

THE CLASSICAL
BRINGING LIFE TO THE CLASSROOM

Difference

ACCS

An ACCS Alumni Study
Not for open publication until February 2020

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering [100 fold more than was sown]"

ACCS

— LUKE 8

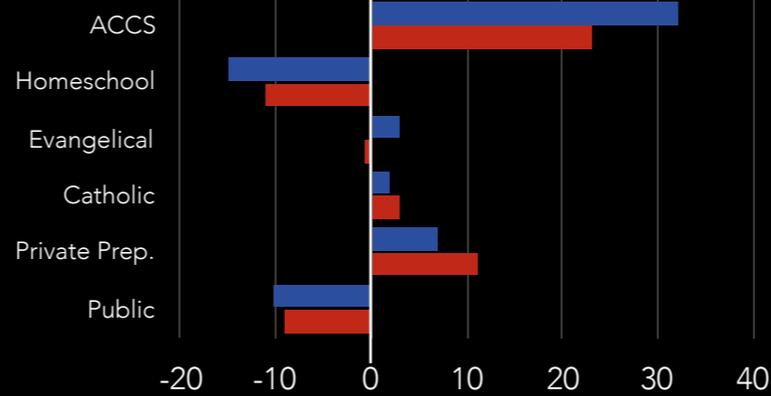
In Luke 8, we see the of well cultivated soil to receive the Word of God. Classical Christian education has cultivated each generation in every century since Christ came, until the turn of the 20th century. Over the past 30 years, our ACCS member schools have restarted this tradition to help cultivate a new generation of believers.

Andrew Brinkerhoff
CERN Physicist



"I think the [classical Christian] approach likely served me better than an AP approach. The skills of systematic, comprehensive analysis and intelligible, persuasive communication are likely to serve its students better in all of those fields than additional technical instruction in any of them."

Index: Prepared for College and Career



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PREPARED FOR COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY, PREPARED FOR JOB, READ BOOKS, PERCENT THAT EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR MORE, COLLEGE GPA.

Scale: Percentage of respondents above or below the median (~50%). I.e. "40" means 90% of respondents.

Blue = Actual responses on the survey

Red = Household influence statistically adjusted to reflect the school's impact alone

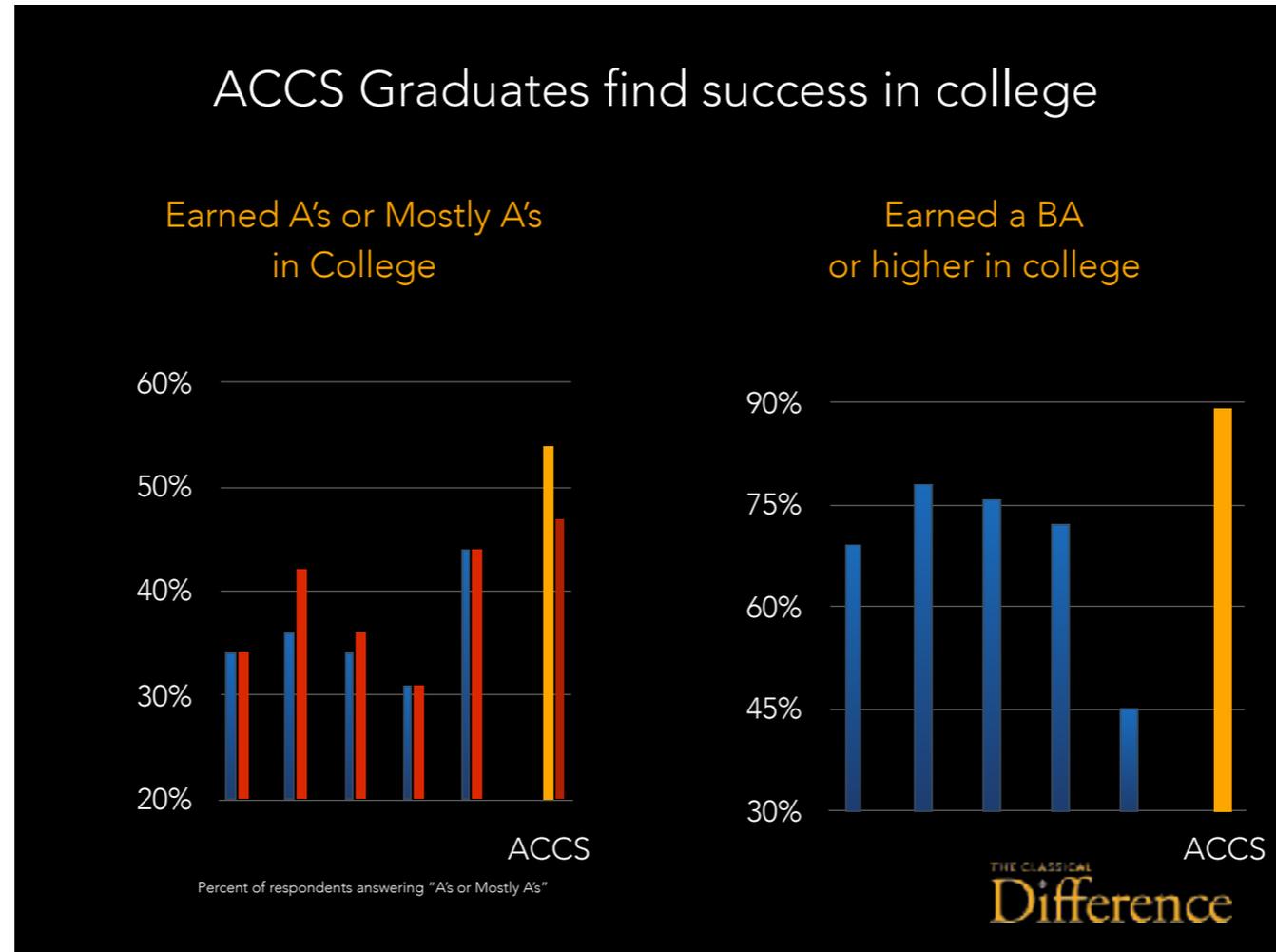
First, we'll talk about college preparation and preparation for career. While ACCS schools are tasked with a different mission, a side benefit of the classical method is academic preparedness.

For each of these indexes, we've selected an ACCS alumnus as a representative. You can visit classicaldifference.org to read the full story of each of these alumnus. Andrew Brinkerhoff, who graduated from an ACCS school in Ohio, is a CERN physicist who helped discover the Higgs Boson particle— a major accomplishment in theoretical physics. <read>.

In this chart, we can see that both the red and blue lines show a significant difference. The red lines reflect the school's effect, isolated from other family factors. This calibration is accomplished through the previously mentioned Regression Analysis technique which can identify and remove factors like family income, frequency of family church attendance, parents marital status, and so on.

The zero point, shown here with the white line, is the median, or about 50%. Lines to the left or right are below or above the median respectively. In actual data (blue), the ACCS reports a score of 32. This point system reflects the degree of influence that a school has on a scale from -50 to +50. This point system reflects the magnitude of the difference in the respondents. These points can be turned into percentages by adding 50 to the points shown.

ACCS Graduates find success in college



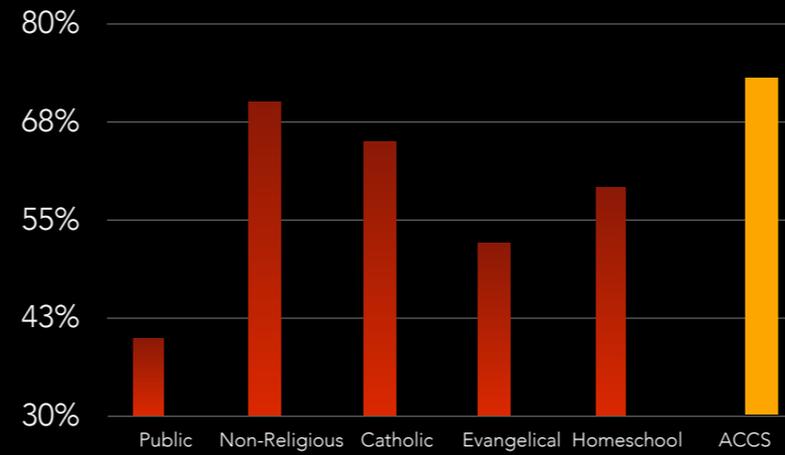
Almost 55% of ACCS alumni earned A's or Mostly A's in college, and when corrected to show only the school effect, ACCS still reports the highest of any group—45%. Let's take a moment to understand the red/blue bars.

