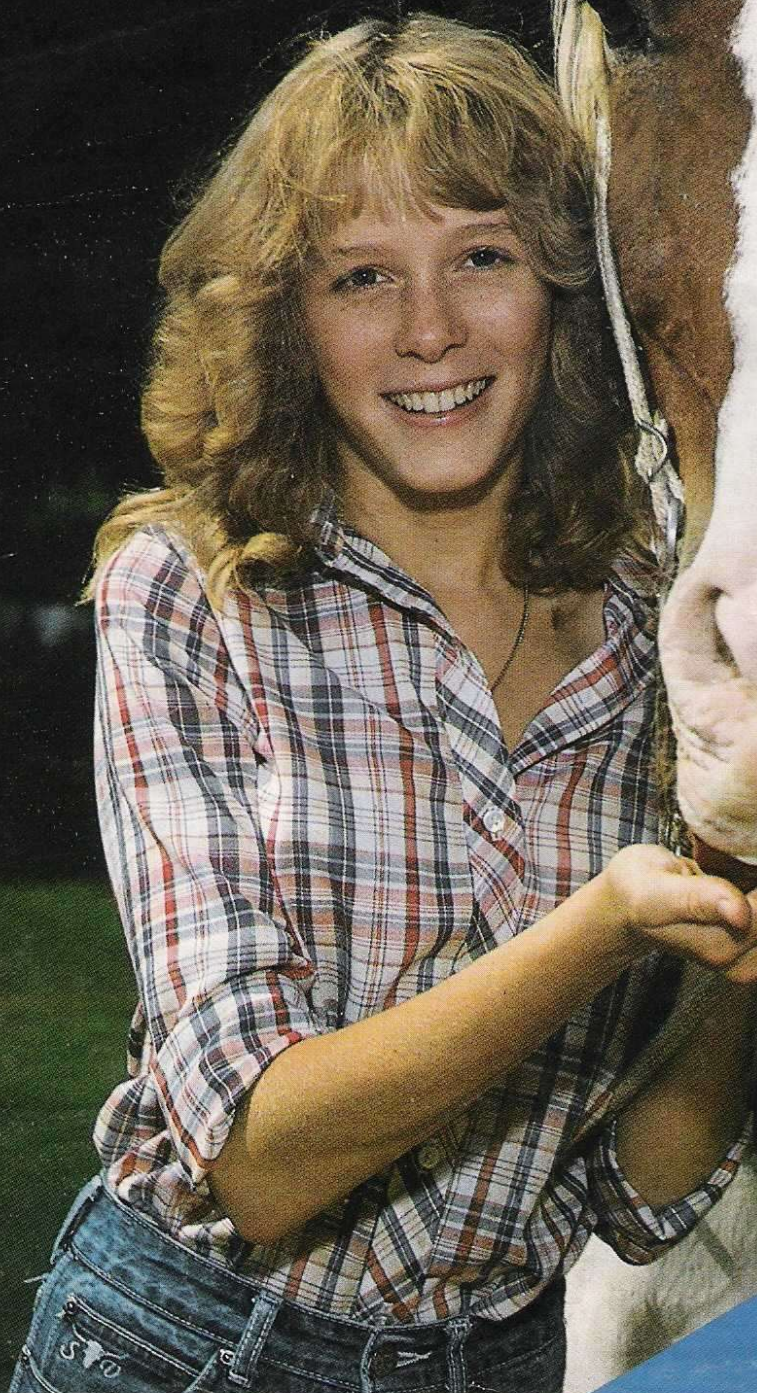


SEPTEMBER

Youth & 2

Basic
Horse Sense



What Is the Goal
in Modern Education?
By Herbert W. Armstrong

What Is the Goal in Modern Education?

*Most educators cannot answer the questions: What is man?
What is the purpose of life? Can you?*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

So now they're talking about the *Educational Explosion*.

We've had atomic- and hydrogen-bomb explosions. The population explosion of the next 20 years could be an even more deadly threat. And now comes the continuing cry of the educational explosion.

Absolutely nothing can be more important to you! The future welfare, and even the existence, of civilization is dependent on the educational system.

Very few people realize this. Candidly, do *you*? Don't be too sure!

This month I feel it is necessary that I tell our readers around the world the plain facts that exist — facts you need to know — yet few do. Education is something we are prone to take for granted — without question. Yet — and I have said it before — something is criminally **WRONG** with today's system of education.

