

IN THEORY: Burroughs High School show must go on

John Burroughs High School students in Burbank recently performed a summer musical called "Children of Eden," loosely based on the Old Testament. Some have criticized the show, arguing that it blurred the lines between church and state and that tax money shouldn't go to such a program. Others say students should be exposed to all cultures and themes, of which the Old Testament is a part. What do you think?

It seems to me that it is intellectually dishonest when the "division of church and state" is interpreted to mean that any mention of religion in a government/state-sponsored setting is strictly forbidden. It's true, the writers of the Constitution did not want a state-sponsored religion as had been the case in England, but the idea of abolishing any mention of religion was never their intent. There are those among us who will not be satisfied until every religious reference is completely expunged from culture and erased from the pages of history books. Currently, tax-funded schools already make room in certain instances for religious-themed materials, Christian and non-Christian alike. The public school system, for example, allows the Bible to be taught as literature. Great works of literature utilized in the classroom make reference to biblical themes and characters, and any study of art history would be incomplete without mention of religious artistry throughout the ages. Public tax-based institutions do not exist to promote religious ideologies. But to deny any mention of religious themes in any context is too extreme.

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