Imagine that we could create, through statistical means, a representative “neutral” alumnus that was not influenced by his family’s income, parent’s education, religion, practices, etc.— We’ll call the group of this imaginary type of alumnus the “neutral alumni.” The red bars indicate what the results would be if we only surveyed a collection of neutral alumni from all 6 types of schools. Thus, the causes for the red bars could only represent the school’s impact on the reported college grades. We see that ACCS neutral alumni would still have the highest grades, but rather than 55% reporting A’s, only 47% would report A’s. Why? ACCS Alumni do 8% better when they came from the average family profile that happen to attend ACCS schools. The family causes some of the college grades reported in the raw data for ACCS Schools. In contrast, private preparatory schools would have 42% of their imaginary neutral alumni with A’s, verses the 36% who actually reported A’s. This is the inverse effect from the ACCS schools. Why could this be? Something about the families that attend prep schools diminishes the school’s impact on their actual alumni grades in college. Speculation may help clarify. We could speculate that more private prep alumni come from highly-educated parents who drive their children to attend top colleges with harder grading. Therefore, the type of student who generally attends preparatory schools reports lower grades than the neutral student. Our reporting does not allow us to assess what family factors actually contribute to the red bars, so we can only speculate.

Similarly, ACCS alumni may have come from families of lower income than preparatory schools. Therefore, they may tend to attend lower-profile colleges with easier grading, which contributes to more reported A’s in this question. For other school segments besides prep and ACCS, there is no real difference between the blue bars and the neutral student bars. These school alumni have no distinction between their alumni and the neutral alumni in their actual population— for this question. Other questions may report differently.

To simplify, in this report, we tend to show blue and red bars selectively when there is little value in the comparisons between actual and imaginary neutral alumni.

ACCS Grads compare favorably against other Christian schools in job preparation



Percent who felt well prepared for job

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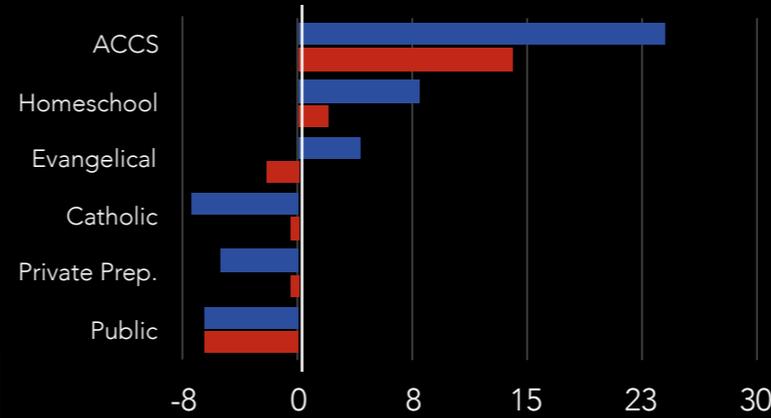
Here, we're looking at the "neutral alumni" responses. We also see that ACCS alumni are well prepared for their jobs— about the same as non-religious prep schools. They report being significantly more prepared than Evangelical or Homeschool families.

Nicole Ault
Journalist



“CCE [teaches that the] world is integrated and purposeful, and therefore abundantly fascinating. Everything in creation... belongs to God, and studying the world—from ancient literature to calculus—is a way of knowing Him better. There is nothing to fear and everything to learn. Life is rich.”

Index: Life Outlook



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PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN ANSWER FOR: THANKFULNESS, GOD'S CALLING TO A PARTICULAR LINE OF WORK, EVERYTHING, EVEN SUFFERING, IN GOD'S PLAN, TRUST PEOPLE, - HELPLESSNESS, -NO GOALS.

Scale: Percentage points above or below the median (~50%). I.e. "40" means 90% of respondents.
Blue = Actual responses on the survey
Red = Household influence adjusted to reflect the school's impact alone

When it comes down to it, this is perhaps the most important index for parents— Life Outlook. It's also one of the most distinctive for ACCS alumni. It seems that “happiness” is the illusive measure that so many pursue and so few find. And, based on nationwide statistics, we now have a crisis of life satisfaction indicators. For example, among the ages studied in this survey, 25-44 year olds, the second highest cause of death, behind accident, is suicide. (2017 National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 68, Num 6, Melonie Heron, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.) Drug overdoses are another major cause. This change has reversed a nearly half century long trend of increasing life expectancies. Life expectancy is now declining for the first time in decades.

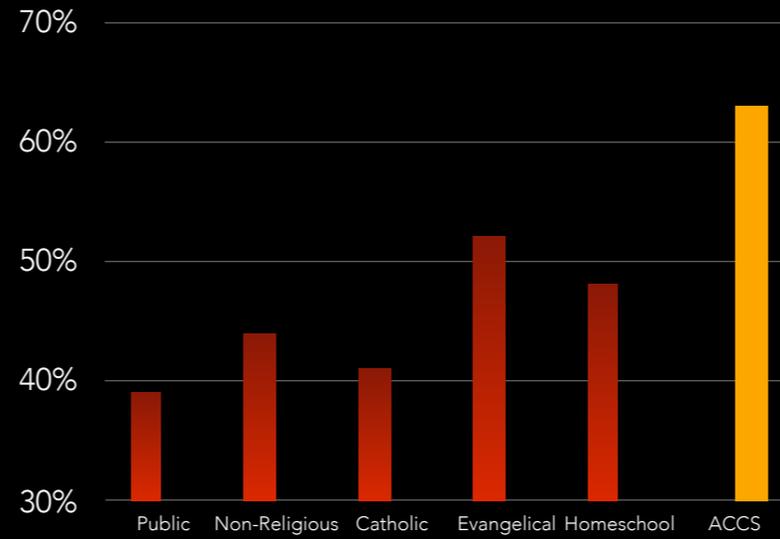
Nicole Ault, ACCS alumni and Journalist, reflects on the outlook on life she got at her ACCS school: <read>

This index is made up of attitudes, beliefs, and practices that are indicators of a healthy life outlook. Do you feel a sense of purpose? Are you called by God to do something important? Is your suffering part of His plan? Has God equipped you for this mission? Are you grateful for all that you have? If your answers are yes to these questions, you will likely be more trusting, more optimistic, and feel like life is worthwhile. If you were taught to see the world this way— if your paideia, or life outlook were formed to love these things— then maybe happiness would come more naturally. This is why our purpose statement at the beginning of this presentation is so important to keep in mind. We are cultivating students to love the right things, rightly, so they will accept their calling.

When corrected for family factors, only ACCS schools and Homeschools are above the median.

Let's look at a few of the indicators we put into this index.