The educational structure of our day is supposed to be very advanced. The standards are supposed to be high. These schools, including the colleges and universities, are supposed to be turning out highly educated and intellectual people — producing a high standard of civilization.

I say, *supposed* to be these things.

And, candidly, haven't you accepted this supposition? The modern school system has



gained public acceptance. The people simply accept it as being just about perfect. To question this world's system of education, or its standards, would seem ridiculous. That's because people are prone to assume — to carelessly take for granted without question whatever is popular — whatever has general public acceptance.

It's time we open our eyes — *and our minds!*

Many prominent educators realize something is wrong. Yet few of them grasp the real problem. Few comprehend what is basically wrong. But each does recognize that he is utterly powerless to change it.

The real trouble lies much deeper than even educators are aware. They themselves are the product of this system of education. They are steeped in it. That which is basically wrong they have absorbed, and to it they have given acceptance.

What is wrong affects not only young children. It affects you! It affects your future. This whole society in today's world is the development of the leaders of today and of previous bygone years. And the leaders are and have been the product of education.

Actually education is preparing this world for **COSMOCIDE** — the blasting out of existence all life on earth.

Where is it wrong? Both in **WHAT** is being taught, and in **HOW**.

The primary evil in the **HOW** is simply this: From the first grade the child's education is a system of brainwashing. I have pictured it as a classroom of little pupils, each having a funnel stuck into

Photo by Scott Smith

the top of his head, and the teacher pouring out of a pitcher a concoction of ready-made ideas, theories, errors, facts and supposed facts, untruths and truths. It is a process of memory training. The child is induced to accept without question whatever teacher or textbook says.

But that is not all. After the turn of the century, educators followed John Dewey in the new theory that education should not be a preparation for life, but rather a part of life. By the 1930s, the system called "Progressive Education" was being adopted in elementary and secondary schools all over America. Soon textbooks were de-emphasized.

The "modern" idea of experimentation and "self-discipline" became the vogue. But this quickly became a system of permissiveness. Teacher-discipline was abandoned. Children, left to "self-discipline," followed impulse. Too often the savage side of human nature asserted itself. Even male teachers found it dangerous to walk alone down high school corridors.

This very abandonment of discipline has retarded educational progress. Children should be trained to pay close attention. They should listen when the teacher is speaking. They should be taught to concentrate on the lesson at hand, in study periods as well as recitation periods.

So much for the method of instruction — the HOW. This is an editorial, not a lengthy book on all the varied points of educational techniques. But I do want our readers to grasp the basic truth that the educational method instills the habit of assuming — of carelessly taking for granted — without question — whatever is commonly accepted. Public or general acceptance does not make a wrong thing right. And the prevailing educational system has come to be taken for granted.

Now look at the WHAT! I am not saying that everything taught in our educational structure, from elementary schools on through

graduate work in the universities, is wrong. Far from it. When a teacher tells little Johnnie that two plus two equals four, he is, of course, right. But when the psychology professor teaches that human nature is basically good, he is wrong and is teaching error — no matter how hotheaded he may become if he reads this.

The most important basic knowledge that ought to be disseminated is the answer to the questions: *What is man?* — what is the *purpose* of life — what is its true *meaning*? Were we deliberately put here on earth by a supreme living Creator? Does such a Creator exist? Is direct personal

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contact with God possible, desirable or necessary? What has the reality of God, and the purpose being worked out here below, got to do with us — how does it concern our day-to-day living, our well-being — our success?

What is the way to peace — between individuals, in the home, between groups, between nations? Are there definite LAWS OF SUCCESS — and what is success? What are the TRUE VALUES — and how may we discern the false, and avoid them? What are the right goals in life?

The right answers ought to be the goal of education. Yet modern education does not disseminate this knowledge. Educators don't know the answers.

And why? Because they ignored and rejected the very FOUNDATION

of all knowledge. All this most vital knowledge is unacquirable by man alone. It has been revealed. But revelation has been rejected and laughed out of school.

When a manufacturer markets a television set, an electric washing machine or an automobile, he sends an instruction book along with his product. The great Manufacturer is God. He designed, made and set on earth the human family. And He sent an instruction book along with His product.

Few know what the Bible really is. It is God's instruction book to humanity. It reveals basic knowledge not otherwise acquirable by man.

The Bible is NOT a book of sentimental religion, as most people think of religion. It contains the foundation of all knowledge — whether of science, of history, of psychology, of genetics, of sound business principles, of health (to eliminate the need of medical science), of international relations, of government, of family relations, of sex, of social science — the basis and the foundation of ALL branches of knowledge. The Bible is the *starting place*. It provides the true approach to the acquisition of discoverable knowledge.

