

Free Speech America: September 13, 2021
Town Hall: Election Integrity
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One of my favorite quotes comes from President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address in 1961. He uttered the famous phrase, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Since all of you are sitting here tonight, I think it's safe to say you are asking. The next logical step is doing, but that's where things get a little tricky.

There is an area that our country, and more importantly our future, is in dire need of an intervention.

Now personally, I'm a big fan of group interaction, so just work with me for a minute and raise your hand if you've seen the movie God's Not Dead?

Now keep your hands up if you thought that while there was truth to the film, it was probably dramatized for effect. I know I certainly did.

All right you can put your hands down. Thank you.

For those of you who have not watched the movie, the premise of the film was about a young man who was faced with the choice of either proving God's existence in his college ethics class or (pause) deny that God existed in order for the professor to not fail him.

It's not an overtly political message, but a dangerous one nevertheless, and it's a good example of types of situations that college students find themselves in every semester. I'd argue every week.

In January of 2020, the Washington Examiner published an article that stated research had found that, "Democratic professors outnumber their Republican colleagues by a ratio of 8.5 to 1 on top college campuses."

Another article, this time from the Washington Post, described a study conducted with almost 3,500 college seniors in an effort to determine the political climate within the college faculty.

"49 percent reported that faculty members expressed politically liberal views "frequently" or "all the time," while only 9 percent said the same about faculty members with conservative views."

"Only 10 percent of students overall reported that they sensed any pressure to align with their professors' politics."

However, 35% of conservative students reported that that they felt pressured by their professors to align with their political worldview.

"47.1 percent reported that they had changed their political leaning during college. Of these, 30.3 percent said they became more liberal, while only 16.8 percent became more conservative."

The National Communication Association reported in 2016 that, "Journalism/ Communication and History are among the most liberal departments. In fact, 60% of both History and Journalism/ Communication departments report employing no registered Republicans."

I want you to think about that for a moment. Communications and History are considered to have the most liberal influence in our college classrooms.

Is it such a surprise then that many young people are completely ignorant and confused by our country's history? Should it shock us that our children implicitly trust the media and whatever they are told on the screen when that's what they learn in Communications 101?

If you require further proof let me list off a couple articles off of Campus Reform. This conservative media outlet focuses on exposing liberal biases in higher education. I started working as a reporter for them a couple of months ago.

Article #1 Syracuse prof claims that 9/11 was an attack on 'systems many white Americans fight to protect'

Article #2 The Merit system is unjust because it rewards productive individuals, professors argue'

Article #3 'Defund and eliminate campus police': BU's how-to guide for creating 'radical forms of community'

Article #4 EXCLUSIVE: UNC course says WWII was 'Japan's attempt to roll back Euro-American colonialism'

Article #5 Christian university commissions pro-LGBTQ, pro-Democratic murals for dormitory

Article #6 Vaccine exemption data leak publicizes students' private information

That last article was a story I personally covered, and I will never forget the phone call I had with one of the students from that school. Terrified to talk to me, initially the student thought I was someone from the school posing as a journalist in order to trick them into talking to the press about the leak.

Once I had reassured the student that I was with Campus Reform, they agreed to talk but only anonymously. I asked whether students felt like the university might have had something to gain from leaking the information of students who filed a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine. Without hesitation, the student told me, and I quote, "There is no way this could have been an accident."

Now, many of us might be able to believe that this is happening on the coasts or in large universities in California, but certainly in the Midwest the situation is not so bleak, right?

At Metropolitan Community College in Nebraska a very similar situation to the God's Not Dead movie happened to a student in an ethics class in philosophy. The **Euthyphro (yoo-thee-fro) dilemma** poses the question, "whether the good and just "is good and just because God wills it or whether God wills it because it is good and just."

During the discussion of this particular topic, it became clear that the foundational idea this argument was based on believed that God could not simultaneously be perfectly good and just and be the author of true objective goodness and justice. It had to be one or the other.