Everything that Happens, Including My Suffering, is a Part of God's plan



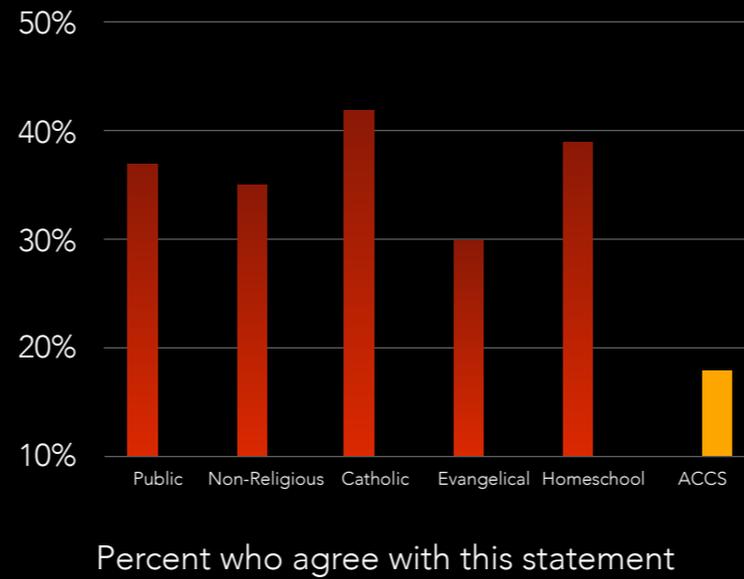
Those who agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

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There was a significant difference in the overall scores of ACCS alumni who believe that everything, including suffering, is part of God's plan. It seems clear that when one's life outlook takes this view of suffering, one has a healthier outlook.

Other questions within the survey cast further light on the outlooks students took with them into adulthood based upon their schools.

Life Often Lacks Clear Goals, or a Sense of Direction

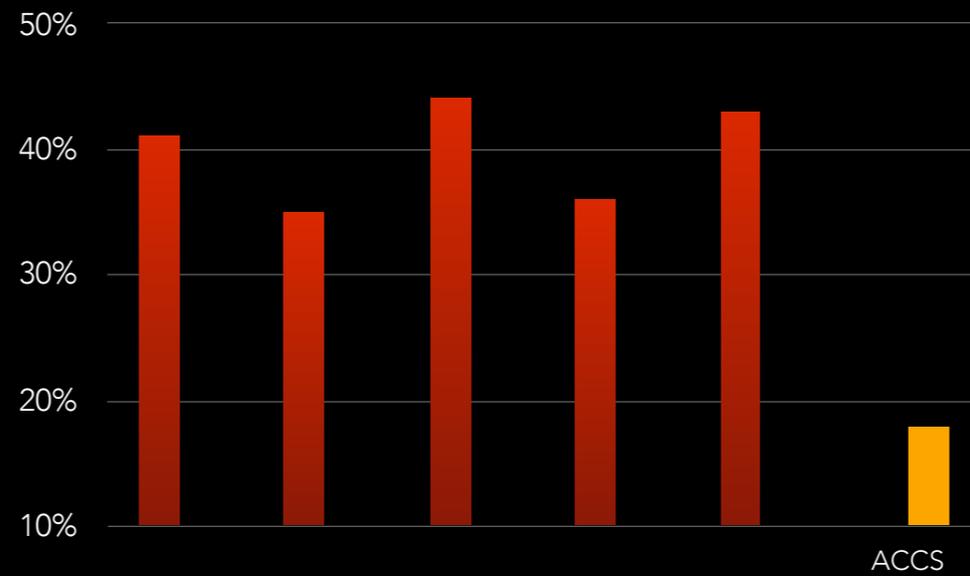


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ACCS alumni have a clear sense of purpose and direction. Only 14% of ACCS Alumni agreed that life lacks clear goals or a sense of direction. ACCS Schools give students perspective on life through a study of theology, philosophy, history, and literature— with a wide ranging exposure to the Western Canon. And, we teach them to love the Lord with their minds, souls, and strength throughout every subject. We believe this perspective shows up when alumni think about their significance in the grand scheme of things.

This question indicates ACCS alumni are hopeful. This outlook shows up in the data in other ways...

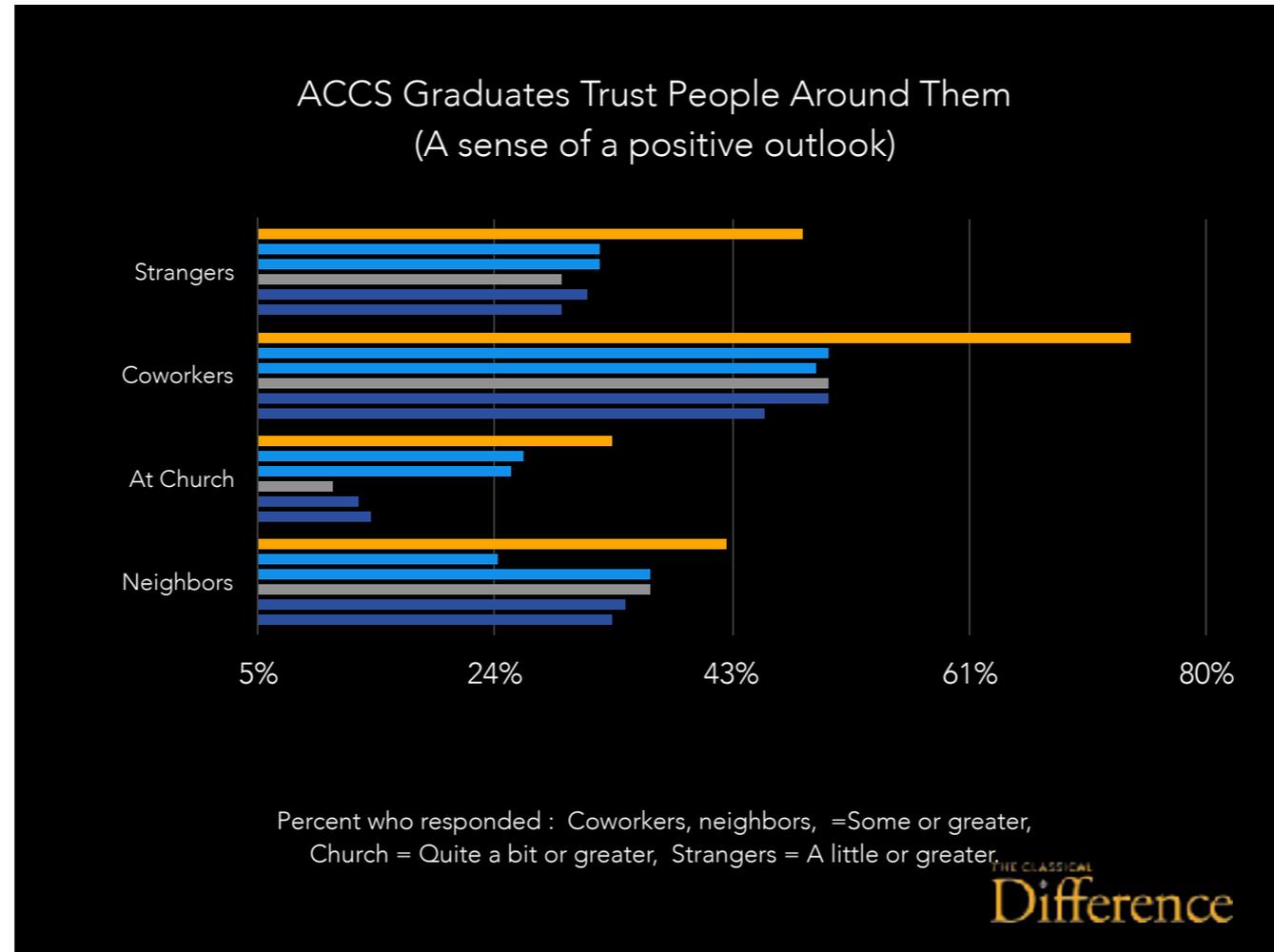
Feel Helpless Dealing with Life's Problems



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We can see that the outlook of ACCS alumni is reflected in many different ways throughout the survey. A sense of accomplishment and 'grit' has been shown by researchers like Angela Duckworth to contribute to success. We can see here that ACCS alumni are much less likely than others to feel helpless, which contributes to a positive outlook.

This healthy outlook shows up in ways that go deeper...



