

Should It Be Illegal to Indoctrinate Kids With

By Zoltan Istvan | 15 November 2014

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Religious child soldiers carrying AK-47s. Bullying anti-gay Jesus kids. Infant genital mutilation. Teenage sui matter where you look, if adults are participating in dogmatic religions, then they are also pushing those sa

Regardless what you think and believe, science shows human beings know very little. Our eyes register only spectrum in the universe. Our ears detect less than 1 percent of its sound wave frequencies. Human senses—the world—leave much to be desired. In fact, our genome is only 1 percent different than that of a chimpanzee; no one really knows that much about what is going on with ourselves and the universe, we still insist on the handed down to us from our barefoot forefathers. We celebrate holidays over these ancient religious tales; these fables; we go to war to defend these myths.

A child's mind is terribly susceptible to what it hears and sees from parents, family, and social surrounding brain remains in a delicate developmental phase until far later in life.

"Kids are impressionable," said Dr. Eunice Pearson-Hefty, director of the Teaching Environmental Science Conservation Commission. "Anything you tell them when they're real small can have a lasting impression."

It's only later, when kids hit their teens that they begin to think for themselves and see the bigger picture. If their parent's teachings make sense and are correct. However, depending on the power of the indoctrination successfully question anything is likely stifled their entire lives.

In my philosophical and atheist-minded novel *The Transhumanist Wager*, protagonist Jethro Knights ends laws of the world. One important issue he faces is whether to make religion illegal altogether. There are many that have been beneficial to the human race, especially in the last few centuries. In the end, a love of basic liberties prevents religion to exist. Although, he restricts religion from the public sphere, restricts religion from being integrated into the public sphere from being pushed on minors.

Not surprisingly, some in the atheist and **transhumanist** communities feel the same way Mr. Knights does. warmongering prophet, or a four-armed blue deity, or a spiteful God who drowns nearly all of his people is willing to allow it. So long as it doesn't meaningfully interfere with the world.

The problem is that it does meaningfully interfere with the world. 911 was a religious-inspired event. So was so is the quintessential conflict between Palestine and Israel. If you take "God" and "religion" out of all the they would not have happened at all. Instead, what you'd probably find is peaceful people and communities: life through reason, science, and technology—which is the essence of transhumanism and the outcome of e

"Religion should remain a private endeavor for adults," says Giovanni Santostasi, PhD, who is a neuroscien School of Medicine and runs the 10,000 person strong Facebook group **Scientific Transhumanism**. "An app kind of like porn—which means it's not something one would expose a child to."

Unfortunately, even though atheists, nonreligious people, and transhumanists number almost a billion pec unreasonable to imagine taking "God" and "religion" out of the world entirely. But we do owe it to the child free from the ambush of belief systems that have a history of leading to great violence, obsessively neurotic every social group that exists.

Like some **other** atheists and transhumanists, I join in calling for regulation that restricts religious indoctri say, 16 years of age. Once a kid hits their mid-teens, let them have at it—if religion is something that interes curious, and able to rationally start exploring their world, with or without the guidance of parents. But befo repeatedly be subjected to ideas that are faith-based, unproven, and historically wrought with danger. Forci form of child abuse, which scars their ability to reason and also limits their ability to consider the world in society should not have to indoctrinate its children; its children should discover and choose religious paths adults, if they are to choose one at all.

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businesses, from real estate development to filmmaking to viticulture, joining them under ZI Ventures. He graduate of Columbia University and resides in San Francisco with his two daughters and physician wife. Z Bus, a 38-foot vehicle shaped like a coffin to spread the message that science can conquer death. He is the a award-winning, #1 bestselling Philosophy book describing philosopher Jethro Knights and his unwavering c technology. You can follow his work at zoltanistvan.com, on [Wakelet](#), [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).



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