Thoughts on Education after Trump’s Victory

With the Trump victory, the other side is extremely disappointed, angry, and bewildered. I’ve seen compilations of some of the most extreme newscasters and pundits lamenting what has happened to them. They really cannot understand how this could possibly be. And of course, a lot could be said about all that. What I notice most, and what many have said clearly, is that they cannot conceive of a majority of people thinking differently about things (very differently) than they do. So they try to contribute it all to poor messaging or something of that sort. It never enters their heads that the messaging was fine – it was the policies people didn’t want. A majority of people just didn’t agree with Democrat policies, and in fact, have come to see them as totally misguided. A majority is sick of how things have deteriorated under the present administration and wants to “turn the page.”

That said, one comment I saw really irked me, and I wanted to respond to it. I’ve seen various posts saying this “terrible” election result came about because the masses are so uneducated. We all remember Hillary Clinton’s “basket of deplorables” comment, and more recently, what Biden said about Trump voters being “garbage.” And I’m sure many of us have seen the maps with red and blue, showing how the big cities all vote Democrat and lean liberal, or progressive, or to the left, whatever you want to call it. I’ve also heard many say it’s because city-dwellers are more educated than the “rubes” who live in flyover country. They understand things so much better, and that’s why they vote progressive. After all, who wants to be retrogressive? Who wants to go backwards?

And one person said, now we’re going to have these uneducated masses pulling their kids out of public schools and putting them in religious indoctrination, which will turn out even more deplorable people who vote for Hitlerian dictators, because they won’t know any better. I really picked up on that. How different various segments of society think! The educated vote for progressive policies and the uneducated are backward and want to go even further back by creating religious schools that brainwash kids!

Then I was listening to a very well-educated professor, Nial Ferguson, give a talk in Australia about how many people think Hitler won over the ignorant masses, but educated people didn’t follow him. Ferguson proceeded to explain that this was utterly false, and he listed off a slew of names of Germans with PhDs who were Nazis. He spoke about how, for some decades before Hitler, German universities were known to be the greatest in the world, and many Americans and Brits would go to Germany for higher education, because of their reputation and quality. Ferguson reminded his audience that modern education doesn’t mean people have been trained in morality or critical thinking, or that they have been molded to be better people. Oh no, not at all! They just have credentials and know a lot of information in different fields of study. Yet many used their educations to create more deadly weapons, including horrific chemical or biological weapons, or highly advanced, industrialized death camps to annihilate whole populations they considered inferior.

Ferguson proceeded to put graphs up on the overhead screen, showing what we all know – that the vastly overwhelming majority of academics in the US today are not just left, but *radically* left. They are progressives and socialists and Marxists. They tend to be atheistic and have no religion at all, and what’s more, they scoff at religion in general and Christianity in particular. The same is true of the vast majority of people in the media. They all lean left. None of them even *know* a conservative person personally, so they cannot begin to understand how they/we think.

I myself am an educated person and I love education. In fact, over the last several years, I went back to get a master’s degree, I attended an online teachers’ training session, I’ve been tutoring children and giving classes in English and Spanish. I’ve been working with an international group, many of whom are academics, that is seeking to promote what we call a “Third Education Revolution.” Many of these people are highly educated. And over the years I’ve been very privileged and blessed to associate with some of these people, and to read and study the works of many others who gave their lives to study and to education. When the other side, who really knows nothing about all this, says we’re all uneducated, they are the ones who are uninformed.

Beyond that, I would like to suggest that these people consider who the educators of our citizens are and have been for the last several decades. Who are they and what do they believe? Are there any who know God or know His Word? Are there any who even understand what conservatism even is? Are there any who have worldview training, so they understand where different groups and segments of society are “coming from”? The answer is, an unqualified, resounding no!! That’s why the results of this election have just dumbfounded them.

The great majority of them have never even considered there might be another way. One very prominent atheist, Richard Dawkins, said he’d never seen ‘any argument or evidence’ that gave a reason for belief in God. He said Christians weren’t able to produce any. But as author Edward Feser says in his book, The Last Superstition, “…when Dawkins says ‘there is absolutely no reason’ to think there is an Unmoved Mover, First Cause, etc…perhaps what he meant to say was, ‘absolutely no reason, apart from the many thousands of pages of detailed philosophical argumentation for this conclusion that have been produced over the centuries by thinkers of genius, and which I’m not going to bother to answer.’ So a slip of the pen, perhaps. Or maybe Dawkins simply doesn’t know what the hell he’s talking about.”

