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Should I Speak up about a Student Handing out Pro-Gay Stickers in My Fifth-Grader's Class?

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#STRask - Stand to Reason

Questions about piquing the interest of teenage daughters who believe the resurrection probably happened but don't really care and whether a parent should speak up when a student in his fifth-grader's class is handing out pro-gay stickers.

* How can I pique the interest of my two teenage daughters who say they believe the resurrection probably really happened but that they don't really care?

* Should I speak up about a student in my fifth-grader's class handing out pro-gay stickers?

Transcript

[Music] Welcome to Stand to Reason's #STRask podcast with Amy Hall and Greg Koukl and I'm Amy Hall and with these Greg Koukl [Laughter] Okay Greg, here is a question from Derek. I have two teenage daughters who when asked their thoughts on the resurrection will say they believe it probably happened but also that they don't really care. Any thoughts on how to peak their interest or is that just a symptom of their youth? Yeah, how old is there an indication of their age? He just says teenage.

All right, well that's a symptom of being a teenager. To some degree, I have two teenagers so and I'm just confronting this stuff on a daily basis and their interests or other. Now there are exceptions to that.

We just came back from our final reality of this season in Augusta, Georgia and they were magnificent teenagers. 14-year-old one that was there that has her own podcast. She's a YouTuber, not a podcast but a YouTuber thing.

And so it's like there were exceptions to this but a whole lot of them are distracted by a whole bunch of other things. And teenagers, especially teenage girls, have hormones exploding in their body and everything's crazy. So I think we should not be surprised

when they say things that sound a little crazy and not overreact.

Okay, not overreact. Now it doesn't mean you can't respond to it. But it does mean that we be careful.

So what would be a response to this? Well, if they claim to be Christians, this is where 1 Corinthians 15 might be good. Let me ask you a question, honey. Are you saying that it doesn't matter to Christianity whether Jesus rose in the dead or not? And see what she says if it's a daughter.

Because in 1 Corinthians it says that if Jesus did, for 1 Corinthians 15, if Jesus did not rise in the dead, well the apostles are liars because they attest to something that didn't happen. And we are still in our sin if Jesus didn't rise. And therefore Paul says, conclusively here, we are of most people who pitied if we are believing in a Jesus who rose when he didn't rose.

People should feel sorry for us. So at least there's a text that focuses in on the critical importance theologically of the resurrection. Now it might be something that doesn't really capture their fancy or they're not personally interested much, then that's something else.

And there are a lot of Christians who don't think much about the resurrection. They ought to think more about it because it's all through Scripture. And when I first started doing apologetics, I gave it almost no attention.

But it is central historically, especially the first century. It was all about the resurrection as verifying Jesus' claim to be Messiah. And fulfilled prophecy related to that.

So if it's just a passing, it may be a passing phase where they don't care so much about it. If they're saying it doesn't matter to Christianity, that would be maybe an opportunity to clarify. It really does.

And here's what Paul says, have them read it and ask them what they think about what he said. And it's not just the fact that it verifies who Jesus is, but the resurrection is also what made Jesus our living priest. So if you look in Hebrews, chapter 7 through 10, it talks about Jesus being our priest praying for us.

And yeah, atoning for us before the Father, his resurrection is what allowed him to apply the atonement to us. It's absolutely central. Now, it's not clear to me if the daughters don't care about the apologetics or they don't care if the resurrection happened.

So depending on what they, that's the first thing I would ask them is, maybe he knows already, but what do you mean by you don't care? You don't care about the evidence for it? Well, if that's the case, then I would just barrage them with arguments against it. And I would say, well, what would you say to someone who said this? How do you know? How

do you know it's true if this and this argument argues against it? I would do that. I would get them out of their complacency by shaking them up a little bit on this if they don't care about the apologetics because the apologetics for the resurrection are absolutely amazing.

And if they're not willing to hear it, then maybe they don't feel a need for it. And I think especially with girls, a lot of times they don't become interested in apologetics until they have a need for it. So if there's a friend they're trying to reach or if they have their own questions, that's when it comes up.

They're less likely to be interested in it for its own sake. So maybe you could, if they have a friend who is not a Christian, you could ask them what they think about the resurrection in front of your girls. I'm not sure it just depends on what exactly it is that they don't care about.

Because if you don't care about the resurrection happening at all, not just the apologetics, now I think there might be bigger problems in terms of their Christianity because that seems kind of odd. And in that case, Greg, I think what you mentioned about talking about the results, if it's not true, is a good way to go. Like you mentioned the passage in 1 Corinthians 15.

And Paul also mentions in Romans chapter 1, 3rd verse or something that Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God through the resurrection. So the resurrection does a lot of theological work for us, the deed of Christ. And one of the things that I like about that passage in Romans is that fairly early book and it has uncontested Pauline authorship, even by critical scholars.

So I don't know if it's 55 or 54 or 53 or 56, whatever it is, it's within a decade to two decades at the outside of the event itself. And that's not enough time for a myth to develop. This was core to the event, or the, the primitive mentality, I should say it was core to the mentality of the primitive church.

