

The PEERS Story

The PEERS® Story

By-

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DEDICATION

The “Story of PEERS” must be dedicated to my wife Faye, who for all of our 46 years of marriage has been the most remarkable wife and helpmate a man could wish for. Leaving a strong, secure management career in a major corporation in the U.S., to pursue what I believed was the Lord’s leading on an “education initiative to restore America,” was an awful lot to ask of a mother with a quiversful of children.

But this is what Faye agreed to and has supported; even in the times of “dark days” when we did not know how the next day’s obligations would be met. My dear, you are blessed of women and a special crown awaits you in your eternal, heavenly abode.

I also wish to dedicate this story to our five children: Jason, Randy, John, Leah and Daniel II. Truly we have been blessed of God with five remarkable individuals and the twelve grandchildren they have given Faye and I (at this point!).

It is my deepest prayer that in some small measure, the work of Nehemiah Institute will have helped preserve and advance the Christian faith in this land such that each of them will be blessed to live in a land of righteousness.

Forward

This is the story of how the PEERS Test came to be and what it is telling us after 25 years of use. The PEERS Test is a worldview assessment program designed to reveal to an individual the basic presuppositions used to form a philosophy of life, i.e., how one judges what is right and what is wrong, or even if there is such a thing as “right and wrong.”

I came to Christ at the age of 33 through two key events: an experience with God while attending a Marriage Encounter weekend and shortly thereafter a response to a “call to receive Christ” at a Lowell Lundstrom Crusade being held in our community, Grand Forks, ND, in 1976. I left that gathering with a clear understanding that Jesus Christ died for *my sins* and that He now dwelt within me. I also acquired a thirst for scripture that has only intensified over the years since.

Through other circumstances related to my coming to Christ, I became involved with a Christian ministry whose mission was to teach Christians how to be effective salt and light in their communities. It was during this work that I acquired the thought that an assessment tool was needed to help us discern if our ideas and plans for returning our nation to her Judeo-Christian heritage were in fact based on a biblical perspective of life, upon a Christian worldview.

I worked on the idea for several months and sometime during 1986, the PEERS Test was born. I consulted with a few key people during the developmental stage of PEERS and over the past 25 years have benefited much from input of many others. I have identified herein those who were most instrumental in aiding for the creation and use of the PEERS Test.

It is my prayer that others will one day carry on this work, to a much stronger position that I have, such that this land will be a light to the world for the glory of God.

Dan Smithwick

PEERS® Testing: 25 Years Later

In 1988 I began conducting PEERS Testing (a worldview assessment described herein) among Christian schools in America, largely high school grade levels. Now a quarter century later with over 6 million data points (90,000 tests and 70 questions per test), the picture of where we are going has become crystal clear. In a few decades we have accomplished what took centuries to do in Europe: abandon the Judeo-Christian worldview in favor of a Socialist worldview. PEERS Testing is telling us in graphical format based on objective data (see accompanying PEERS Trend chart), that the intent on developing a Christian nation as envisioned by the Puritans and Pilgrims, has failed. Though every president has sworn to "preserve, protect and defend the constitution," usually by laying his right hand on the Bible and concluding, "So help me God," our nation gradually shifted to a secular land, but rapidly so during the past 40-50 years. The phrase "So help me God," spoken by George Washington at the end of his inaugural speech, has become a tradition for most presidents, including Barack Obama.

Imploring God ("So help me God") by use of His Word to lead the nation, has the implicit meaning of, "By Your ways, O God, guide me in leading this people." Or we might say, the presidents were asking the Almighty to lead in the

advancement of our nation upon a firm biblical worldview. It is precisely that of which the PEERS test gives evidence that we have failed. To tell this story, some background on the PEERS test is necessary. They were a few critical events leading to the development of PEERS with input and support from several godly people along the way whom I shall identify. It is my deep prayer that all identified herein will be favored with grace from above.

In the mid 1980's I was working with Rev. Pat Robertson's organization (CBN) on a project called, The Freedom Council. Its mission was to conduct training seminars in local communities to teach Christians biblical principles related to various socio-political issues. We were not using the phrase "biblical worldview" at that time but that was in essence the nature of the work. We were living in Lexington, KY where I had responsibilities for KY and TN. When Dr. Robertson declared his candidacy for president in 1988, the Freedom Council was shut down.

I left that work with a nagging conviction of the need to continue along a path that would help us as Christians to be better salt and light in our communities. Perhaps my greatest concern was that to be *effective* salt and light, the work had to be thorough and clearly biblical, defended by specific passages of scripture. At various times in my work with the Freedom Council project, where we were all engaged in advancing various ideas which we thought would "righten the ship" of America, I found myself asking, "Is this idea based on clear biblical teaching, or just some idea that seemed

“conservative” to our understanding of political-social view of life. I felt a tool was needed to guide our steps.

My first action was to establish an organization simply with the thought that if I created a “bucket,” perhaps God in His mercy would put something in it for use in advancing the Kingdom of Christ on earth. I founded Nehemiah Institute in June, 1986 and given the mission statement offered, was able to get it approved as a 501-c-3 organization. I chose the name Nehemiah due to my affection for the Book of Nehemiah in the Bible. Here is the story of how the people of God (Israel) through years of disobedience, lost their land and were exiled into a 70-year period of captivity under pagan rule. Later, Nehemiah was raised up by God (along with a few others) to begin the process of returning to their land and rebuilding a civilization that would obey and honor Jehovah. I felt then (and still do, but more so) that America was looking a lot like Israel: disobedient and in danger of being “exiled.” I proceeded with the prayer and hope that perhaps God was yet giving us a window of opportunity to repent and reform. I felt a “Nehemiah” initiative was in order, and proceeded.

The application process for incorporating required a “narrative description of the activities presently carried on and those that will be carried on.” I submitted the following:

- An attitude/opinion survey test will be marketed to determine personal/corporate beliefs about current socio-

- political issues affecting our society.
- Educational materials/seminars will be marketed to teach citizens traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs about issues identified in step #1.
 - Training seminars will be offered to instruct citizens on ways of being involved in political and legislative activities at local, state and federal levels.

In addition to listing myself as a trustee of the proposed organization, two other friends agreed to be listed: Rev. Stephen Humble and William (Max) Slocum, both in KY where we were living at the time. The application was filed on March 27, 1986, my 44th birthday.

The application was given temporary approval and I entered into a 5-year period of determination (standard procedure) to determine if the organization was truly meeting the guidelines of a 501-c-3 entity. On June 26, 1991, on my father's 77th birthday, I received a letter from the IRS stating, "You are now a private foundation, your exempt status under section 501-c-3 continues to be in effect and contributions to your organization are still deductible by the donor under section 170 of the Code." A form 990-PF has been filed each year and is a matter of public record.

