

# Neutral Knowledge?

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Sadly, many Christians today believe that knowledge is neutral. They think it really doesn't matter, philosophically speaking, where their children are educated, whether in a Christian school or a government school (what is commonly and mistakenly referred to as a public school). To them, knowledge is knowledge no matter where it is learned. Two plus two always equals four, no matter if a child is taught at home, in a Christian school, or in a government school.

However, because God created the heavens and the earth, and all they contain, it is impossible for knowledge to be neutral. Knowledge comes from somewhere; it doesn't just exist *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. And the source of knowledge is as important, if not more so, than the knowledge itself. Knowledge which is presented as neutral is a lie. Such a notion presumes that God, if He exists at all, is irrelevant, and that truth exists apart from God. But such a view necessarily implies that there are no absolutes, no hard and fast moral guidelines by which to live, and hence no truth. In reality, it is impossible to conceive of truth in a universe where God is anything but the All-Sovereign Creator. Without such a God, there is no fixed reference point from which to make any sure determinations. Truth, and hence knowledge, becomes relative, without definitive meaning.

The problem, however, is this: man is created by God in God's image. He has given us minds with which to think, and so we do. But because of our sinful, fallen nature, we tend to think in terms that exclude God from our conscious thoughts. As sinful men, our thinking could be compared to a fish in water: we are not aware of the environment in which we live. A fish takes for granted the water that it swims in until it is removed from it. Likewise, sinful man ignorantly and arrogantly takes for granted his environment, reasoning that it exists apart from God because he cannot see Him. However, like a fish out of water, when man is removed from his environment by death, it is too late to change his perspective to suit his best advantage.

Christians, on the other hand, know that God exists. It is evident to them in all that they see. Therefore it is inexcusable for Christians to hold to the idea that knowledge is neutral, and it is even more inexcusable for Christians to send their children to the government schools to be educated from the perspective that God is irrelevant to their education.

Now, because as Christians we should know that there is no such thing as neutral knowledge, and because we know that the government schools think that knowledge is neutral, how can Christians send their children to the government schools and expect them to be educated in a way that glorifies God? The government schools are founded on an unbelieving view of the universe, and teach from that perspective. They cannot do otherwise since they are founded on the idea of pluralism, that all views are equally valid, and hence, none is absolutely true.

But for those Christians that think it is alright for them to send their children to the government schools, how can they be shown that they are thinking in the same way as godless men? If we point to knowledge, they will say it is neutral. If we point to the universe, they will say that God made it. They do not see the contradiction in their thinking. They are trapped in their intellectual environment, and like fish in water, they do not see it.

To be sure, we may reason with them. Indeed we must. But reason that *assumes* reason as its starting point is godless reason. It is the same reason that is applied in the government schools. So we must ask, "Where did *reason* come from?" If we say, it just exists, again our response is no different than that of the government schools and we find ourselves arguing that reason developed *ex nihilo* apart from God. But to think that anything, including reason, exists apart from the Sovereign Creator God of the Bible, is ludicrous at best, and totally unreasonable. Without God, nothing, *nothing*, would exist, including reason. Therefore, using our God-given reason, we must logically conclude that God pre-exists even our own reason. It can be no other way and still make sense.

As for the government schools' foundation for knowledge, it doesn't exist. They do not have any foundation from which to consistently teach two plus two equals four, or anything else for that matter. The fact that two plus two equals four every time is only true because God made it so and graciously sustains it as so. This is not neutral knowledge.

For Christian parents to argue for neutrality in knowledge is to cut across the grain of the biblical truth they try to impart to their children at home. This is a schizophrenic approach that unnecessarily introduces contradiction, doubt, and unbelief into a child's understanding. The godless government school system teaches the knowledge that it does because God made it so, *not* because it is neutral. And although those who support government schools may deny the relevance of God, they cannot deny their God-given reason which, despite the high decibels of their denials, argues undeniably against them. The government school system wants to argue for reason and knowledge from a professed position of neutrality. But this is a contrary position which Christian parents must recognize, reject, and refute. A sound biblical refutation cannot rely on reason alone, but must of inescapable necessity acknowledge the pre-existence of God Who sovereignly created all things for His glory, including knowledge and man's ability to reason. If we fail to argue from this position, our argument will find itself to be as hollow as that of those with whom we would try to refute. Apart from God, there is no universe, and because of this, there can be no such thing as neutral knowledge.