



**Tour Guide Notes: Where is Education?
Why is it not one of the Social Spheres?
Lesson 7 – Sociology: The Divine Imprint**

I have often been asked why education is not listed as a unique social system, along side the family, church, state, etc.

The fact of the matter is, I used to do so.

If you were to pull out some of my old overhead transparencies (does any one use those anymore?) you would find a circle labeled “education” floating around with the six others that still exist today. My justification was that I could identify a clear authority (the teacher) and a clear role of submission (the student). But as time went on, I began to sense that I had “forced” that sphere into “my” picture—primarily because it had become such a major force within our culture today and I wanted to deal with it.

However, when I honestly looked at the places where I had found it in the Scripture, it was obvious that the majority of the biblical references to education clearly fell under the authority of the parents. So, in reality, education was just one of the roles mom and dad played within the sphere of the family. It wasn't a separate social system at all.

Now, the principle of delegation still applies, so yes, they may delegate that educational responsibility to someone else. But as is the case with every act of delegation, the one who receives that delegation is still ultimately responsible to the one who granted the authority to them and the grantor is still ultimately responsible for how well the one to whom they have granted authority fulfills that responsibility. (I hope that makes sense, because it is vitally important.) The parent is never absolved from the ultimate responsibility of their child's education and the educator is never relieved from ultimately being responsible to the child's parents.

Do you get a sense of how warped this is in our culture today? This is not the picture we see played out in our governmental forms of education. (By the way, I can find no biblical support for the position that the state has responsibility for the education of children.)

However, at some point, the role of educating an individual, as they become adult, transfers to the sphere of labor, where the “owner” should have a deep vested interest in the training and education of his workers and the worker should have a deep vested interest in possessing the skills needed to take his place as a craftsman within this critical social sphere. In old language,

the apprentice attaches himself to the master to learn the trade. We will deal with the sphere of labor in Tour 11, but in preface to that tour, it should be noted that the owner, manager, or boss, should not take lightly the responsibility he has to make sure his employees have the proper education and training needed to do their work well. Additionally, the young man or woman, who is ready to enter the world of creative work, should diligently pursue the education and training necessary to prepare themselves to be an excellent craftsman.

This is a radical thought in a world that has turned education over to the state.

Appropriately, some may find that their “craft” is indeed a “business” whose “work” is to educate and train customers who come to them and pay money for their educational and training services. Their responsibility is to their customers, to provide a good education in exchange for the payment they receive.

What a novel idea!