I mean, the very first group of Christians, even before they got sophisticated about other things, they weren't, they understood that Jesus was Lord and that he rose from the dead. And that was a verification of his claim. Let's go into a question from Ernesto.

A student in my fifth graders class handed out pro pro game materials, stickers with love is love. Others have animals with pride flags. Should I push back? And if so, how should I begin? This is a public school, right? I'm assuming.

He doesn't, he doesn't specify, but I'm assuming. Well, it's so frustrating to hear this kind of stuff. Okay, I'm just, I'm just trying to control my frustration right now, because this is the one way street of tolerance.

Why is it appropriate for kids to, to campaign on political cultural issues in school? Okay,

do pro lifers have the right to campaign on the pro life issue? Maybe they do. Maybe this is a wide open school and all political viewpoints are accepted and can be campaigned on. So then conservative viewpoints that are against same sex marriage ought to be openly allowed to be campaigned with freedom to express themselves as well.

Now my, my sense, right, for the most part is I think that high school should be politically, um, all school school, school, public school should be apolitical. You know, it's not their job to indoctrinate according to a political ideology. And this is all political.

Oh, well, we just are trying to promote what's good. Love is love. Wait a minute, your love is love, which is a nonsense statement.

A is a dumb is dumb, stupid is stupid, good is good. It's, it's nonsense. Okay.

So it taken its face value, but really what it's meant to be is some kind of rhetorical ploy to promote something that is not loving at all according to one way of looking at it. And so why are we, why aren't we training students in the teachings that they need to get rather than politicizing everything? This has happened everywhere now in education. Amy, well, this is coming from a student.

I don't know if you miss that. So it's not actually, this isn't something that the teacher is handing out. This is something a student in the fifth graders class.

We're talking what 10, 11. Oh my goodness. Well, God bless the student who asked the question Ernesto.

Okay. Well, the, the, the student is handing out the materials. The parent is wants to know how he should respond to this other, this student in his son's class, handing out the, that's kind of the way I understood.

Okay. Okay. So Ernesto is not the student or Nestos, the parent.

All right. Still, well, this is, okay, I was just kind of speaking broadly. I don't think this kind of stuff should happen.

And so this is where it's appropriate. I think this, you don't go to the student. You got to have to talk to the school and the school administrators and say, I want to know what is the justification for, for students handing out political propaganda in school, because this is political propaganda.

Okay. And especially love is love. I mean, talk about rhetorical moves.

It's not like a straight up appeal for kindness, which who would disagree with that. It is promoting a certain view as morally acceptable. And if you don't accept this, then you're not loving.

So it's political. It's fair to say that this is it. This is a, so what is the place the school has? That's the first question for doing this.

Is anything like this appropriate? Okay. If they say, well, we just want to give students the latitude, to blah, blah, blah, or whatever. Okay.

Then what was the age? Eight, fifth grade, did you say? Fifth grade, yeah. Oh, especially in fifth grade. High school, I can see that maybe some case could be made, but not in fifth grade.

I'm curious. Oh, anyway, don't get me going. I'll try to stay on target here.

So what is it? Why are we doing this? And of course, it's not just that issue. It's a whole bunch of issues now that are promoted by the teachers unions. Why are we doing this to our kids? Politicizing them according to a partisan political perspective.

Oh, nice alliteration there. Partisan political perspective is politics. Why are we allowing that to happen? Okay.

Now they might have some justification. Okay. Now that we believe in this, this is, okay, fine.

Are all political views allowed? Even opposing views allowed to be promoted by the students? No. Why not? I mean, that's the question. Now I know the answer.

Well, because we're trying to promote love. Well, this is a particular depth and a very peculiar definition of love. It seems to me.

If you're saying love means accepting everybody, well, okay, then why aren't you accepting the other opposing viewpoint? If you're loving, there's all kinds of contradiction that's involved in this approach. But I so I, I'm activist in the sense that I think if everybody is silent, then the loud evil minority wins because these have to do with political issues that have ramifications for evil in the lives of our people and in community. Now that's a moral judgment, of course, but nobody can avoid making a moral judgment on any of these things.

The love of love is a moral judgment against those people who are not on board with the LGBTQ agenda and are called unloving. So it's even worse. It's not just that they're that they're that that one side doesn't get to be heard.

It's the they are chastised and labeled and judged publicly and shamed publicly for not having the politically correct view. Okay. So that's why I'm in favor of standing up and saying something.

Now it may be the it'll make a federal case out of it, as my dad used to say, but you're saying something there's resistance and the more that some people resist in appropriate

ways, the more others would be willing to stand up and resist as well. I remember a piece I wrote a Reddit on the air on my regular show. Incidentally, let me just throw this out, Amy.

I can't imagine people who like this show SDR, hashtag SDRs that aren't listening to the regular show. You know, and I can't imagine people who like that show not listening to this one because it's more the same, except for it in terms of quality and content. So I'm just saying if you listen to and you podcast this hashtag SDRs, please podcast the regular show.