The people who lament how uneducated Trump voters are, are actually very uninformed themselves. They haven’t studied history or philosophy or the unquestionable contribution of the Bible, biblical thought, and Christianity to all that is true progress and truly good for mankind that has been part of “Western Civilization.” They only know straw man caricatures of Christians and Christian education, not the realities behind them.

Recently I heard someone tell how they were working with AI, and it had a biased view. We’ve been hearing about this a lot lately, that AI is programmed with a left-leaning, progressive bias, so in some areas, especially history, religion, and philosophy, it cannot present the truth because it only has half of the necessary information. Well, my friend actually told the AI that it needed to access knowledge from other sources if it was going to present the truth. I thought that comical. Teaching a robot!

But honestly, how can people who have only and always been taught one way of looking at reality possibly know what is really best or really true? And how can they possibly be qualified to teach all of our young people (and older people like me as well)? If you haven’t heard the other side, if you can’t really present their case as well as one of them would, then you don’t *know* the other sides of the arguments! If you don’t know them, you aren’t fully educated! In a recent podcast of UnHerd, I listened to co-founder of Wiki Pedia Larry Sanger tell how Wikipedia started well, but was highjacked and became a biased and one-sided source, rather than the truly honest and open source of knowledge he had hoped it would be. For that reason, he pulled out, and now works to create an alternative. That’s something Third Education Revolution, the group I’m associated with, is also trying to do.

So yes, educated people tend to vote one way in America. But we mustn’t let that fool us into thinking that it’s because they’re smarter. By no means! What it really shows us is that we have a totally blind academia, and they have been indoctrinating our people for decades. They don’t create critical thinkers. They only produce people who know their one-sided approach. Fortunately, not all of us have been victims of this biased, lopsided, and inadequate “education.” Many people without degrees can see much more clearly what’s going on that many of these academics have no clue about. And many of us who have been educated have not allowed ourselves to be dominated by their propaganda. We learned counter, alternative ways of seeing things, and that has protected us and led us to different conclusions.

In computer programming, they used to say, “garbage in, garbage out.” The machine can only produce more of what’s been programmed in. I believe it is very obvious that our “programmers” in academia are “blind guides,” leading everyone they teach into a ditch.

Likewise, saying that the fanatics are taking their kids out of public school to indoctrinate them and brainwash them is the very opposite of reality. The person who wrote this obviously has no knowledge of history, even the very history of education itself! He or she doesn’t realize that public education actually arose in monasteries in the Middle Ages, and knowledge was preserved and amplified only because Christian scholars worked diligently in such places to make it so. It was the monastics who eventually developed all the major and most prestigious universities, and they originally educated their generations with a biblical basis for reality.

These Christians understood that God was the Center of the Universe, the Creator of all of it and all the principles by which it functions. They took that essential reality as the basis for teaching every subject, and through their work, developed the so-called “liberal arts,” which were meant to mold people in Christian virtues, so they could be truly free and fruitful people. (Liberal comes from the Latin for free). It was that sort of education which produced all that is good in our society today.

When modern “educators” take God out of education, they take out the only unifying force that gives purpose and meaning to every field of study and holds all fields of study together in unity. That’s why those institutions were called “uni – versities.” There was diversity of study, with several different colleges or faculties, but there was unity as well, because they recognized one God was the Source, the Author of all wisdom and knowledge. Thus, the “unity in diversity” became the university.

The result of leaving this heritage behind has been the disgrace we see in the pro-Palestinian protests on so many ivy-league schools today, along with gender confusion and so many other bitter and destructive fruits.

Yes, a majority of “educated” people cannot understand or even imagine why half the country voted differently than they. The answer isn’t that they are smarter. No, it’s that they were “educated,” not in a balanced way, seeking truth wherever it might be found, but with distortion, untruth, confusion and chaos! If you take the very foundation of truth away, Jesus, God in human flesh, Christ the Lord, and the revelation of God found in the Bible and in the physical universe, and you disconnect from that Center, you fly off into chaos, just as the planets of our solar system would, if the sun were to disappear. May God help us get back to biblical education, with God and His Word at the very center.