My nagging conviction about having scriptural integrity led me to an idea of developing a tool that would show us if our thinking on various issues could be defended from the Bible. I began a fairly intensive reading program of both

Christian material and non-Christian material to gather what seemed to be “foundational beliefs” for different philosophies of life; different worldviews. This included readings from notable Christian authors such as Francis Schaeffer, C. S. Lewis, R. J. Rushdoony, Greg Bahnsen, John Eidsmoe, Douglas Wilson, Ronald Nash, David Wells, Gary North, Donald Gray Barnhouse, David Noebel, R. C. Sproul, J. Gresham Machen, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, A.W. Tozer, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Harold O.J. Brown, David Chilton, Gary DeMar and Ravi Zacharias.

I also was reading works from the Protestant Reformation era and of Church fathers. This included men such as Calvin, Luther, and Augustine. Readings were also from non-Christian leaders and resources, either by reading their own writings or by studying views expressed by others on them. A key book was, *Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave*, by David Breeze. The men included in this book were: John Dewey, Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Julius Wellhausen, Sigmund Freud, John Maynard Keynes, and Soren Kierkegaard.

When considering this group of seven, over a 143-year period (1809, birth of Darwin to 1952, death of Dewey) and the damage they leveled against Western Civilization, it begs the question: Why wasn’t our nation being formed and developed by another group of seven: Moses, Abraham, David, Isaiah, John, Paul and Peter? Why hasn’t the church raised up statesman firmly grounded in Biblical Law? What God gave to Moses, affirmed by Jesus and taught by Paul,

should be important to us. The Church will have to answer for this debacle. Another individual we drew upon for the basis of anti-Christian views was Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a very bad dude. For a current and excellent read on his disastrous life and works, read *Apostate*, 2013, Kevin Swanson.

I am hard-pressed to say which of Breeze's men drew the most blood while knifing away at the Christian faith. Dewey may be at the top of the list because of how imbedded his anti-Christian, anti-God philosophy of education is in American public schools, even in Christian schools. He truly is "ruling the world from the grave."

Another very helpful book was *Suicide of the West* by James Burnham. While not written as a Christian book, Burnham contrasted many conservative and liberal views on politics and social issues to show why civilizations die. Burnham stated (in 1985): "We must conclude that the primary causes of the contraction of the West- not the sole causes, but the sufficient and determining causes- have been internal and non-quantitative: involving either structural changes or intellectual, moral and spiritual factors. If the process continues over the next several decades more or less as it has gone on during the several decades just past, then- this is merely mathematically extrapolation- the West will be finished." I believe the PEERS Test results are proving Burnham to be prophetic, at least as it pertains to life in America.

During the readings of these various works I would capture what seemed to be "foundational views" and began recording phrases such as this:

“A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.” (2nd plank of Communist Manifesto) I would then modify the expression putting additional thought into the idea captured to make it more relevant to our culture. In this case, I created this statement:

“Progressive taxation (higher rates for higher income) is the fairest form of taxation in that it relieves poor people from a heavy tax burden, which they are unable to pay, by taking a larger tax percentage from the rich who are able to pay more.” (Now test item Q35 on the PEERS test).

Another example was this: “We believe in the right to universal education.” (Humanist Manifesto, p. 20. 1933. I expanded on this view and wrote,

“In a democratic society, citizens have a civil right to an education, and this right must be protected and enforced by civil governments.” (Now test item Q23 on the PEERS test, and is the second most frequently missed test item by high school youth in Christian schools.)

I eventually developed a list of 100 statements from these writings. At some point (don't recall the exact time) I noticed that some test items were of an economic nature, some of an education nature and some of a political nature. I had no preconceived ideas about creating “worldview statements” for particular categories or spheres of life. However, after some minor rewordings and inclusion of a few additional statements, I saw (one day!) five categories for the statements: Politics, Economics, Education,

Religion and Social issues. That day, PEERS was born. I finalized the statements with some minor editing and submitted the paper to the Register of Copyrights, in July, 1986. I later received a Certificate of Copyright Registration for the PEERS Test dated July 28, 1986.

Later it struck me that perhaps it would be of value to see about obtaining trademark rights to the term PEERS. I was then working for another company (Nehemiah Institute was not my full-time occupation until 1994) where my work as General Manager included intellectual property (IP) rights for the organization. Over time I developed a close relationship with our IP attorney and introduced him to the work of Nehemiah Institute. Even though not a Christian (a devout Christian Scientist), he took a strong interest in the idea of worldview assessment. I told him of my interest in possibly getting trademark rights to PEERS, an idea with which he agreed, and over a period of months it was done. He suggested that we also pursue the same with the term, NEHEMIAH (as I was using it). A trademark right was eventually granted to us for that as well.

Then he suggested that because of the pioneering work I had done on the idea of worldview assessment, we should seek trademark rights to the term WORLDVIEW. I quickly discounted that idea believing it would likely be a highly improbable, an extensive project, and expensive! But he continued to push me in that direction and we proceeded to file for rights to the term. Months later, we received notice that the application was rejected. My attorney's advice:

Appeal. I could only think- more expense. Once again I was convinced to pursue the matter and months later we received notification that official Trademark status was granted for the term WORLDVIEW. I was amazed; I took it as a “sign from above” that once more the official governmental leadership of our nation had given permission to pursue rebuilding our nation in *accordance with a biblical worldview*. All of our course materials now carry this statement:

NEHEMIAH, PEERS and WORLDVIEW are registered trademarks with the U.S. Patent And Trademark Office, No’s 1,970,502 - 1,919,636 - 3,167,082 respectively.

My attorney quickly reminded me that obtaining trademark status on a word does not remove it from our vocabulary; others may still use the term. But, it cannot be used in the same way and for the same purpose of which it is being used by the firm owning the trademark. The registered trademark for WORLDVIEW states:

“The mark consists of standard characters without claim to any particular font, style, size or color for printed opinion surveys and printed reports containing results of opinion surveys.”

Trademarks are granted with a five-year period of contestability, in case it can be shown that another person/firm had been using the same mark, in similar usage, prior to the usage of it by the firm being given trademark rights. That five-

year period ended, without being contested, on November 7, 2011 and WORLDVIEW is now an irrevocable, perpetual and restricted term for the work of PEERS testing. In short, this means there will never be another “worldview test.” PEERS is recognized by copyright law as being both a test and a survey.

In 1988 I had the PEERS test printed in booklet format and we began marketing it to churches and schools. The fee (for test booklet, scoring and delivery of PEERS Scorecard) was \$4.00. The retail price today for a single test using the online version is \$24.95. Substantial discounts are given for group testing of ten or more individuals. PEERS Scorecards and group reports now contain valuable data showing norming comparisons which are useful in evaluation of an individual’s or groups worldview position.

