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was looking at what was being taught in the Grand Haven school district (not to pick on Grand Haven - it's most likely happening in your local school, too) to 10-year-olds. He told me that he felt like he was looking at porn. Sadly, I could relate. A few years prior, I saw on social media a post about a curriculum for young children. As I started reading, I asked my husband of over thirty-five years if he had ever heard of some of the terms that were being used. He had not. I, too, felt like I was looking at porn and had to stop reading the article. What happened to the early days of education when the teachers in the NEA were helping to keep children innocent rather than wake up their innocence? To say that there is much more that is going wrong in education today is an understatement. If you think I'm saying this because I'm a former home educator, you would be wrong, because many teachers in public and private schools are also disappointed, disgusted, and degraded by what is being pushed upon them in the name of "education." My husband and I are, to this day, extremely grateful for the seasoned Christian high school guidance counselor who recommended and encouraged me to homeschool my children when our oldest was in Kindergarten. I began homeschooling the following year and things were not nearly as out of control as they are today. And I have not even begun to touch on some of the disturbing topics being pushed on teachers, and therefore their students, today. It needs to STOP!!!

If We the People have the desire to get back on the road to providing a solid and virtuous education for students of today to prepare them well to be loving and caring parents to their children, honest business owners, entrepreneurs, leaders, teachers, trades personnel, etc. perhaps a look back at the history of education would be beneficial. Let's look to the 4 R's, which was the method used by our Founding Fathers. What were their results? This method that was used by our Founding Fathers gave us two of the most beautiful and important documents - the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution - ever given to mankind by the hand of man. Do not be upset with yourself for not having heard about the 4 R's before now. Be glad that you are hearing about the 4 R's now, and hopefully one-by-one, we can make a difference by getting back to providing excellence in education again.

America started with the 4 R's, then, over time it changed to the 3 R's - Reading, Writing, Arithmetic. How many words do you see in the 3 R's that start with R? I see just one. Today the 3 R's is also being used for "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle." At least those three words all begin with the letter R. But I digress. The 4 R's are: Research, Reason, Relate, and Record: and it all starts in the early years of education. The 4 R's gives students the opportunity to think and ponder, rather than just memorize information to simply fill in the blanks and to pass a test. Ownership takes place when the student does research, reasons, relates, and records their work. The 4 R's offer the highest form of an excellent education.

Teachers would do well to require the 4 R's in their schools across America. How can teachers do a good job when they are told what to do from people far removed from the classroom and the individual students, rather than being allowed the freedom to do their job in the manner they see fit for their unique situation with their unique students? Filling in the blanks and teaching to the test is not working. Many teachers see what's going on first hand and they too are frustrated. Were they taught about the 4 R's? Why not?

Home education was around long before public education began. In early America, Johnny could read. He could actually read the Federalists' and Anti-Federalists' papers without a college degree. Today, individuals in college struggle with reading those works. So what has changed? A number of things have changed, and most are not for the better. Education was in the hands of the parents long before the unconstitutional U.S. Department of Education came on the scene. Noah Webster, the Father of American Education & Scholarship and author of the 1828 Webster's dictionary, defines education:

"EDUCA'TION, n. [L. educatio.] The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their

future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties." Go ahead, take a second and look up the modern day watered down definition of education. What does that tell you about just how far we have strayed?

When education was in the hands of the parents, the family, church, community, state, and nation thrived.

We are at a fork in the road and the choice is ours as to which road We the People will take regarding the education of our young impressionable youth of today. Think about it, if the unconstitutional Department of Education, the teachers' unions, and the ISDs no longer existed, how much money in taxes could each FAMILY save? Have too many people placed money over morals and virtue? Righteousness exalts a nation. Is our nation being torn down or exalted?

It's difficult to think of how so many individuals decide to stay working in a system that is failing our youth. Education is not the only career that this happens in. We need to raise up people who are willing to be honest and bold, and take steps that will help future generations. If we don't take the higher road now, not only this generation, but generations to come, will suffer from our foolish and unwise selfish decisions. It's time for parents to rise up - not only are the youth counting on us, but many teachers are, too.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "I find that the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." - Oliver Wendell Holmes

"The development of individual character and the happiness in the church and state, in time and in eternity, starts with, and depends upon, home-training and nurture." S. Phillips 1859

Married for 39 years with two married children, Arline enjoys gardening and taking pictures of sunsets over nearby Lake Michigan. Since becoming a grandmother, she enjoys her new and now favorite title of Mamé.

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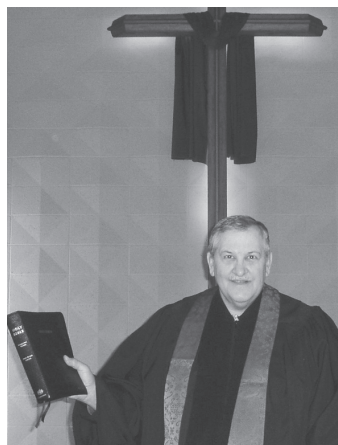
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