

A Brief Encounter with *Counsels on Education*

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Shane Anderson has certainly created a stir among Adventist educators with his book *How to Kill Adventist Education (and How to Give It a Fighting Chance!)* I was challenged, and I'm sure you were too if you read his book.



How could it be that our beloved church, which has been given so much information and counsel on Christian education, has come to a place where we need a book to tell us that if we don't change our way of doing business, we could kill our educational system? Wow!

I dusted off the little "red books" and began to read, especially those with titles pertaining to education. (I'm assuming you all know what is meant by "the little red books." 2 Chronicles 20:20 came to mind. If you don't know it by memory, I'll let you check it out for yourself.)

The first book I chose to read was *Counsels on Education*. Please indulge me as I share some quotations. Rather than just give you the reference pages, I will share the entire quotation because I know how busy our lives are and how time-consuming it is to find the book or go online and check it out.

I was both amazed and encouraged as I read from this book. I was amazed by the relevance of the message, and I was encouraged because it was very evident that God was watching out for His people.

*"When **properly** conducted, church schools will be the means of lifting the standard of truth in places where they are established; for children who are receiving a Christian Education will be witnesses for Christ. . . . so in the closing work of this earth children who have been **rightly** educated will in their simplicity speak words which will be an astonishment to men who now talk of 'higher education.'*" (pp. 202, 203; *emphasis mine*)

The words "properly" and "rightly" popped up on the screen of my mind. Was this the essence of Shane Anderson's book, how to properly and rightly accomplish the task of educating our young people?

*"Some will urge that if religious teaching is to be made prominent our schools will become unpopular; that those who are not of our faith will not patronize them. Very well; then let them go to other schools, where they will find a system of education that suits their taste. It is Satan's purpose by these considerations to prevent the attainment of the object for which our schools were established."* (pp. 142, 143)

She continues:

*“To lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then to make this increase a cause for rejoicing, shows great blindness. If numbers were an evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for in this world his followers are largely in the majority. **It is the degree of moral power pervading a school that is the test of its prosperity.** It is the virtue, intelligence, and piety of the people composing our schools, not their numbers that should be a source of joy and thankfulness.”* (p. 143; emphasis mine)

There is much more, but, since the adult attention span is reported to be 13 minutes, I hope this brief encounter with the book *Counsels on Education* has inspired you to read the book for yourself. God has not left us to the wiles of Satan, but He has given us much counsel and direction for success! Be of good courage.

**Reference:**

- White, Ellen G. *Counsels on Education*. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1968.