Now, 27 years later, with the PEERS Test being virtually the same instrument as when copyrighted in 1988 we have data with tens of thousands of users, from all states and twelve countries. Keeping the test items the same was important so we could produce true apples-to-apples comparative results of worldview trends over time, see PEERS Trend Chart (Note: If you did not receive the chart with this booklet, it can be retrieved from www.nehemiahinstitute.com or by requesting it via email to address given on title page). I reduced the number of test items from 100 to 70 to better fit normal class times, for taking the test. Since then I have made only two substitutions of test items plus a few minor rewording of statements.

In 1988, I sent copies of the test to a few individuals whom I came to know during my work with the Freedom Council asking for input on the idea of a “worldview test.” I learned of the term worldview by reading Frances Schaeffer, who in his early writings used “world view” as a phrase, later changing it to “worldview.” Two individuals in particular gave helpful feedback: Lt. Col. E. Ray Moore, Jr. (whom I worked with in the Freedom Council) and Dr. George Grant. Rev. Moore told me, “You have created a valuable tool for the cause of Christ; don’t ever give up on your mission!” Ray and his wife Gail have become close friends of ours and their work through Exodus Mandate has complimented well the work we do in Nehemiah Institute. Ray will long be remembered for his work in getting the Church to see its need to educate their own.

Dr. Grant stated, “Your idea for a worldview test in the Church (my initial thoughts for its use) is good, but I believe where it belongs the most is in the Christian school.” Dr. Grant’s words proved prophetic as it has been the Christian school, mostly high school grades, that have used the PEERS test over the past 25 years. Now, around 1,000 Christian schools have used the PEERS test (grades 7-12), approximately 25 Christian colleges and universities and a few dozen church youth groups and homeschool groups.

The most difficult group to work with, regarding acceptance of the PEERS test, and follow-up training of test results, has been church youth groups. With 85% of church youth attending public schools, the worldview of the PEERS test has

proven to be too hostile for youth group leaders to deal with or even accept themselves. Somehow this problem has to be dealt with. A very excellent article (taken from website with permission) on the problem of youth groups can be found in our publication, *Where are we Going?*; available on our website. There is simply no future for the Church in a culture where 8 out of 10 of its youth are being brought up in a “worldview atmosphere” that is hostile to the foundational beliefs of Christendom. Europe is the classic example.

Added to this problem are the declining results of PEERS testing among a high percentage of youth *in Christian schools*. With Christian schooling being 40+ years old in America, we would expect that any assessment of worldview beliefs would show that we can fairly easily impart a mature biblical worldview to our youth, if we have them in our schools, with our teachers, and our curriculum. Such is not the case. PEERS Testing, as revealed on the PEERS Trend Chart, shows that less than 10% of youth in Christian schools are comprehending and embracing a mature biblical worldview. And the results worsen each year.

There are perhaps two key reasons for this: 1) The onslaught of a secular worldview upon our culture, especially from the entertainment and media industries, and 2) the lack of an uncompromising biblical philosophy of education among teachers in Christian schools. Considering the shifting culture of America since the 60’s, it is entirely unrealistic to assume that just because a young man or woman (applying for a faculty

position) who professes to be a Christian, and who has a degree in math, history, English, chemistry (or any other subject), even from a Christian university, is operating from a thorough mature biblical worldview. Christian schools must assume that all who come to teach, have been deeply impacted by a secular if not Socialist worldview, and must be retrained.

One of the key services now provided to Christian schools by Nehemiah Institute is an intensive in-service program on philosophy of education and biblical worldview. The program, *Education From a Biblical Worldview* (EBW) is now delivered online and via DVD. The program includes pre and post PEERS testing. Upon completion of the course, participants are awarded 2.0 C.E.U.'s which have been accepted by several Christian school associations including ACSI. The EBW course was written by a good friend, Dan Schneider, Minneapolis, MN. We constantly receive high marks from teachers and administrators about this course. An Administrator of a Christian school currently using the program (December 2013) said, "In all my years of leading in-service and professional development courses, I have never seen such enthusiasm among participants." I have given EBW its own two-word mission statement: Undoing Dewey.

I need to mention that there are two Christian school programs that have quite consistently produced high PEERS results from their students: The Principle Approach program (www.face.net) and the Classical Christian program (www.accsedu.org). These two

organizations largely make up the top line on the PEERS Trend chart. The results of these two organizations give me confidence that what we strive for can in fact be achieved: A new generation of youth to be “trained up in the way they should go.” But both programs are difficult; they require effort by students, faculty and parents. Few it seems are willing to pay the price. Less than 5% of youth from Christian homes, *that are in Christian schools*, are in either of these programs. That means less than .75% (5% of 15%) of youth from Christian homes are in education programs that consistently equip students with a mature biblical worldview. This does not bode well for the future of the Christian faith in our land.

In 1995, through the help of a good friend, Marshall Fritz (d. 2008), I was introduced to a businessman in Atlanta who had been giving assistance to various Christian ministries by developing websites suitable for their ministry. I met with the gentleman and reviewed the PEERS test in detail, to which he took a strong interest. He told me that he had four web developers in his company and that they had built several websites for Christian ministries. He said, “Give us 3-4 weeks and we will have your PEERS test online.” I knew that was optimistic but was most happy to accept his offer to automate our worldview assessment program. Four months later, with numerous discussions between the programmer and me, the owner said, “I think we may have bitten off more than we realized.” The PEERS Test, with the various algorithms used to calculate scores and assign results to a worldview category (Biblical

Theism, Moderate Christian, Secularism or Socialism), for individual and group testing, is complicated. To their credit, a few months later they finished the product and now for nearly 20 years we have been using the same site to process PEERS testing, with enhancements along the way.

PEERS Testing ranks “worldview understanding” into one of four categories using the following scale:

<u>Score range</u>	<u>Worldview Category</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
70 – 100	Biblical Theism	God is God
30 – 69	Moderate Christian	God /man is God
0 – 29	Secular Humanism	Man is God
-100 to 0	Socialism	State is God

The score ranges were adopted after careful analysis of percentage of questions answered Agree/Disagree and choice of answers using 5-point Likert score system: Strongly Agree, Tend to Agree, Neutral, Tend to Disagree or Strongly Disagree. PEERS is written with 50% of items being “Agree with Biblical Worldview” and 50% disagree, with an equal number to test items in each of the PEERS categories. Several other important statistical measures are included on an individual’s PEERS Scorecard.