Okay, it's different, but the same in a way that I think you really like it. Okay, enough of that. So this is why I think it's what I was going to say is there was a school board meeting and people were allowed to give their opinion about some of these issues.

And that's when I wrote a piece for my wife, because I couldn't go out of town to stand up and read. And because you only got like three minutes. And so I crafted this a very careful way and trading on all leftist values and why you shouldn't be imposing these things in the school on our students.

And that these are questions that were for the parents to do with their family and not for the schools to decide. And if they, if this is what they do, then and the power shift, the power base shifts, then it'll be the left's ox that's getting gored and they're not going to like that playing by the same rules. Anyway, so my wife read it.

And there are lots of people that came up after heard and said, thank you for speaking out. And so I think we need to not be silent and at least register the complaint. By the way, all it takes is one complaint about anything from the left and the school's policy changes.

One person, I mean, the stories are legion of this happening, Amy. One person complains about something that's relatively innocuous and damage gets shut down if the person's on the left. If the person is a conservative, that doesn't work that way.

All right, that's the one way street of tolerance in our culture. All right, nevertheless, I think it's appropriate to say something and to push back. So if you're handing out things that have to do with the gate, can we can we hand out things that are opposed to this notion as long as it's, I mean, it has to be carefully done.

All right, but or what about pro life? The pro life thing, love is love. It's not rights. It's love.

What's up with that? So anyway, that would be my recommendation. I speak out a lot. I'm in the grocery store.

I'm in the hospital, kidding, worked out. I'm getting wherever I am. I make I mentioned

something about the nonsense of some policies that are happening, just absolute destructive authoritarian, demagogic nonsense.

And almost every person I talk to, no matter whether what their ethnic backgrounds or whatever, they all virtually every single one of them agrees with me. So at least I've just said something. And if they didn't agree, at least, I'm trying to give them something to think about.

And so I'm activist in that sense. And I encourage others to do the same, especially for Ernesto in this situation. What makes this so odd is the age of the student.

Yeah, I can imagine most of the students have no idea what those stickers are about. And in a way, that's that's better, I guess. But the problem is, they're forcing this issue on to students who have no knowledge of it.

So they're going home with these stickers. And now the parents have to deal with responding to the stickers. Or maybe they just put them on their stuff and the parents find them.

So I think because of the age, if you go to the teacher and you say, look, I have not discussed this issue with my child yet. And this is being forced on him at too young of an age by this other student. And it's not appropriate.

It's just not appropriate. And also people are putting the stickers on their things. And so they're promoting something they have no idea what it is.

It's just age inappropriate period. Yeah, that's a whole other angle. That's a good one, Amy.

So I think that's where I would go with the teacher and say, look, you just got to make sure this stops. And that's where I start. That didn't work.

Then I would probably go to the school and say, all right, I'm gonna, I'm just letting you know that I'm planning to send pro life stickers with my student. Because apparently this is okay. And so if you if you have a problem with this, then just let me know what your policy is on political stickers.

You know, I might also go to the Alliance of Defending Freedom ADF and just give them a call and and threaten a lawsuit. You know, see if there is a basis for a threat. And it might be that the ADF just decides as the ADF, they are going to send, they're going to send a letter to the principal and say, we understand this is going on.

And if it continues to go on, then we are going to mount a legal challenge to this. Even the threat of it may get the teachers to back off in this kind of thing. I mean, if they don't have a policy that's equal, even handed, is that what you mean? Well, that might be

right one round or just the fact that this is happening with students, that there may be a there may be a legal basis or at least a at least a tort civil law basis for raising an issue.

Now, remember, administrators do not want trouble. They don't want lawsuits. And this is why they give into the left.

And if the righteous says, okay, well, I'll talk to my lawyer and now they got a letter and now this is over them, they said, maybe we could win if we have to litigate, but why should we have to litigate? Let's just say no, no politics at all. And that's the way I think it should be. Let politics be a family thing not promoted by government agencies and teachers unions because it is not even handed.

I can imagine and this is where I think the age is working for you because again, age inappropriate. I can understand once you get into high school, you they're going to be discussing these questions. And that's fine.

In fact, if this were a high school situation, I would say this is a great opportunity for your child to engage them with the Colombo questions and maybe have them think about and understand the people who oppose that they're not coming from a place of bigotry that there are actually good reasons to believe that traditional marriage is what we should stick to. And so you could have all sorts of conversations. But again, that's for a high school student.

This is a completely different question. But yeah, use the age to your advantage, go directly to the teacher and say, yeah, this really isn't appropriate to force parents into the situation where they're talking about this earlier than they like. This is this is sexualizing our young people in a way that is completely inappropriate.

These are 10 year old kids, fifth grade, right? Or maybe 11. Please. Yeah.

Well, thank you for your questions. Derek, international, we love hearing from you. Send us your questions on Twitter with the hashtag #STRAsk.

We hope to hear from you. If you have a question that you've been waiting to ask, go ahead and ask it. We're waiting to hear from you.

This is Amy Hall and Greg Colkel for Stand to Reason.