The student in question wrestled with this idea, being a Christian themselves, the concept that God could not be both the creator and the perfect example of goodness and justice went against everything they had ever been taught, but the argument was convincing. How could one truly be perfect if they made the rules about what constitutes perfection?

Fortunately, the student eventually came to the conclusion that to believe that an almighty God could be restricted by finite human understanding was ridiculous and terribly arrogant. Unfortunately, many students have fallen for this trap and been led away from their faith because of these kinds of self-proclaimed dilemmas.

At the University of Nebraska at Omaha, during the appointment of Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, a professor told his class that nominating a supreme court justice during an election year was unprecedented.

A student raised their hand and told the teacher that, in fact, this was not the case. 29 times there has been a Supreme Court vacancy during an election year. 10 of those occurred when the President and the Senate were held by two different parties, and 19 times the Presidency and the Senate were controlled by the same party.

Instead of acknowledging this, the professor told the class they were moving on. In both of these examples I was the student.

I want to make this very clear; I could go on for another two hours recounting stories like these, both in our area and around the country. There are hundreds of articles that I might point you to with just as disturbing information, but I don't have time for that today.

What I want to know is how this makes you feel as parents, maybe for the first time, truly getting a glimpse of what your children are facing when they go to college?

Students are being taught to hate their country, to hate their God, to hate themselves, and to hate those who think differently than them. It's an endless cycle of self-loathing and leads to one thing over time... Destruction, total and complete, to both the person and the country.

A student experienced this firsthand at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In her law class, the professor told the class that minorities are oppressed in America and that white people are inherently racist. The student, who is El Salvadorian, raised her hand and asked the professor, who was white, to explain how telling her that she was oppressed wasn't a racist statement to begin with? The professor replied that not only did he not need to explain to her why this was the case but that it true regardless of her feelings on the subject.

The only purpose of making that kind of statement is to encourage hate and racial tension. Its deeply disquieting that a professor of law is promoting this in his classroom of hopeful lawyers.

These are not situations that we can afford to only know about and do nothing. If you have something to write on, I suggest you get you be ready to do so.

The first thing that you can do, no matter what your situation, is pray. If you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, sibling, or friend that is the simplest and often one of the most effective tools at your disposal.

Pray Romans 12:2, "Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him."

Or Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."

Being a prayer warrior is nothing to be sneezed at and I have personally seen incredible things happen due to a quiet prayer of intervention.

Second, encourage your children to read different perspectives and opinions and be prepared to discuss them afterward. The best way to prepare a person for the obstacle's college will present is to equip them with knowledge and reason. If you can read and you can reason, then they will be able to work out the truth over time even when you aren't there... Especially when you aren't there.

This will require a good deal of effort on your part. Your kids will only be as informed as you are. If you cannot show them through conversation and practice how to work through the pitfalls like the one in my ethics class, then they will at best struggle, and at worst many will give in.

Don't teach them to trust what they are told, teach them, to respectfully, question everything.

It is important to note, that most students go into these campuses unaware of how much they will be challenged. They go expecting coffee, late nights, exams, parties, sports, and friends. What is not on their mind is the professors and faculty who want to turn them into revolutionaries by the time they graduate.

It's unfortunate but assuming that schools have your college student's best interest in mind is a luxury we don't have today.

Another key component is to get them involved. Organizations like Turning Point USA, Campus Reform, Young Americas Foundation, Teen Pact USA, The Patriot Academy, Pro-Life groups, debate groups, and so on. Groups like this provide real world experiences and training that you can't get anywhere else.

And finally, all of the things I said above must apply to you in order for real change to take place. You are the adults; you are the ones gifted with life experience and wisdom that no teacher can impart through a textbook. If you are not aware, if you are not involved, and if you give in when it gets hard, do not be surprised when the young do the same.

Whether we choose to admit it or not we look up to you. Most of our life is a constant struggle to either mimic or avoid our parents but the influence you carry is immeasurable. Be aware of who is watching you, and what message you are sending them.

I'd like to close with how I started, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." And to that I'll add, "Asking is only as good as the actions it inspires."

Thank you.