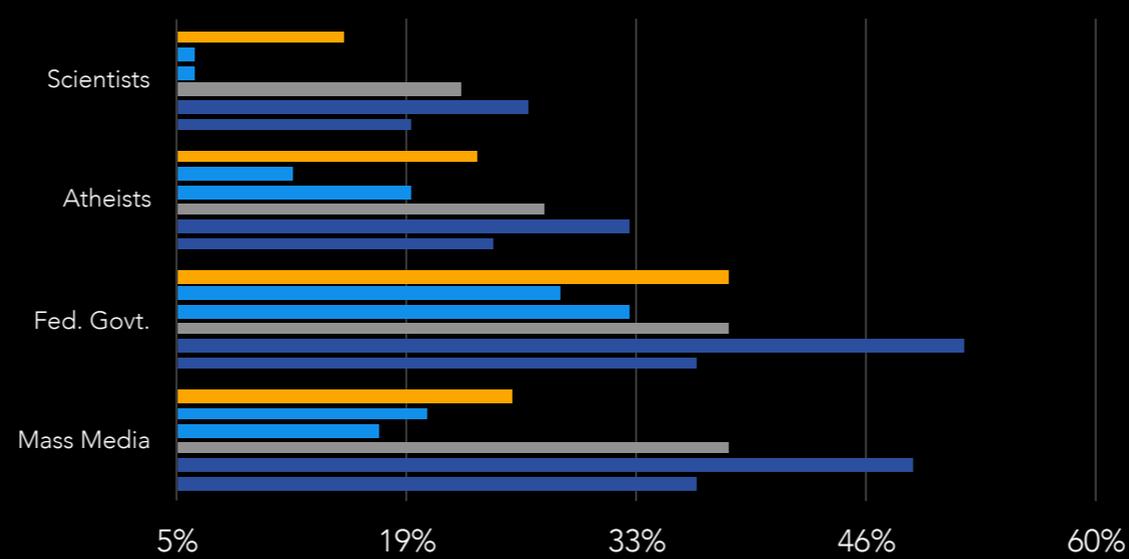
This graph shows the responses of alumni to “who do you trust” questions. Note here, gold is ACCS as usual, the light blue are Evangelical “christian” schools, the dark are secular. Catholic schools tend to trend with secular schools, but are in gray here. Blue-shading is because these are actual numbers. The school impact, usually in red, is not significantly different.

The first takeaway from this and the next slide is how much more ACCS alumni trust others. Given the answers elsewhere in the survey, we believe this relates to something besides having a rational basis for this trust. Psychologists have long held that trust is a strong indicator of a positive life outlook. An article in the March 20, 2014 issue of *The Atlantic* associates “generalized trust” with better health and happiness, and with intelligence. ACCS Grads are the most trusting of personal relationships in every category.

Catholic school alumni seem to be the least likely to trust people in their church, which might be influenced by recent scandals. This is a warning for all of us when it comes to integrity in the church. When it comes to strangers and co-workers, ACCS alumni are the most unique, in that they are highly trusting, though they trust everyone more than any other alumni.

ACCS graduates are significantly more likely to trust those they encounter on a daily basis. This trust carries over into how they engage the broader world outside of their personal circles...

ACCS Graduates Trust Institutions and Outsiders (A possible sign they are stable and not threatened by outsiders)



Percent who responded: Feds, media= Only a little or greater
Scientists = Quite a bit or greater. Atheists = Some or greater

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This list is of trust in more casual or institutional contacts, rather than friends and neighbors. Note that ACCS alumni are not the top group in any of these categories—Secular preparatory schools are. But, the groups listed here are also typically seen as hostile to Evangelical Christians, so we would expect to see lower trust factors for ACCS alumni.

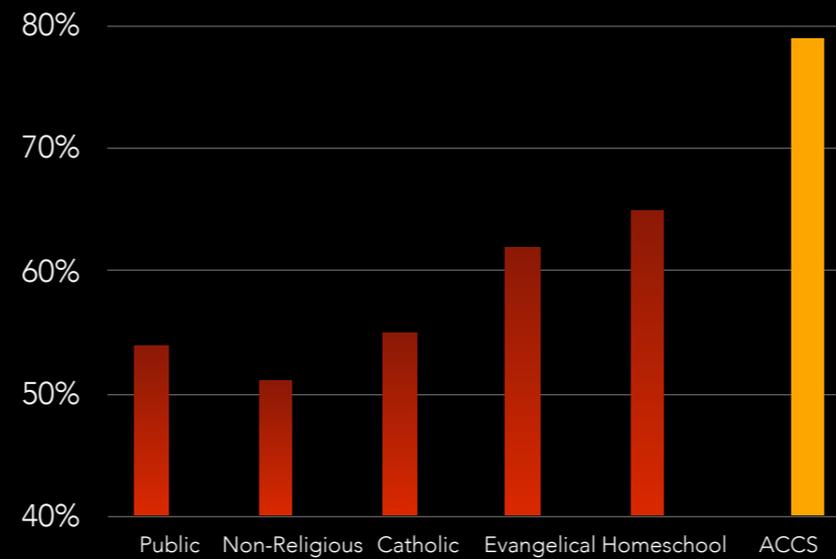
ACCS alumni do trust these groups more than their counterparts at other Evangelical schools. We believe this continues to support the thesis that a greater life outlook is reflected in trust.

ACCS alumni are much more likely to trust scientists and atheists than other evangelicals. In contrast, we'll see later that they are not as willing as the other groups to believe scientism, or atheistic evolution. This plays into the intellectual independence index which will come later. It seems ACCS alumni do not feel as threatened by the anti-Christian ideas that come their way. Most ACCS schools are not afraid to expose students to scientific or atheistic ideas, and they teach students to rightly understand them. This seems to carry forward into their lives.

Among conservative Evangelically educated groups, ACCS alumni are more likely to trust the Federal government and the mass media, though they are generally less likely to trust them than the secular groups. Once again, we'll see later that the bias the government and press inject into the conversation does not influence ACCS graduates nearly as much as the other groups. We'll see later that ACCS alumni stand out as strongly traditional and conservative on matters espoused by government and media. Yet, they trust more in general. Possibly, this is because ACCS schools take to heart Aristotle's maxim that an educated man can "entertain a thought without accepting it."

One note, this survey was taken prior to the historically low trust in media figures experienced in most of 2019.