Our oldest son, Jason, worked for the ministry for two years and developed a process for capturing the website data and using Microsoft Access to process tests, score results, and generate individual and group reports. His talents were a godsend to this work. A few years ago, with our

relocation to Orlando, FL, I met another individual, Brad Scott, who is a professional Access programmer. Though not a professing Christian, Brad took the initiative to learn “PEERS” thoroughly and has greatly enhanced our processing ability with new techniques for reporting results. We now provide substantially more useful analysis of PEERS testing by a Christian school due to Brad’s expertise. On his own time, Brad developed a sophisticated algorithm for weighting the importance of each PEERS statement. We call it: Key Question Factor (KQF). Examples of this are shown below. The essence of this feature of PEERS is that it shows which test items are extremely relevant to shaping ones overall worldview, and which are “not worth fighting over.” To have an individual change his/her mind on a test item with a high KQF means they must be willing to rethink and modify a substantial amount of their epistemology. The KQF scale ranges from 0 to 100. More on KQF later.

After several years of PEERS testing, 90% with high school students and their faculty, with feedback from school administrators on the need for worldview training for the Christian community, I felt it necessary to expand the mission of Nehemiah Institute. I believed it was necessary to develop and promote worldview programs for Christian adults for learning and embracing foundational views of Christendom. I also believed that I needed to “obtain permission” from our national government leaders to do so, given the 501-c-3 status of Nehemiah Institute. In

sharing this thought with others, I frequently encountered the view: Why in the world do you think you need to get permission from secular civil government leaders to modify your Christian ministry? I was taking my cue from the example of Nehemiah while he was in Babylon serving as cupbearer to the pagan king. Upon hearing of the disastrous condition of his homeland, and after prayer, he made an appeal to King Artaxerxes, as follows:

Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NASB)

Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time. And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

I believed that honoring the civil magistrates of our day would be honored by God. I had my attorney send a letter, dated May 12, 1995, to the IRS as follows:

Dear Sirs:

The Corporation is expanding its activities to include the following types of activities:

Distribution of Christian-based literature on critical issues such as:

- Crime
- Education
- Medical Care
- Family Life
- Sound Economic Policies
- Care of the Poor

Education on recruitment and training of candidates for public service in positions such as:

- School boards
- City Councils
- Judicial Offices
- Legislative Seats
- Political Parties

Letters-to-the-Editor Campaigns

- Civic Affairs:
- Cultural Programs
- Entertainment
- Growth Planning
- Community/State/National Celebrations
- Youth and Senior Citizens Activities

Evangelism

As we become proactive in our communities, God proves many opportunities for verbal and lifestyle witness to the lost and the unchurched. We

will meet and influence many individuals and families who would never be reached by conventional methods.

The Corporation intends to solicit the assistance of churches and other non-profit organizations in accomplishing the above activities. Please advise if the corporation can engage in these activities without jeopardizing its tax-exempt status and without resulting in any adverse tax consequences to the Corporation.

Sincerely,
Dale S. Ditto, Attorney at Law
Lexington, KY

A reply letter was received dated July 27, 1995, as follows:

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for submitting the information show below. The changes indicated do not adversely affect the exempt status of your organization. The exemption letter previously issued continues in effect.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Sincerely,
C. Ashley Bullard, District Director, IRS

Note: This was 18 years ago. I strongly suspect that if such a request had been made today, it would not be met with the same answer.

As with Nehemiah's "letters of permission," I took this letter "from the king," in addition to the trademark registrations, as permission to "repair and rebuild America" upon a biblical worldview. I have not deviated from that mission to this day.

A major enhancement to PEERS occurred in the mid 90's. In nearly all cases of first-time testing of a Christian school, with results being quite low (nearly always below 30), Administrators were asking, What do you recommend we do to improve scores? Our most frequent response was, use *Understanding the Times*, David Noebel. We continue to recommend this excellent resource.

But we saw a need to provide follow-up material to be more PEERS specific. This was done with two initiatives: 1) a worldview study course, initially called *Developing a Biblical Worldview* (DBW), now called *PILLARS*, and 2) Position Papers. For the DBW course, I owe much credit to my friend Dennis Woods. At the time, Dennis was on staff at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, KY, of which we were members. Dennis had many gifts useful for the development of such a course, including theological training which proved valuable throughout the course. The *PILLARS* course is now used primarily as an 11th grade curriculum product, as a supplement to Bible curriculum. I have taught the course in several adult Sunday School classes, among a variety of denominational settings (including our current church, First United Methodist Church) and am frequently asked, Why haven't we heard this information from the pulpit? That question explains in large part why America has gone

secular in nearly all spheres of life. Decades ago, maybe a century ago, our churches stopped preaching “worldview sermons.”

Regarding development of Position Papers (a white paper on specific test questions), the Lord placed in my life one of the brightest individuals I’ve ever met, Dr. Marc Clausen. At that time, Dr. Clausen was teaching in a Christian high school in Lexington, of which I served as a board member. Dr. Clausen is now on staff at Cedarville University. In getting to know Dr. Clausen, I quickly discovered the perfect person to write Position Papers for PEERS. Here is why:

- B. S., Physics, Marshall Univ. (1978)
- M. A., Political Science, Marshall Univ. (1980)
- Doctor of Jurisprudence, West Virginia Univ. (1982)
- Ph. D. work, Economic Theory, West Virginia Univ. (1980-1982), underway
- M. A., Christian Thought (New Testament and Patristic Period), Liberty Univ. (1993)
- M. Th., Reformation and Post Reformation Church History and Theology, Liberty Univ. (1993)
- Ph. D., Modern European Intellectual History, University of Kentucky (1996-2000), underway
- D. Phil., European Intellectual and Church History, University of the Orange Free State, Republic of South Africa (1994)

Dr. Clausen has now written papers on 27 of the 70 PEERS items, those most frequently missed. We expand this list as we see a need for a paper on other test questions. Over the past 15

years of using Dr. Clausen's papers, we have received numerous feedback of how his paper, "changed everything."

Also in the 90's I formed an advisory council to gather input on various PEERS related issues. Serving on this council, at various times, have been the following individuals:

Dr. Carole G. Adams, Dr. David Ayers, Dr. Ted Baehr, Dr. Steve Deckard, Cathy Duffy, Dr. George Grant, Dr. Jay Grimstead, Dr. Paul Jehle, Dr. D. James Kennedy, Robert Mateer, Garry Moes, Rev. E. Ray Moore, Jr., Dr. Ronald Nash, Dr. Brian Ray, Rev. Andrew Sandlin, Rev. Steve Schlissel, Dr. Robert Simonds, Dr. Herb Titus and Douglas Wilson.

