “Queers for Palestine” demonstrations, “woke” workplace seminars, and the madness of transgenderism are turning much of the public against the higher education establishment. This is good news. This kind of education needs to collapse.

Small liberal arts colleges have provided a valuable alternative to the big research universities, prioritizing teaching rather than research and emphasizing the liberal arts, a term deriving from the Latin word for “free” (*liber*), meaning the kind of education designed to form a free citizen.

Christian liberal arts colleges, hundreds of which were founded by churches in the 19th century, have been especially valuable in transmitting the Christian intellectual tradition in the face of the scientific materialism that was dominant in modernist universities, as well as the relativism and leftist politics dominant in today’s postmodernist universities. (Excerpted from “Building in the Midst of a Collapse” by Dr. Gene E. Veith, Lutheran Classical College *Ad Fontes*, August 2024.)

What can we do? Support small private colleges that do not depend on taxpayer-support, but on students’ tuition for most of the income. Pray for liberal arts colleges that “develop a strong reputation, either through the quality of a program or some distinct ethos that makes the school stand out from the crowd.” Consider schools such as Hillsdale College and New Saint Andrews College. Pray for their success. Learn more about Luther Classical College in Casper, WY., where, beginning in 2025, the curriculum will recover the Lutheran educational tradition—“that is,

the classical liberal arts, in all of their liberating, mind-expanding, and civilization-forming power, combined with robust theological catechesis.”

Please pray for parents and students who desire to be distinctively different from the world... in Jesus’ name.

Preparing Our Children for World War III

Rebekah Bills is a former intelligence officer and mother of two young sons. She has given a lot of thought to the topic of war. If a global conflict breaks out, “my sons may find themselves suddenly called upon to defend the nation. So, if World War III does occur, here are some ways that I plan to prepare my sons.”

1. Remembering My Duty as a Mother. My duty as a mother is actually not to keep my children out of harm’s way. . . . It is a mother’s job to ensure that her children know how to properly confront danger. . . . Not only is it impossible for parents to rid the world of dangers and horrors such as war, but it is not what we are meant to do. What *is* within our power, and what we should do, is raise our children to have the fortitude to weather even the most terrible storms. . . . [R]ather than thinking, *how can I make sure my children never come across/experience/have to worry about X*, I try instead to think, *how can I raise my children to know best how to deal with/change/confront X*.

2. Teaching Timeless Values. I will teach my children to hold firm to their values despite what others think. They should know that public opinion about a conflict can and will change. . . . If they resolve to answer their nation’s call and go to war, they need to understand that not all people will deem them heroes. Their resolve, their sense of duty to their nation, and their moral compass must always be stronger than public opinion (indeed, if their conviction to act can be swayed by public opinion, they need to carefully re-evaluate their conviction).

3. Studying History. . . . Humanity’s history of violent conflict may offer the best (if not the most sordid) illustrations of both the darkest and the noblest aspects of human nature. Because my children could see conflict in the Pacific theater involving China, I want them to study Chinese history, especially Mao Zedong’s Marxist theories and how his policies left millions dead. I want them to understand the tyranny that the Chinese people have lived through in China’s recent past so that they have both a sense of

compassion for Chinese civilians and an understanding of the brutality of the Chinese Communist regime and its disregard for human dignity, which may help prepare them for any atrocities they may encounter.

4. Learning from Everyday Heroes as well as Renowned Ones. I will ensure that my children study warriors and heroes both fictional and historical. They will know the stories of figures like King David, Achilles, Spartacus, Sun Tzu, George Washington, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Harriet Tubman (not many people know that she was a Union spy and scout), the Tuskegee Airmen, and Winston Churchill, just to name a few. . . . I’ll encourage my children to seek out and learn from the more “everyday” war heroes, such as the elderly stranger with the “Vietnam veteran” cap. . . . [Seemingly] unrecognized or unappreciated [heroes] around us impress upon children the beauty of noble actions, especially in a divisive, politically charged time.

5. Raising Children of Faith. Most importantly, I plan to emphasize to my children that the Christian faith that my husband and I strive to pass on to them holds everything they need to face the greatest challenges in life, including death. It’s significant that in [Ephesians 6:10-17], Paul used armor and battle imagery to illustrate the Christian’s need to be prepared. . . . Although modern firepower is quite horrific, the spiritual forces of evil are actually a more insidious foe. If our faith gives us what we need to stand against even the invisible “rulers and authorities” of the spiritual realm, then we certainly have the mental and spiritual resiliency to stand against adversarial human forces in an earthly conflict. The Gospel of Matthew tells us, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.”. . . Because we need not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, evil cannot ultimately prevail. Victory is not determined on a battlefield, but in the soul of man and man’s relationship with the divine. (Excerpted from “How I’m Preparing my Children for World War III” by Rebekah Bills in *Intellectual Takeout*, April 25, 2024.)

What can we do? Strive to teach our children and grandchildren that spiritual and mental strength—or resilience—comes through alliance with Truth, love of righteousness and holiness, faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit, and trust in our salvation through Jesus Christ.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit build resilience in our children, that they might withstand whatever the world throws at them... in Jesus’ name.