I Have So Much In Life To Be Thankful For

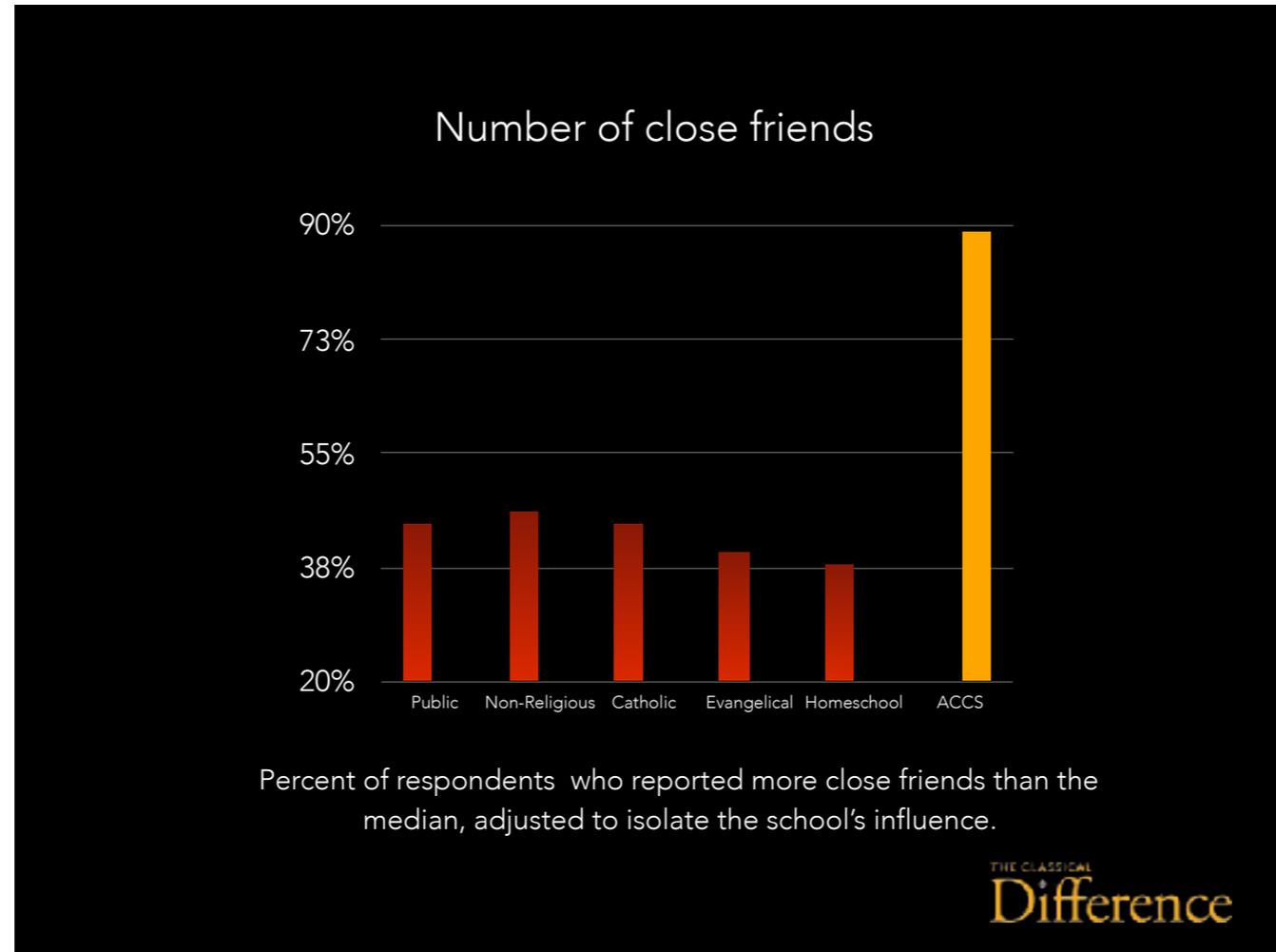


Those who agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

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The same question here, shown as corrected for the school influence only, is very similar, or even more pronounced. ACCS alumni are significantly more grateful.

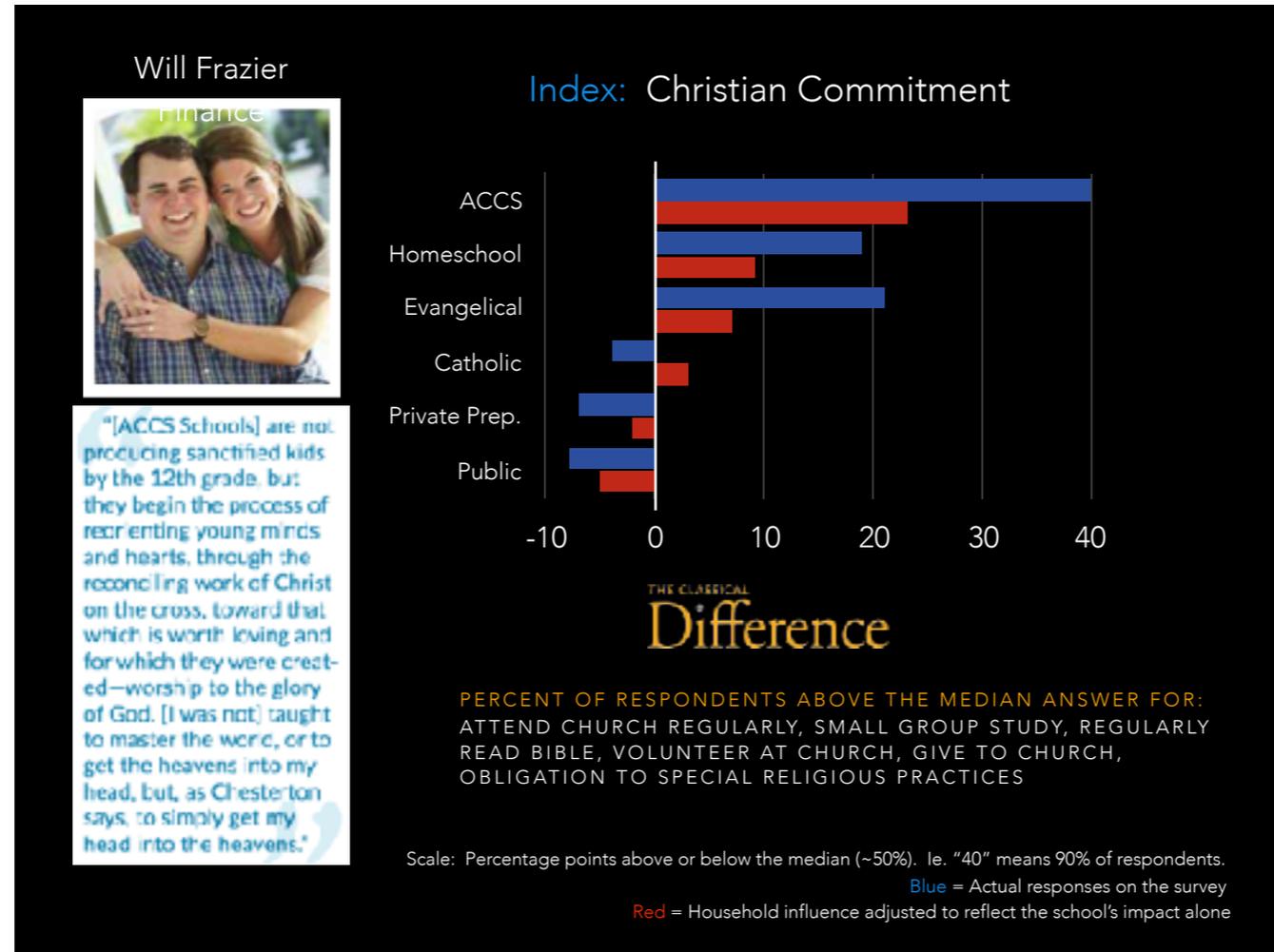
Finally, the outlook factor that is particularly encouraging is friendship...



Respondents were asked to think about close friends from their neighborhood, family, church, or wherever, and asked how many they had. The median answer for the whole population was 3 friends. 90% of ACCS alumni reported more friends than this. When asked to name their “close ties”, the percentage was 94% above the median. The data consistently show that ACCS alumni have more and closer relationships in adulthood. Also, the data indicates that more ACCS alumni count among these close friends the people they attended high school with.

83% of ACCS alumni talk with their friends about religion and significantly more of them interact frequently with their friends on a weekly basis.

A healthy view of suffering, life goals, gratitude, trust of others, and strong friendships are significant indicators that our students enjoy life with a depth and understanding that is unmatched, and much, if not most, of the apparent cause is the ACCS school they attended.



After academics and life outlook have been considered, we can now look at two indexes that reflect aspects of alumni's Christian life. The first is Christian Commitment, the second, Christian Lifestyle.

