

University Pitfalls

By Jake Zwart, former OCHEC president

You may remember that the origin of the word “university” comes from “unity in diversity”. Sometimes I think this title is better applied to the Christian home schooling movement than to universities in these post-modern times. The unity within the Christian home schooling movement comes from our common desire to raise our children as Christians, with Godly character qualities. Home education allows parents more control over the process of educating their children as Christians. While sharing these common elements, our curriculum and style are often very diverse. This unity of purpose and diversity of style is one of the major strengths within the Christian Home Education Community.

The general liberal arts programs in our current secular universities have often left their Christian heritage far behind. The professor may be a secular humanist, Communist, New Age adherent or be a proponent of any number of other philosophies that run counter to Biblical Christianity. For this reason, if your child is planning to attend a university, you must be aware of the type of program your child is entering and what the dangers are. In particular, you must be aware how your child’s faith may be challenged in the university. In your preparation of your child to attend university, you must be sure that you have taught your child the intellectual reasons for your faith as well as the heart knowledge.

If you need help in this area, there are numerous excellent resources. I cannot be exhaustive in this space but a few come to mind. For something in the home, Summit Ministries has a Sunday school curriculum on world views that you can use as a course or group study. Summit Ministries also has a two-week summer program that by all accounts is excellent. For more intensive training, a year at a Christian college or university could prove valuable. Often one will be located within commuting distance from where you live. Make sure that you investigate the college and are confident that your child will come out wiser than before going in.

Only once your child has a solid Christian background, is he ready for the challenges in a secular liberal arts program in a university. A program in an engineering or science department (excepting perhaps the evolution taught in biology) will not be nearly as challenging to your child’s faith. The major concern here may be lifestyle choices, such as the acceptability of immoral lifestyles, and mind altering drugs with the main one being excessive consumption of alcohol amongst your child’s peers.

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