Each of these individuals have substantial Christian work being done in their respective organizations and I am grateful for their input and friendship in keeping the mission of Nehemiah Institute on track and useful for the Church. Our years in Lexington, KY also gave us relationship with several other individuals who have been of great encouragement to me, and support, to help keep this ministry alive. I must mention a few: Dr. Lewis Hicks, Bob & Mary Holman, Steve and Patricia Humble, Glenn Norvell and Tim Philpot. Steve Humble was my first pastor upon my coming to Christ at age 33 in 1975 and remains a close friend today. I value his wisdom much for advancing the Kingdom of Christ. Steve is in pastoral relationship with Dennis Peacocke, one of the first 100 users of the PEERS test, and who scored extremely high! Dennis is president of Strategic Christian Services, www.gostrategic.org. Bob & Mary have been friends for 30 years and

give clear expression to the virtue of faithfulness; they have been with us every step of the way with encouragement, prayer and support. They also scored very high on the PEERS test and have begun a worldview training program in their home.

The collection of these individuals have helped me appreciate why the Apostle Paul would end his letters with statements such as,

"Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus." Romans 16

Others who have been of very significant help in this work include Rev. Boyd Morris, Colorado Springs, Bishop Bill Mikler, Orlando, FL and Don and Ruthi Rogers, Oregon City, OR. Boyd and I met as a result of an article I had in the Chalcedon Report several years ago, www.chalcedon.edu. I am deeply indebted to Boyd and his wife Sheila for their instruction on

Christendom and numerous worldview matters. Every question I would bring to Boyd resulted in identification of a few “good books” (often times old good books) that provided the instruction I needed. Boyd, more than any other individual, has taught me orthodox Christian views of ecclesiology. Boyd was a co-founder with me on an initiative we called, The Worldview Alliance. Its purpose is to give churches a strategic plan for being effective salt and light in their communities. See this work at: www.worldviewalliance.com. Bishop Mikler has taught me much about Kingdom theology. An excellent paper of his, *The Gate Crashing Church*, is posted on our website.

Don Rogers and I began a “phone relationship” also as a result of another article I had in Chalcedon Report, and finally, after seven years of long-distance friendship we were able to meet. I stayed in Don and Ruthi’s lovely home and only grew in my admiration of a man, now retired many years, who accurately and elegantly describes (with tears) America’s rush to Socialism, and her demise. If only every high school student body in America could hear Don’s “history class!” Don and Ruthi are an excellent example of not just “praying for revival,” but availing themselves to be used of God.

More recently there have been others whom the Lord put into my life who have played critical roles in fulfilling our mission. Among them, Michael Burroughs, Jim Gilbert, Jim McKenzie, Tim Stafford, George Dubose, Bob Dreyfus and Tom Ertl, all in Florida. And another gentleman whom I respect much and am deeply grateful for is Jerry Yonker (WY). Jerry and his wife Faye are the key

reason for our ability to advance the work of Nehemiah Institute over the past few years. Very little work gets done in the Kingdom of Christ without people like the Yonkers who help formulate a vision and then give support to make it happen. They truly are “hall of faith” people.

Jim Gilbert is a special person. With 40 years of worldview work in America (and in 60 other countries!) Jim proved to be the perfect fit as presenter on our newly published EBW program (via Moodle and DVD). Education From a Biblical Worldview (EBW) is our In-service program for teacher training on biblical philosophy of education. Jim is an amazing man; I often tell him he is the most well-connected individual I’ve met. Also, as author, teacher and singer, Jim is one of the most gifted and brilliant people I’ve met.

And I surely would be amiss in not mentioning a dear friend, who was Administrator of what I believe was the first or second school to formerly use PEERS, Dr. Huey Mills, Lancaster, SC. I have spoken in the church Dr. Mills pastors, as well as in his school. Faye and I have stayed in his home and have been so blessed to see the impact that one man can have on the multitudes. Dr. Mills introduced me to the world of Independent Baptist Christian schools, which has become the second largest group of schools we have worked with over the years. Through this connection I met Dr. Edward Earwood, Executive Director of South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS). Dr. Earwood is a man who carries a passion, and a mission, for high quality Christian in America that is rare in our day. His commitment to this is clearly

shown in his new book, *A Scent of Water*. Dr. Earwood makes the case that most of what passes for Christian education, is not. Drawing from biblical and secular research work on education, Dr. Earwood demonstrates that the Church has fundamentally erred in the most important aspect of education: preparing teachers with a distinct and mature biblical philosophy of education. We are now engaged in a project with Dr. Earwood and Dr. Mills to address this problem.

Then a few years ago God put another young man in my life who is making perhaps the most significant enhancements yet to PEERS and to all the work being done by Nehemiah Institute. The young man is Mark Nauroth, CA. I initially met Mark while doing some worldview conference work with a church in Sioux City, IA, named, Cornerstone World Outreach. Mark, while still in high school, and his family were members of the church. Cornerstone was hosting a “college weekend” event with keynote speaker, columnist and author Ben Shapiro. I was also speaking at the event. Mark was the media/IT whiz who made everything happen, perfectly.

Note: If you would like to see how a local church can “apply the faith” to culture, this is the church to see. I have been at the church several times and witnessed the impact they are having on their local community and across the state of Iowa. Contact Rev. Cary Gordon, (712) 274-7572.

My work with Christian schools has brought me

into several churches over the past 25 years, from all major denominations and a few smaller ones. There are very few I would consider as “worldview churches.” In addition to Cornerstone Church in Sioux City I would include Foothills Christian Church, El Cajon, CA, Victory Christian Church, Dayton, OH, Parrish Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN, New Testament Church, Plymouth, MA, Fellowship Bible Church, Lancaster, SC, and Christ Church, Moscow, ID. Surely there are more but I would say of the 300,000 Christian churches in the U.S., less than 5% could be classified as “Biblical worldview” churches.

Later, Mark Nauroth relocated to CA and began his own company doing IT work for several companies. I reconnected with Mark to have him build an additional website for us that would provide single-user online PEERS testing with quick, easy-to-use formats and with instant results. Here are two websites of Mark’s creation:

www.pillarsoftheworld.com

www.whatsyourworldview.org

I continue to engage Mark on newer projects; he is truly genius. Couple those skills with his love for ecclesiology and theology, you have someone whom the Christian community in America is likely to hear of for decades to come.

And, a very good “iron sharpening iron” friend is Richard Jones, retired dentist, Livonia, MI. Our conversations are always sure to open my eyes to blind spots as only someone who is as well-read as Dick is, could do. Surely I am overlooking others whom the Lord put in our lives for this work-

please forgive me. I know there are several people across our nation who promote the PEERS test and I am so very grateful for their help, like Voddie Baucham who is such a strong advocate of “worldview training” in the Church.