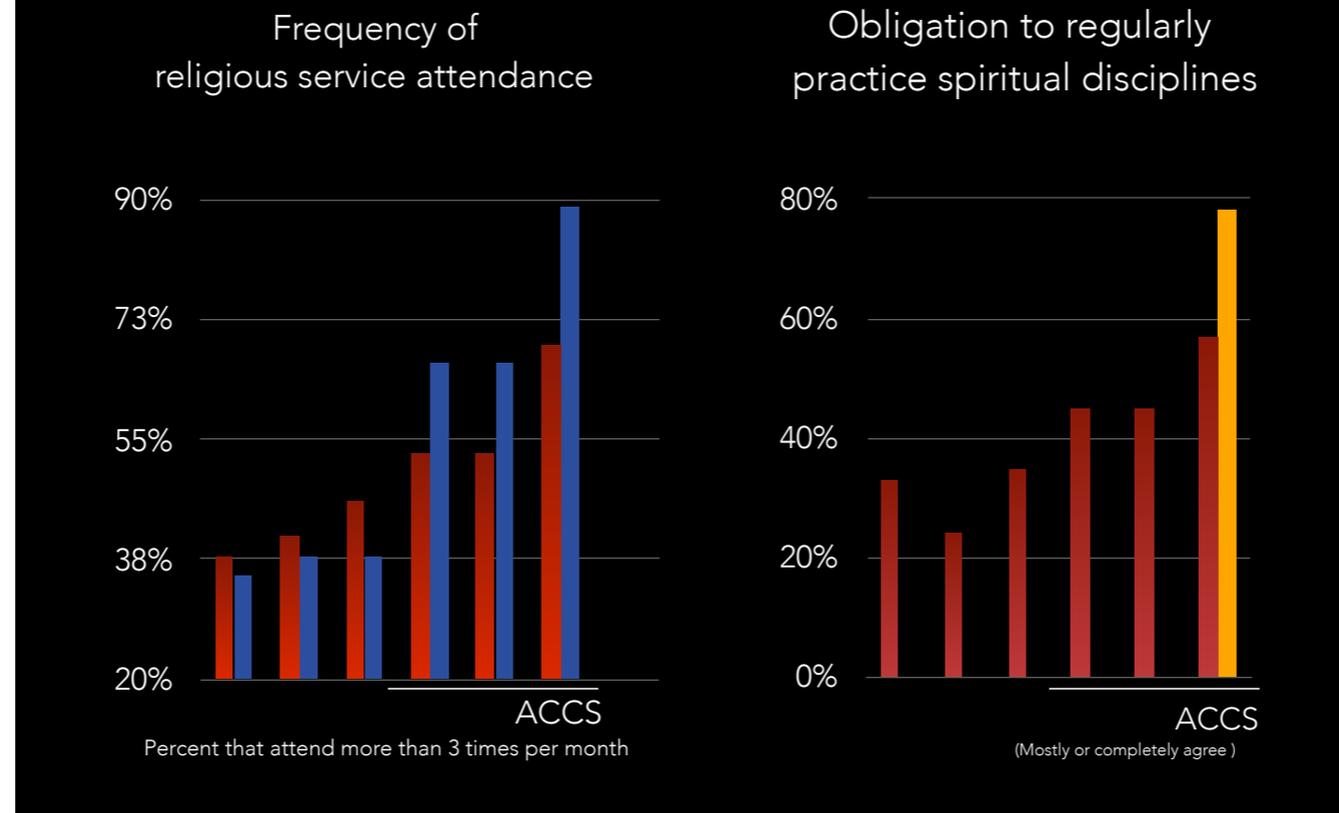
Will Frazier, ACCS alumni and financial analyst, puts the school's role in perspective:

The first index is Christian Commitment which reflects a person's practices. Things like church attendance, bible studies, and volunteering combine with attitudes like their obligation to observe religious practices to create this index.

For this index, there are two groups that place above the median along with the ACCS— Homeschool and Evangelical schools. While they do show strength here as well, the ACCS shows the most pronounced influence in this area by a wide margin.

Let's look at the details of this difference...

Committed to the church



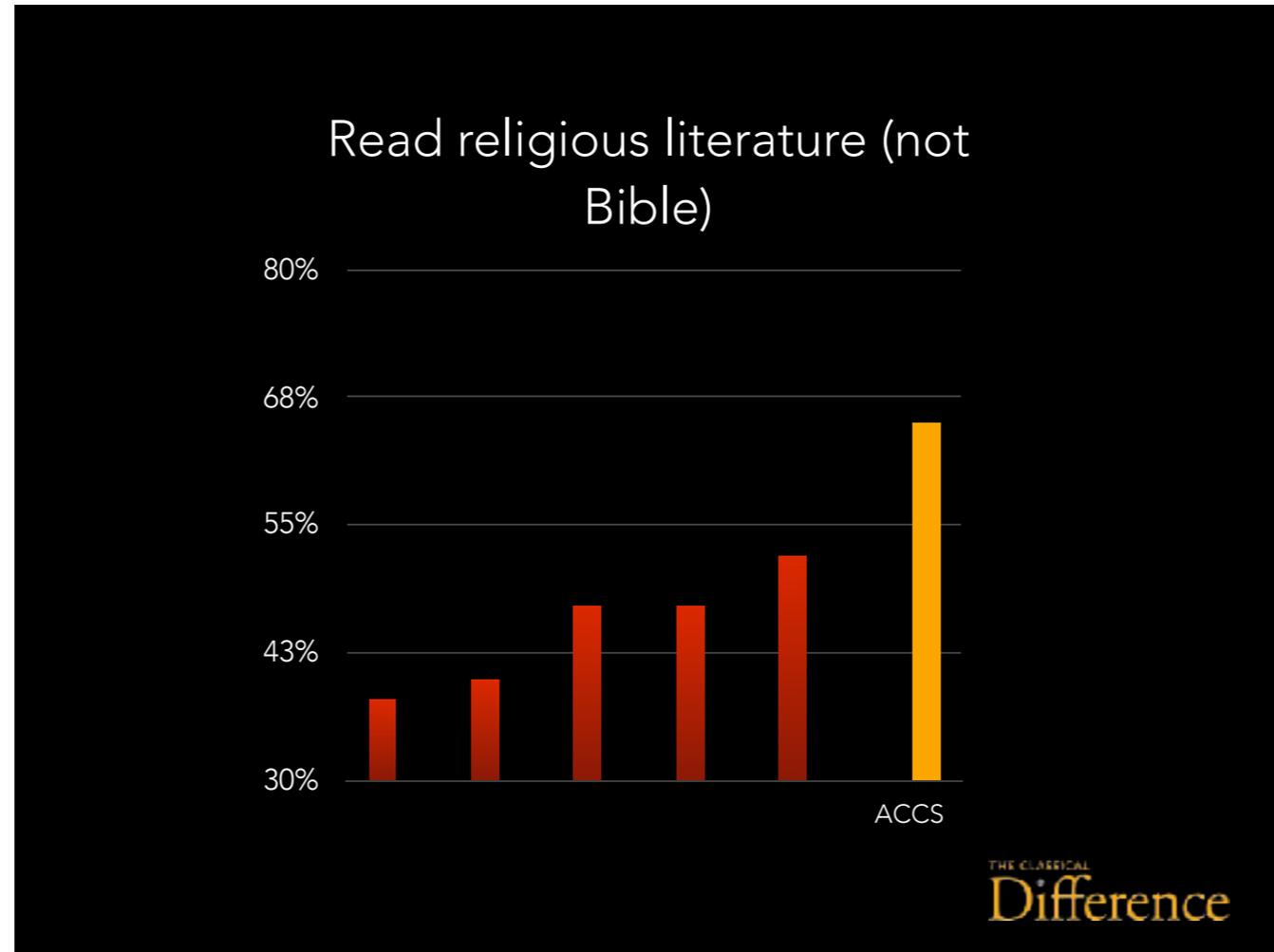
Here, we see the most obvious indicators of alumni practice and attitude— Frequency of church attendance is the percent who attended church more than 3 times per month. The red bar for the ACCS shows a significantly higher church attendance. <click> The blue bar shows the actual response data, which is more than 20 percentage points higher than the next highest group’s actual data— Evangelical schools. This shows there is a significant effect from ACCS schools.

<click>

We can see the attitudes of alumni regarding spiritual disciplines, again corrected to reflect only the school effect. Again, ACCS alumni have a clear and significantly different viewpoint than other graduates.

