

Socialized Children? No Thank You!

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A Cultural View of Socialization

The definition our culture uses for *socialization* is a bit unsettling. According to the following, our children just may not fit this definition:

- *WordNet® 3.0, © 2006 by Princeton University: 3. The adoption of the behavior patterns of the surrounding culture; "the socialization of children to the norms of their culture"*
- *American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary: The process of learning interpersonal and interactional skills that are in conformity with the values of one's society.*

A Biblical View of Socialization

We have a much higher authority than society to guide us in this definition, so we view socialization through a Biblical lens.

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

"Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Where Does Socialization Start and Thrive?

What Happens When Family Socialization Is Missing

Family is being replaced by "educational socialism"

Socialism:1: any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods 2:a: a system of society or group living in which there is no private property b: a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state (Merriam Webster).

Negative Socialization is Minimized or Faced Together

We protect. We nurture. We face the culture together.

Positive socialization comes from a positive environment. Negative socialization comes from negative influences and an ungodly environment.

Positive Socialization Is Maximized

- Well-chosen opportunities
- Freedom from fear and anxiety
- Freedom to be. Freedom to Move, Learn, Relax, Think, and Grow.

Are We Teaching Children or Raising Adults?

We are not raising children who will remain children.

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Homeschoolers and Community

We are to do justly: Stand up for righteousness and truth in our communities.

We are to love mercy: Help widows and orphans = pure religion and undefiled before God.

We are to walk humbly with our God: Where did Jesus walk when He was on the earth?
(Micah 6:8)

Socialization and Higher Learning

Homeschoolers are capable of socialization with either fellow students or instructors. Colleges are seeking these kids because they are very well socialized besides bringing the best of independent learning and high grades with them.

What if my child turns out “weird” or unsocialized?

“Without the strictures of schedule and formal curricula, everything can all be considered part of the educational process. That’s what I’d call socialization at its best! To accuse home educators of creating strange little people in solitary confinement is nonsense.” Dr. James Dobson

What about isolation?

John Taylor Gatto (www.johntaylorgatto.com) said, *“The new purpose of schooling—to serve business and government—could only be achieved efficiently by isolating children from the real world, with adults who themselves were isolated from the real world, and everyone in the confinement isolated from one another. Only then could the necessary training in boredom and bewilderment begin. Such training is necessary to produce dependable consumers and dependent citizens who would always look for a teacher to tell them what to do in later life, even if that teacher was an ad man or television anchor.”*

The Goal of our Instruction

What’s the big deal about socialization? The big deal is that we want to follow the precepts laid out in Scripture. The decision about what to do for our children’s instruction and socialization must be based on following God’s commands to raise our children to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (see Deuteronomy 6:4–7).

The goal of our instruction is love with a pure heart and a sincere faith (see 1 Timothy 1:5), so that our society might be positively impacted with the Gospel.

Biblical socialization is that important.

What Does the Research Say?

- National Home Education Research Institute: www.nheri.org
- RESEARCH fact sheet: <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>
- Homeschooling grows UP brochure: <https://hslida.org/docs/librariesprovider2/public/homeschooling-grows-up.pdf>