Another very important piece of our PEERS work was to show that the instrument is “valid and reliable.” When we began getting interest in PEERS from a few Christian colleges and universities, we were always asked if the test had been shown to be valid and reliable; two critical aspects for an assessment to be used in higher education. To be valid, the assessment has to be proven to actually measure its stated positions (for PEERS: Biblical Theism on one end and Socialism on the other) and to be reliable, it has to be proven that when given to a group of individuals twice over an extended period of time, without revealing results of initial testing, both sessions produce very similar results.

This need led to another important relationship, Dr. Brian Ray. I was referred to Dr. Ray by Summit Ministries, as someone who had expertise in assessment construction and research. I was invited into Summit Ministries in the early 90’s to explain the PEERS program and get some input on construction of test items. Key to this work was Dr. Jeff Myers, now president of Summit Ministries. We contracted with Dr. Ray in 1995 and after nearly a year of investigative work performed by Dr. Ray, and panels of individuals he assembled, we were given a formal report showing that the PEERS Test passed as both a valid and reliable instrument. The following statement is in

his 27-page report to us:

“In conclusion, the findings of this study suggest that the PEERS Test may be successfully used for individual assessment, group assessment and research purposes.”

Dr. Ray’s report has always satisfied higher education institutions for approval of PEERS for their faculty members use in the classroom.

In addition to Dr. Ray’s work, two internal evaluations were conducted on the PEERS test: 1) An Item Discrimination Test and 2) a Construct Validity test. Both are professional means for evaluating the worthiness of an assessment tool; both gave high marks to the PEERS test as a worldview measurement tool. The Construct Validity test has largely proven to satisfy concerns about validity of PEERS over the years. The process consisted of finding two groups who were known to be nearly opposite, ideologically speaking, on most everything, and give them the PEERS test. The goal was to see if these two “opposing” groups would be identified, as such, in the categories that make up PEERS.

For the first group, I invited members of our Advisory Council and a few others from the Christian authors of my selected readings. I explained that I was in process of conducting a validity assessment of our worldview test. This resulted in getting PEERS results from approximately 35 individuals, known for their scholarly conservative Christian views.

For the second group, I chose two anti-

Christian monthly publications and contacted the organizations publishing them. The publications were The Humanist Magazine and the New Age Magazine. I advised the management of each organization of my intent on asking for participation in the Construct Validity of PEERS, and would pay for ads to solicit participants. I also asked for participation of their staff members. Both organizations agreed to participate and resulted in obtaining PEERS test of approximately 75 individuals over a 3-month period. Results of this Construct Validity exercise were as follows:

	<u>Biblical Scholars(A)</u>	<u>Humanists/New Agers (B)</u>
Politics	84	-61
Economics	91	-28
Education	88	-42
Religion	89	-87
Social Issues	92	-38

<u>PEERS Worldview Scale</u>	
Biblical Theism	70 – 100
Moderate Christian	30 – 69
Secular Humanism	0 – 29
Socialism	-100 – 0

Given the clear and well-publicized views of both groups, it was no surprise to see that dramatic difference in PEERS scores, and thus, difference in “worldview position.” I was most pleased to see that the PEERS test had been constructed *such that* this difference in views could be objectively determined and illustrated.

Note: The biggest spread between the two occurred in the Religion category, 176 points.

This was completely understandable given the basic presupposition of each group:

Group A: He is there

Group B: He is not there.

Now, with 25+ years of data on youth from Christian homes (85% in public schools), and with their views being more in agreement with Humanist/New Ages than with Biblical Scholars, year-by-year (see PEERS Trend Chart), it is virtually impossible to ignore the fact that the Church is *not discipling* her youth into the Christian faith. What Christian pastor, Christian school administrator or Christian parent, could say they are pleased to see “our youth” agreeing more and more with Humanists and New Agers?

Lastly, regarding theological trustworthiness of the PEERS test, the following Theological Statement was provided to the Nehemiah Institute in the late 90’s:

“I have reviewed the Mission Statement and various materials published by the Nehemiah Institute, Lexington, KY, particularly their worldview tests. I do not find any statement of belief or theological position in their materials that would appear to be in conflict with or opposed to orthodox Christian views as historically expressed by the Christian church. In particular, the views expressed by the Nehemiah Institute support such matters as supernatural creation, Trinitarian theology, inerrancy of scripture, virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ, salvation of sinful

man only in Jesus Christ and the eventual second return of Jesus Christ. I believe the work of Nehemiah Institute is trustworthy and useful for the advancement of the work of the Christian church."

Dr. David Ayers	Dr. Theodore Baehr
Rev. Andrew Sandlin	Dr. Jay Grimstead
Rev. Douglas Wilson	Dr. George Grant

These various and independent means of evaluating the PEERS Test give more than sufficient evidence that PEERS results are valid, reliable and theologically important. There is simply no reason for a Christian school or church to claim, "It doesn't fit our needs."

Regarding "research purposes," another service provided by Nehemiah Institute is for graduate students who are looking for an instrument to gather research on matters relevant to their dissertation. I have now assisted approximately 25 graduate students, from several Christian universities with the use of PEERS testing, including Regent University, Liberty University and Bob Jones University. Details on this procedure can be found at our website, www.nehemiahinstitute.com.

All of the above background on the development and use of the PEERS Test is not to suggest that it is the perfect worldview assessment. There can be no such thing. With a score range of 70-100 for being classified as holding to a biblical theistic worldview, PEERS allows for "differences of thought" and yet be in agreement with one

another on the meaning of a mature biblical worldview. But when 90%+ of our youth (Christian homes) score in the 0 - 30 range, and with the proven validity work of the PEERS test, with nearly 6,000,000 data points over a quarter of a century, we had better pay attention to what it is telling us.

So, what is PEERS Testing telling us?

The PEERS Trend Chart represents PEERS testing results of approximately 90,000 high school youth, in four different school settings, over a 25 year period. Christian schools are classified into two separate types, Biblical Worldview and Traditional. This is an arbitrary classification of ours based on the observation that a small percentage of Christian schools have made “Biblical worldview” a clear and foundational focus in their school program in three ways:

- 1) Careful selection of curriculum chosen (and often times written themselves),
- 2) Faculty training on biblical worldview, and philosophy of education, and
- 3) Parent training on worldview instruction.

Two school associations that have made this distinction are the Classical Christian schools, www.accsedu.org, and the Principle Approach schools, www.face.net. From the Principle Approach association we have developed close relationship with several outstanding educators, including: Dr. Carole Adams, Dr. Paul Jehle, Dr.