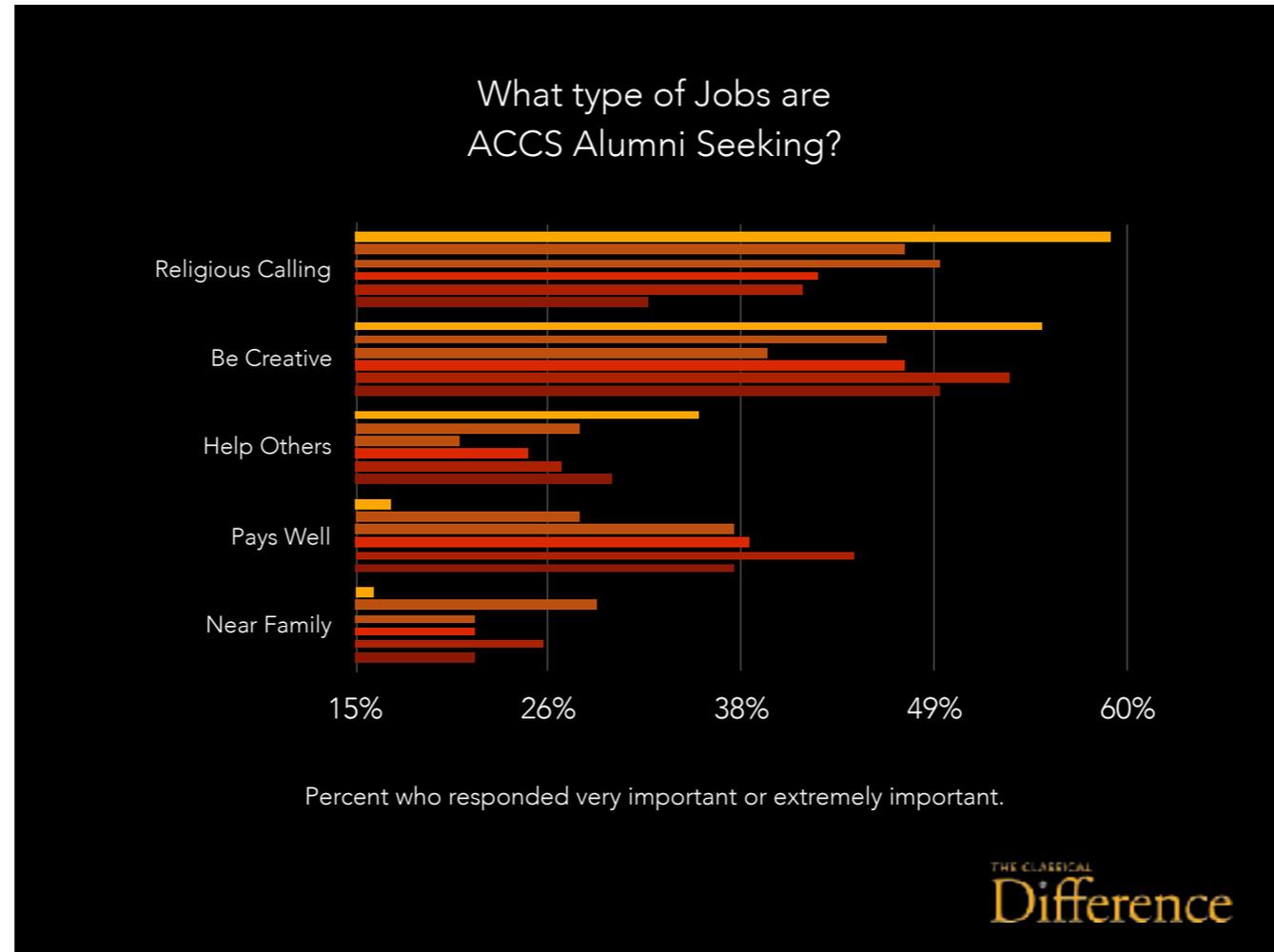
These two factors seem to answer the question most of us what to know: Do ACCS schools influence whether a student will remain faithful to church and remain committed to spiritual discipline?

With nearly 90% of ACCS alumni attending church at least 3 times a month, we asked how else are they involved?



Beyond the bible, ACCS alumni are more likely to read religious literature.

To round out this index, we looked at how students were prioritizing in their lives, for example, what kind of employment they were seeking...



Vocational priority indicates where alumni spend a big segment their time. And, for ACCS alumni, their priority for choosing a career is distinct from all other groups.

Note here, gold is ACCS as usual, the gold-red are Evangelical “christian” schools, the dark red are secular. Catholic tend to trend with secular, but are in bright red here.

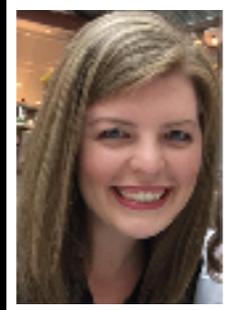
ACCS alumni strongly seek a job that fulfills their religious calling, they want to help others— significantly more than their Evangelical counterparts, and they are willing to take less pay and sacrifice family proximity to follow this calling.

Note that an interest in creativity is unique to both preparatory and ACCS schools.

The takeaway is that ACCS alumni are likely to serve more through their vocation, particularly in a religious calling, and they are willing to sacrifice financially to do it.

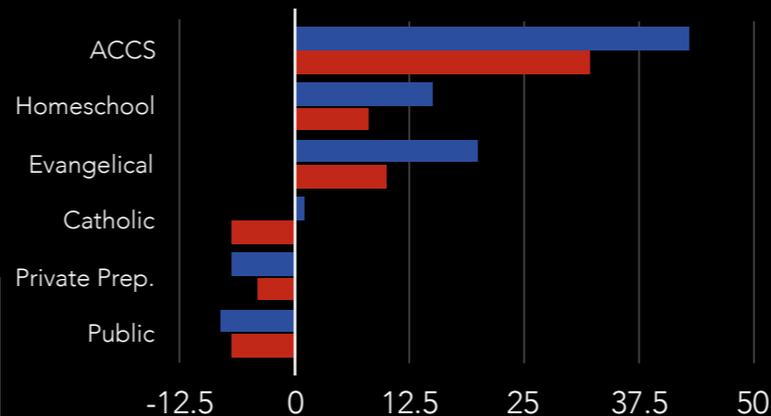
How do these practices bear out in life? We’ll see in the Christian Life index, up next.

Megan Best
Teacher



Classical Christian education never wants to leave the heart or mind wanting. Social media apps, how-to books, and other ingenious inventions will come and go. They always change based on human desires or vices. Classical Christian education, though, links itself with the best parts of human culture, and unites students with long-lasting, forever relevant ideas.

Index: Christian Life



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Difference

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN ANSWER FOR:
ACCEPT CHURCH AUTHORITY, FAMILY EAT, PRAY, TALK ABOUT
GOD, READ BIBLE TOGETHER, - NEVER LIVED TOGETHER
BEFORE MARRIED, NEVER DIVORCED.

Scale: Percentage points above or below the median (~50%). I.e. "40" means 90% of respondents.
Blue = Actual responses on the survey
Red = Household influence adjusted to reflect the school's impact alone

