

Choosing A University

Few of the decisions we make affect our entire lives as much as the university we choose to attend. The influence of a school reaches further than a teenager is likely to anticipate. It affects the general outlook of life, the purpose, philosophy, occupation, family, and even the circle of life-long friends.

Choosing a “Christian university” is not a prerequisite of salvation or a successful life. I want to make that clear from the start. However, a school dedicated to spiritual principles offer delights and treasures which secular schools do not know about and could not sponsor if they knew of them. A sincere youth may endure the spiritually discouraging atmosphere of a secular school and be stronger for it, while he or she could have been nurtured by a huge spiritual family of loving and concerned faculty and students in a spiritually oriented school. Not an endurance but delight.

The leap from the security of home into the frightening “real world” is awesome! After high school a youth is ready for some independence away from home. Independence is desirable but scary. The Christian campus can serve ideally as an intermediate setting for maturity and adjustment.

Think of being on a campus filled with hundreds or thousands of other youth like you. No, it is not like a dull Sunday School class or stilted church youth party. It will be filled with vibrant, excited youth as fun-loving, as serious, and as sophisticated as you. There is a school spirit, unmatched at any secular school, develops and it lingers a lifetime.

Extra-curricular activities on campus at state schools cannot be governed by Christian concepts. Beer busts and sex parties are all too common. Morals are not a part of the curriculum. Professors may use foul language in the classroom, discourage and ridicule religion, and point only to materialistic success.

Contrast the Christian campus. We are not saying that you may expect angelic behavior of everyone there. However, you may participate in any on-campus activity with assurance that it will be with other students sharing your values. Liquor, drugs, vulgarity of speech, and smoking are not allowed on campus. There is a reasonable dress code and acceptable parameters of conduct. Much individual liberty and expression is permitted, encouraging you to reach your full potential.

Most students choose a life partner during college years. The campus of the Christian university offers opportunity for match-making like no other setting. What young person would not give all to be on campus with thousands of other like-minded youth? What parents would not be eager to invest heavily in order to give their son or daughter this opportunity to find a Christian wife or husband? Can a monetary price be set on such a determining factor in life?

Because of size, our universities cannot offer as many graduate fields, but their standard of excellence is recognized. I know that for many years, major industries have sought out graduates from Abilene Christian University and other of our schools. They value the character and training of the graduates.

Private schools are more expensive than many, but not all, state schools. But most of those who attend these private schools find available help in scholarships, grants, loans, and on-campus work contracts. Most any young person who strongly desires to attend is able to do so. Don't pass up the golden opportunity.

Of the family of my mother and father, 25 children, spouses, and descendants have attended ACU, most of us in very difficult economic times. The enrichment we received is beyond measure. Even 62 years since I enrolled, friendships with fellow classmates still endure. Our Choice of Abilene Christian set our course in life. []