Mike Myers, Dr. Max Lyons, Connie Moody and Dr. Charles Hull Wolfe (what an amazing individual!). Testing in public schools (bottom line on chart) is achieved by testing youth groups in evangelical churches where a high percentage of the youth (sometimes all) are in public schools.

Worldview results on the PEERS Trend Chart are categorized into one of three classifications: Biblical Theism (70-100), Moderate Christian (30-69) and Secularism (0- 29). The PEERS test actually has four classifications with the lowest being Socialism, scores of 0 to -100. Average scores of the four school groups identified have not fallen into this category, yet.

Several observations may be made from the chart. It is not a surprise to see results of youth in public schools going secular, year after year. Efforts have been made for several years to de-Christianize the classroom of public schools (Dewey's intentions) and even though the testing for this group is largely done with youth from Christian homes, and who were members of youth groups in evangelical churches, the education philosophy is clearly producing a secular worldview in the students. An hour a week of youth group "instruction" in a local evangelical church is not going to counter 30 hours a week of non-biblical or anti-biblical instruction in a local public school. This simply cannot continue and America remain a Christian nation.

Neither is it a surprise to see quite good results of students in "Biblical worldview" schools. The efforts of the Classical Christian schools and the Principle Approach schools to ensure that a

theistic worldview defines the school rather than a secular/Socialist worldview, makes all the difference. What is needed however is strong support from the Church, among all denominations, for promoting the excellent Christian education programs of Principle Approach or Classical Christian.

What is surprising, and very troubling, is that students in traditional Christian schools are also embracing the secular view of life. These schools come from a variety of Christian school associations with the largest number from ACSI. Some of the schools in these associations have done well, particularly those who have adopted *Understanding the Times* as a curriculum resource. Overall, results from traditional Christian schools have always been better than those from public schools, *but declining* at about the same rate. It is my view that the number one reason for this is inadequate training of teachers on philosophy of education and on biblical worldview understanding. A second reason is the use of inferior biblically-based curriculum. Simply integrating Bible verses here and there to support a particular topic of instruction does not make it Bible-based curriculum. What we see in the “worldview” schools is curriculum designed by *reasoning from the Scriptures* for development of content in the various school subjects.

Another group identified on the PEERS Trend Chart is homeschoolers. We have not had much success in assessment work with homeschool associations. We have had a fair number score in the Biblical Theism category, especially in the

Limited-Government index. But overall, we have had less than 1,000 high school students participate in PEERS Testing from homeschool groups. There appears to be some reluctance among homeschool associations to have an “outsider” evaluate their work. The testing we have done with homeschool students shows results ranging from a small percentage with excellent results to a larger percentage in the Moderate Christian worldview range; nearly always better than what we find from traditional Christian schools. And, the results of the past few years among all four groups show that the homeschool group has had the highest *percentage* of increase in PEERS scores. I believe however that homeschool associations need to push for a higher degree of accountability from members regarding biblical worldview understanding.

Results from public schools and traditional Christian schools mean that over 90% of youth from Christian homes are now embracing a strong secular view of life. This clearly explains why such a high percentage of youth from Christian homes cease attending Church upon leaving home after high school, if not before. No one disputes this trend. It is simply not in their hearts or their minds to make the Christian faith a priority.

Another 25 years of continued decline of these results will put us “in Europe,” where less than 10% of the population is in Church on any given Sunday of the year. I tell pastors everywhere, “The box in the lower right corner of the PEERS Trend Chart is your biggest problem. If this is not fixed, you soon will not have a job; your

church will close.” An example of this close to us was the closing of a United Methodist church a few years ago that today is a Muslim Mosque. I expect to see more of this.

The worldview problem in Christian education in America is systemic. Consider this example: We recently completed PEERS testing of a large Christian school which is under the supervision of a major Christian ministry in the U.S. Their website contains the following statement:

“Graduates shall leave our school as beacons of light to a generation stumbling in darkness; they shall impact their generation and the generations to come with God’s goodness and wisdom” (no citation is provided to honor our confidentiality policy of school results). Their PEERS Scores were as follows:

	<u>Score</u>	<u>Worldview Classification</u>
Politics:	7.93	Secular Humanism
Economics:	21.66	Secular Humanism
Education:	10.55	Secular Humanism
Religion:	42.67	Moderate Christian
Social Issues:	13.32	Secular Humanism
Lmt’d Gov.:	-3.26	Socialism

These results rank the students deep into the Secular Humanism category on a composite basis making it virtually impossible for them to “impact generations to come” with a Christian view of life. Unfortunately, the results are not an aberration of “Christian education” in America today; they are the norm.

Regarding the PEERS results of this school,

how is it possible to have such a glowing statement from the leader (a major Christian leader in America) about the efforts in “preparing the next generation,” and yet have dismal results of their students? What basis was used by this leader to make this assessment of his school? This is not the first time I have seen this kind of disconnect.

Following are statistics from tests of approximately 30,000 high school students over the past few years:

	<u>Scores:</u>
• Politics	16.71
• Economics	22.76
• Education	23.51
• Religion	53.54
• Social Issues	37.67
• Lmt'd Gov.	<u>13.93</u>
Composite:	28.45

Note: Comparison of these scores (Composite Scores) to those of Christian leaders are as follows:

• Biblical Scholars:	88.65	(Group A above)
• Pastors:	71.85	(several hundred)
• Faculty of Christian schools:	49.66	(over 3,000)
• Students:	28.45	(30,000)

Clearly, the worldview position of today's Christian leadership is not being passed on to the next generation. However, with faculty scoring less than 50, and with the goal of having 70% or students in Christian schools score 70 or higher (in the Biblical Theism category), we face a major problem: inadequate training of teachers. The scriptures tell us that the student cannot rise above his teacher:

Matthew 10:24

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

For this reason, our greatest emphasis is now on In-service training for Christian schools. Our newly updated, DVD-based program has been approved by ACSI and several other school associations as an official C.E.U. program (see page 13).

Fifteen of the 70 test items were missed by 50% or more of the students from the above study. The 15 test items are broken down by PEERS categories as follows:

- Politics 7
- Economics 1
- Education 4
- Religion 0
- Social Issues 3

Note: This implies that it is in the realm of civil government where we are being least effective in equipping our youth with a mature biblical worldview. Perhaps it is this reason our government has become the entitlement-based system it is. It also gives evidence of why there has been such strong support for the Socialist education program called, Common Core.

The question most frequently missed by students was:

Q67.

There is not a single "best system" of economics for all nations to use since the

natural wealth and the types of major industries vary greatly from one part of the world to another.