Today's education has rejected the very foundation of knowledge. In the guise of "knowledge" it gropes in ignorance. It disseminates only materialistic "knowledge," which is actually a mixture of truth and error, of fact and assumption.

The moment each baby was born, he knew absolutely nothing. Whatever knowledge he has, entered his mind, subsequently, through one of the five senses. He was taught more or less blindly, and without question, to accept what is commonly accepted and taught — a mixture of truth and error.

This is a fatal mixture. He started at zero. The farther he travels in the direction of false theory and error, the more he has to UNlearn, before he can get

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Step Right Up!

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in spite of how it may seem at times! — your stepparent is trying to do his or her best for you, even if you are unable to agree with his or her decisions from time to time.

New to the game

In contrast to the typical family where all (parents and children) have grown up together, in a family with a stepparent, the members have come from different backgrounds.

In a typical family, family members have a certain amount of routine acceptance of relationships and duties, but stepfamilies don't immediately share these same advantages.

The stepparent, being new to the game (either because of not having raised children before or just being new to your family) may tend to be more zealous about his or her responsibilities than the family is accustomed to.

Although you consider your stepparent somewhat as an aunt or an uncle, your new parent, who now has the responsibility of being a father or a mother, is probably going to try to act like a flesh-and-blood parent.

By being tolerant (patient!) during such times, particularly at the start of the new family, you can help out when both your parents are also facing major adjustments.

Keep in mind that it can be difficult to separate the usual growing up problems and feelings from those specifically caused by the new family situation. It can be hard also for your stepparent — who doesn't yet know you very well — to understand "where you're coming from," especially if your stepparent hasn't experienced having and raising children before. It can be difficult to resist the tendency to blame the stepparent for everything!

Although you and your stepparent may be trying hard in your relationship, there can be times of

"communication blackout," or frustration, when feelings become strained. At such a time, your patience will be tested, and so will your resolve to honor your parents, as God commands in Exodus 20:12. But, with patience, these times will pass. Like the bumper sticker says, "Pobody's Nerfect!"

Stepping-stones

Getting past some of the tensions and establishing a comfortable, friendly and, eventually, a close, loving relationship with your stepparent will take some special efforts. Here are some hints that could help in the process:

- Set up — either directly or through your other parent — a regular time and place where you and your stepparent can get together. Make sure it's in a friendly environment you're both comfortable with. Perhaps an occasional lunchtime, a movie or working together on some project might be best for you.

These can be good low-key situations for you to get to know each other a little better, away from the regular — and too often strained — daily routine.

- There may be a hobby or skill you would like to develop — why not ask your stepparent for help?

- Consider the fact that your stepparent hasn't had the experience you have with your family. Talk things over. Ask how he or she is accustomed to doing things, and explain the way you've done things.

If you explain how you feel about various things before a crisis comes up, it will probably keep a crisis from happening.

- If you admit that you make mistakes, this will generally allow your stepparent to admit that he or she is human too. Admitting your errors can be a bridge-builder in any relationship.

- Talk to another stepparent in a respected family. You can learn how they handle some of the problems in their home, plus you'll have someone who will understand your situation. □

Education

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back to zero and start all over in the direction of truth.

A right school education would start, of course, with a thorough training in the "Three Rs" — "Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic" — preceded by a right beginning at home. He would be taught the basic knowledge — the true values — the meaning and purpose of life — the principles of righteous and good character.

Today's educational system, whether generally realized or not, is decadent. It is soon going to meet its doom, along with the man-made, devil-inspired civilization of which it is a part.

A new system of education will blossom forth with the dawn of the world tomorrow! It will teach the ways of world peace, or right living, of happiness, joy and true success. It will produce ABUNDANT LIVING — exciting, interesting, exhilarating — full of zest, stimulating, constantly enjoyable. There will be peace, happiness, abundance, joy! And eternal life in the end!

Tomorrow's happy educational system already has been introduced — in Ambassador College, where students radiate well-being. □

Take Courage!

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Him, for His power and His laws. It is knowing that He will do what He says He will do.

This kind of fear gives us strong confidence because we all know we are limited as humans. There is only so much we can do. But if we can rely on a power greater than our own, if we can depend on God to give us the strength we need — well, that's enough to inspire courage in even the most timid heart!

God wants your obstacles to be challenges, your hopes and dreams and wishes to become reality. With the right kind of courage, there's nothing you can't do! □