

The “Socialisation” Myth

I don't know about you, but as someone involved in homeschooling, I get very tired of people asking the same silly and annoying question, “Aren't you worried about socialisation?” My standard answer is, “Yes, and it's one of the main reasons why so many people choose to homeschool!”

Where does this stupid myth come from that socialisation (meaning, “surrounded by a large groups of just one's peers”) is SO IMPORTANT for a child's education? It's not based in reality—nowhere in real life are humans condemned so clinically to such massive doses of rigid, age-banded human interaction.

Socialisation, as practiced in our schools, is an artificial and false construct, promoted by sociologists, social psychologists, anthropologists, political scientists and educationalists who do not look at life through Biblical eyes. At the root of their myth is the socialistic principle of NORMALISATION. Sadly, normalisation doesn't meant to make things “normal”, but rather, to make everyone the same within this fallen society—to have everyone conform to the common (fallen) belief system of “the group”. This social engineering tool pervades education in this country, perpetuated through successive generations of teacher training courses which are founded on godless principles and false understandings about the nature of man. It is negative and ultimately destructive.

Scripture tells us that he who walks with the wise grows wise, but that the companion of fools will suffer harm, and that folly is bound up in the heart of a child. Putting these understandings together, it is clear that a child who is forced to spend unnatural amounts of time amongst other children will be spending an inappropriate amount of time surrounded and impacted by foolishness.

That will have consequences.

Peer pressure is a sociological term, defined as “*the influence exerted by a peer group or an individual, encouraging other individuals to change their attitudes, values, or behaviours in order to conform to group norms*”. It is rare to hear the term used positively, because negative peer pressure, the logical consequence of TOO MUCH “socialisation” (and the subsequent over-influence of the fallen peer group), pushes so many young people towards undesirable behaviour.

Time and again, people tell you that home schooled children stand out as being able to converse with adults, peers and those younger than themselves on a wide range of topics, and without fear. Time and again people comment on how winsome the character of home schooled children appears to be, and how balanced, mature, polite, outgoing and friendly they are.

Cut to a classic scene on TV news, as the “brightest and best” from the nation's state schools, the “future leaders” of our nation, vomit and debauch themselves publicly in the streets of our university cities. From the fruit you can identify the tree.... “socialisation” as practiced in our nation's schools, whereby the young person has learnt to model themselves on the immature (and consequently foolish) standards and expectations of their peers, and where every deviation from the peer group's norms threatens their extremely vulnerable, under-developed sense of identity.

If you want your children to grow up balanced, well rounded, confident, outgoing and socially capable, and able to think and act Biblically, independently and maturely, don't hand them to be disciplined by people or by institutions which are godless in structure, content, purpose and direction. Don't be fooled — no education takes place in a sort of moral vacuum that is somehow neutral — if the values behind both the education and the educator are not “for” God”, then they will be “against” God.

As the father of four grownup children and having been involved in various forms of education for nearly all my adult life, I have come to the conclusion that the single most significant Scripture when it comes to education and the raising of children is 1 Cor. 15:33 “*Do not be misled—bad company corrupts good character.*” That “company” can be physical or intellectual, which is why wise parents maintain executive control over the company their children keep... people, books, films, music.... every input that impacts their children physically, morally, socially and/or intellectually.



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