Over 70% of the students agreed with that statement. But the scriptures clearly teach that what we call “free market” is not only the “best system” of economics, it is what God has prescribed. Two examples:

Deuteronomy 8:17, 18

Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Acts 5:1-4

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

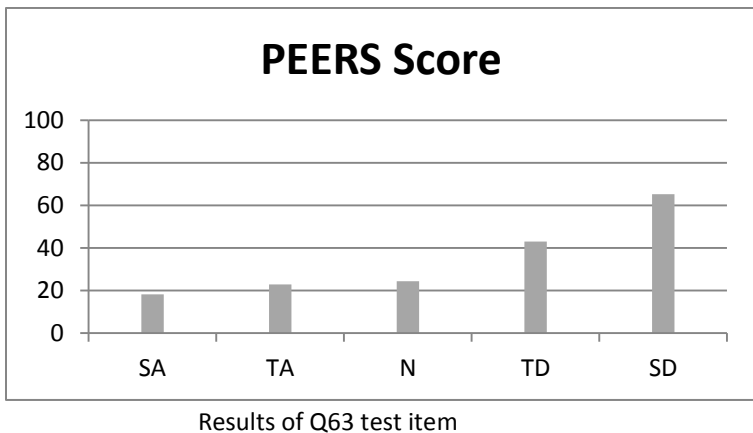
Regarding the KQF factor (as describe above), the PEERS item with the highest KQF rating is:

Q63.

A federal Department of Education is

necessary to ensure harmony of instructional technique and content of learning in all schools.

The KQF rating for this test item is: 65.25. This means that for two out of every three people who miss this question, they will need to *substantially* change their overall worldview in order to switch from agree to disagree. Following are the stats for this PEERS item over the prior ten years:

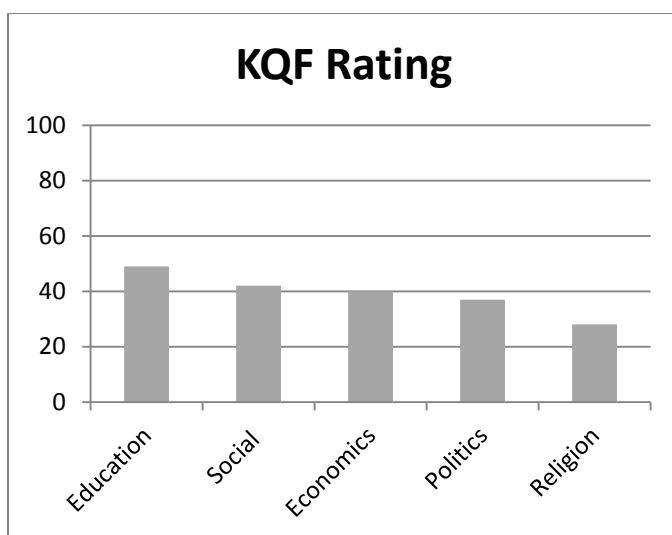


This chart shows a direct correlation between the type of response and PEERS scores; the more people “disagree” with the statement, the more biblical is their worldview. However, over the past three years, 66% of high school youth in Christian schools agreed with the statement.

Interestingly, this is precisely the position of our current political administration with the Common Core education program. However, neither the Bible nor the Constitution places

responsibility for education with the government. But Common Core is the logical outcome of John Dewey's anti-Christian, Socialist philosophy of education for America, which unfortunately, is being adopted by Christian schools as well.

Also of interest is the KQF factor (on average) for each of the five PEERS categories, as follows (sorted highest to lowest):



This implies, not surprisingly, that the sphere of "Education" has the *most influence* on one's overall worldview. Christian schools want to show their parent-body that they have a strong Bible class program (which they should). But according to PEERS stats, it is not the Religion category that drives the students' worldview; it is the views they hold about "education" that makes the difference. Yet few churches ever preach sermons on

“education of youth” other than promotion of Sunday School classes. Drawing attention to dramatic differences between government-run public schools and worldview-based Christian schools is threatening to most pastors.

The obvious implication of this is that extreme care should be given by parents in the selection of the *education system* they choose for their children. It gives (perhaps) new meaning to the verse:

Proverbs 23:7 (NASB)

“For as he thinks within himself, so he is.---”

The education problem is compounded at the university level. Many fine higher education institutions founded by various denominations have shed their Christian name, including several Ivy League schools. More troubling, they have shed their Christian message.

Conclusion

The PEERS Trend Chart does not paint a good picture regarding the state of the Church and the state of our nation. Results of “worldview position” based on the PEERS Test, of youth from Christian homes, over the past 25 years shows the following:

Biblical Worldview	6.1%
Secular Worldview	46.0%
Socialist Worldview	6.5%

The rest ranked in the moderate Christian worldview position.

But results also show there is success when we are committed to the scriptures as the basis for what we know and how we teach. PEERS gives the evidence (and specifics) of where we must make changes in how we “train up the children in the way they should go.”

Still have doubts about the validity of PEERS or the “story” of what PEERS testing is telling us? What does your data show? What evidence to you possess, based on sound scientific research, that gives objective, valid data that the youth of the Church are in fact being “trained up in the way they should go?”

Absent that, I invite (challenge!) you to make PEERS/EBW/PILLARS worldview education the standard discipleship program in your church or Christian school for the next 25 years. I tell Christian parents, “If you are absolutely unable to enroll your child in a quality Christian school, or if unable to provide the same by homeschooling your children, then use the government school system. But woe to you if the secular school system successfully evangelizes your child into the faith of Atheism.” Remember Jesus’ warning:

Matthew 18:5-6

"And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

PEERS Testing is telling us we face a major crisis in education. To borrow the words of the great Church Father, St. Augustine, The PEERS Story is showing the City of God vs. the City of Man. Which city we build is our choice; it now appears we are confident in developing our own blueprint for life.

Let's fix this problem to the glory of God and the salvation of a nation. The story must go on.

Endorsements

"We recognize the quality of your work and appreciate the time and effort you have so obviously invested in the development of this material. We are sincerely encouraged by your input and regard your inquiry as a valued compliment."

**Sharon Kopf, Assistant to Dr. James Dobson,
Focus on the Family**

"We appreciate your work with the Nehemiah Institute and the PEERS Testing Group. Please continue to keep us up-to-date; we find your information extremely interesting. Your service is a valuable tool and we believe the Lord will continue to bless your endeavors."

Ken Ham, President, Answers in Genesis

"I want you to know that you are on the right track and I appreciate you greatly."

**Dr. Ted Baehr, President, Christian Film &
Television Commission**

"Thank you SO much for your ministry! Your program has been a life changing course for ME and the homeschool students who took the course (including my son). I'll be offering it again this fall to additional homeschool students in our co-op. As far as I'm concerned, PILLARS should be a REQUIRED course!"

Cindy, homeschool mom, Colorado

