

# The Concurrently Companion



## Episode 47: Ideas and diversity on today's college campuses (with Collin Garbarino)

### Topic introduction

What is happening on college campuses today? How do we sort through what we are observing in the news about protests, loss of civility in the student body, and intolerance towards other viewpoints? And how do we equip the young adults in our lives for engaging the world in which they have been placed with confidence and hope?

*Key terms: relational apologetics, university, civility, dignity, differentiation, structure/support/challenge*

### Questions for discussion and evaluation

If you went to college, what were your own experiences like? How did they shape you? What was challenging or difficult? What was beneficial? Share your stories with your kids/students. Make yourself available and let them ask *you* tons of questions about your experiences.

What fears do you have regarding the experience your children might have in college (either now or in the future)? On what observations and experiences are those fears based? \*Parents: *Discerning your emotions and differentiating between your emotions and thoughts and your children's needs will allow you to more peacefully evaluate the what, when, where, why, and how—and even if!—questions around college decisions for your kids.*

Who and/or what has the most influence on any individual's way of thinking? Where have you seen that in your life? Your children's/students' lives? How does that knowledge influence your thoughts, emotions, and actions?

According to some of the information presented in the episode: By what age is a student's worldview solidified? How does that inform our understanding of who has the most influence on their future thinking? Where do you see the Lord's faithful provision for His children?

What fruit comes of having our thinking—even our core beliefs—challenged? What are the outcomes for which we might hope?

What options for growth and support do your young adults/students have as they make deeper forays into engaging the world? How are you coaching their awareness of those options?

Consider the phrases “wise as serpents, gentle as doves” and “don't cast your pearls before swine.” Ask your kids or students what they think these phrases might mean in the context of engaging in

or refraining from debate or protest on college campus. How are you equipping them to be “salt and light” among their peers? Ask them what they think serving as “salt and light” means.

How might we equip our children to wisely know when to engage or when to disengage? What elements of support (relational, communal, spiritual, emotional, etc.) do they need? What elements of structure (routines, disciplines, best practices) do they need?

What can you affirm in what you’re seeing in your older students’ choices as they grow in independence and toward their vocational expressions? What can you affirm that you are seeing on the college campuses they are looking considering (or experiencing)?

How do state schools really stack up against private schools? How do we determine a healthy fit for our children? What do we look for in the culture? In the resources?

How can we contribute to peace and perspective instead of exaggeration and elevating the emotions?

How do we seek to represent Christ to those students who don’t yet know Him? What is the church’s response? What is our response as parents? What is the response of believing educators who are on campuses? What does an intentional discipleship response look like?

How can I continue to build into my best friends’ children’s lives? What about our high school students who are looking towards college life? What about the college campus near us?

How do we prepare our children for encounters with real people who may have bad ideas—but are nonetheless precious image-bearers, worthy of respect, and desperate for loving-kindness?

### **Scriptural anchors/provision**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. — Ephesians 4:11-15

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