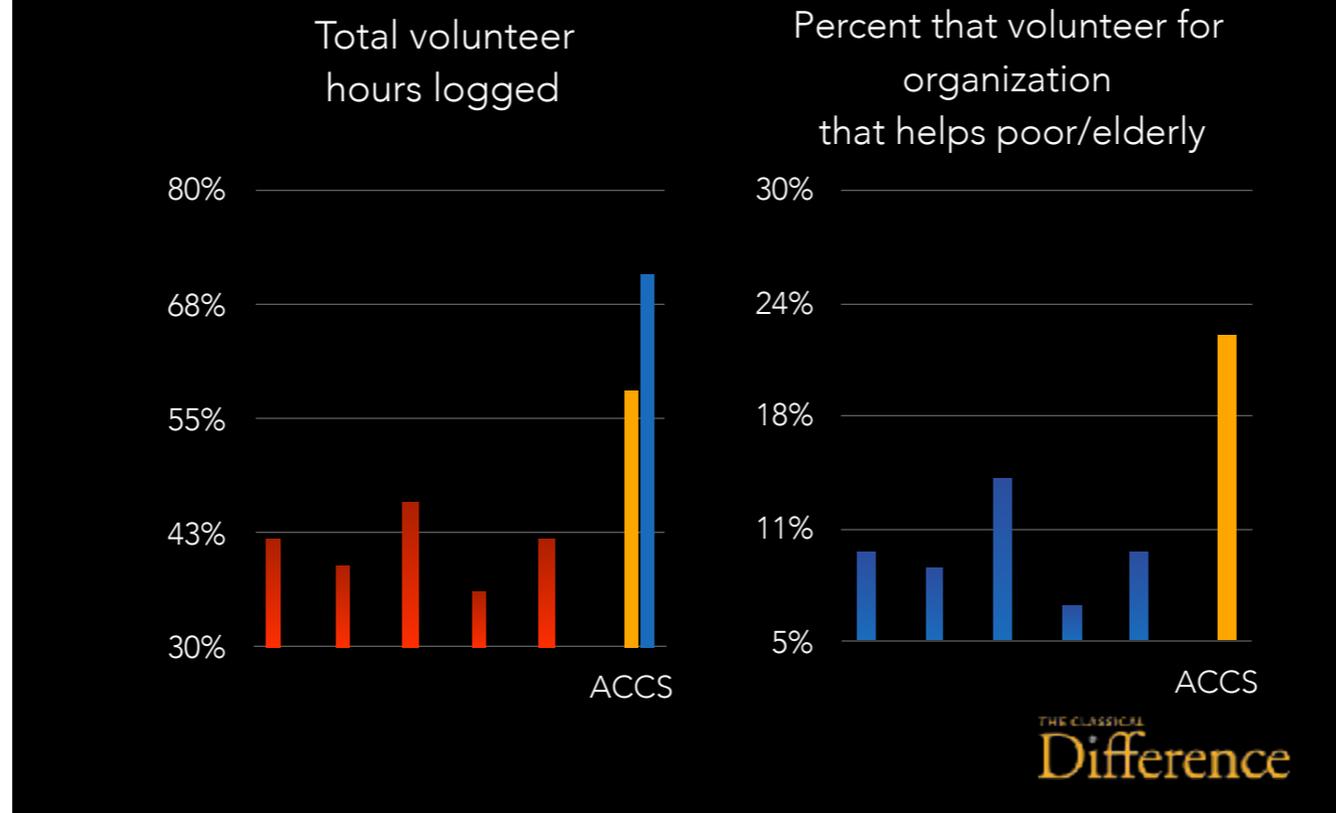
The Christian living index attempts to capture lifestyle differences for alumni that are derived from their beliefs and are a reflection of their Christian Commitment.

Megan Best went to an ACCS school and now teaches at that school. She sums up her life choice to serve in a school <quote>

As with Christian Commitment, the CL index shows some common ground with Evangelical and Homeschools, though on very different scales. Clearly, students are better off in a conservative Christian school environment overall, if your desire is to foster a Christian life. Given the Biblical call in Ephesians for fathers to raise their children in the Paideia of the Lord, this shouldn't need to be proven by research. Paideia, the ancient greek word translates to at least 7 words like fear, instruction, education, training, and admonition. The translation is wide because the concept is big. ACCS schools base their entire educational model on this concept and its underlying principles. Conventional schools typically do not. This creates a very unique environment in ACCS schools where Christian Paideia is infused throughout the method, content and ethos of the schools. We believe this is reflected in the differences we see between conventional Christian schools and Evangelical or Home schools.

Here, the ACCS school effect is more than 3 times as pronounced when compared to the next highest form of school. The underlying data helps us understand these differences in some detail...

Invest time in their communities

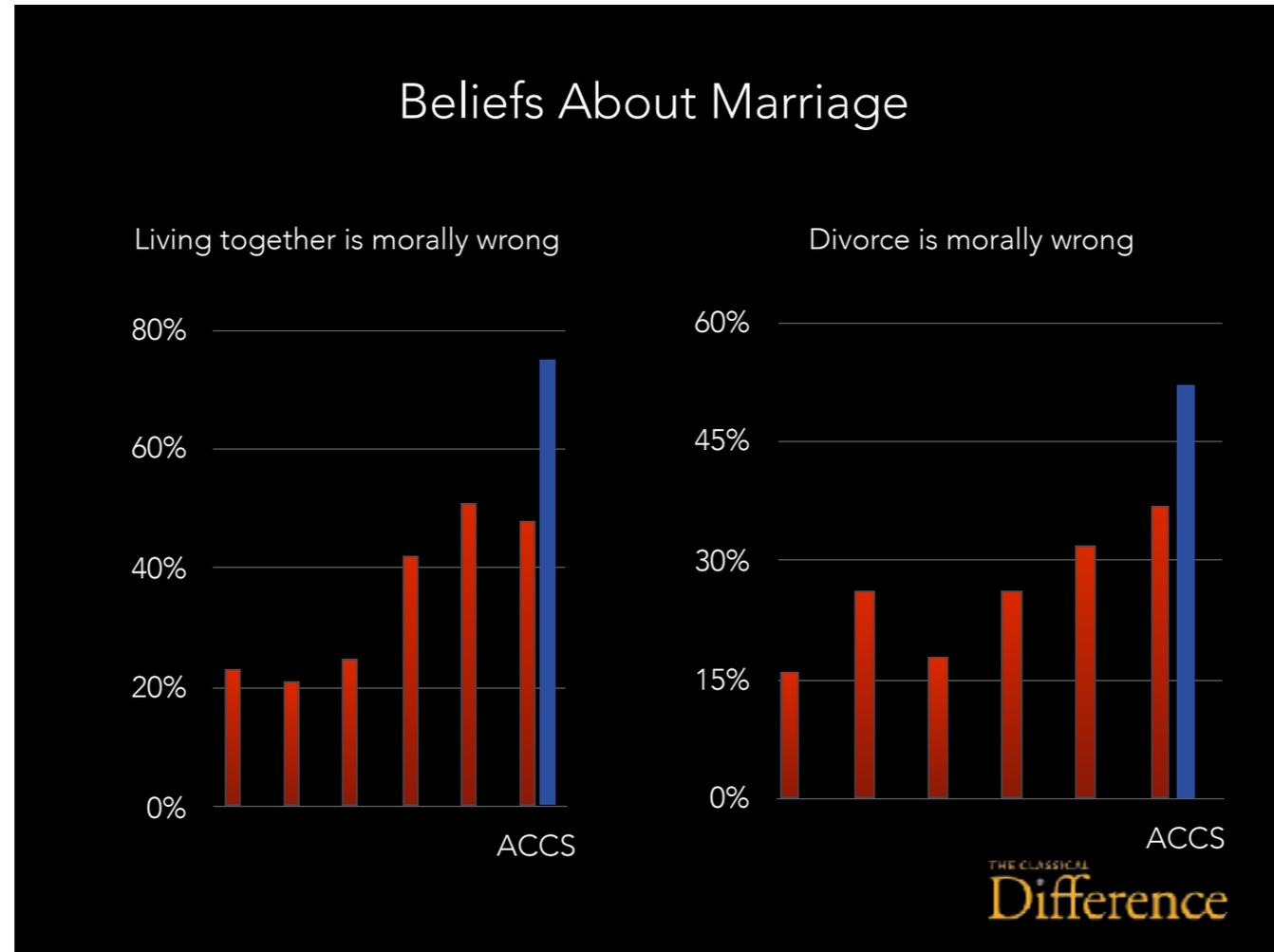


ACCS alumni invest in their communities. Here, we see that ACCS alumni volunteer at a greater rate, with the actual data showing a very high rate of volunteering— the median is about 1 hour per month. 70% of ACCS alumni report exceeding this number.

While most sectors reported about the same type of volunteering, ACCS alumni reported less emphasis on volunteering for youth programs, and more emphasis on helping the poor or elderly.

We've seen how ACCS alumni practice in the church, in the home, and in the community, now lets look at the attitudes and beliefs they have...

Beliefs About Marriage



ACCS alumni believe living together outside of marriage is morally wrong. The blue bar shows the actual data, which is much more pronounced than the adjusted data. This means that, while the school's impact is about the same for all 3 Evangelical groups, the actual data shows that ACCS alumni are much more likely to see living together as wrong. Public, preparatory, and catholic schools are significantly less likely to influence students to believe this.

<click>

ACCS alumni are more likely to say that divorce is morally wrong "most or all of the time." Again, the actual data shows even stronger convictions from ACCS alumni.

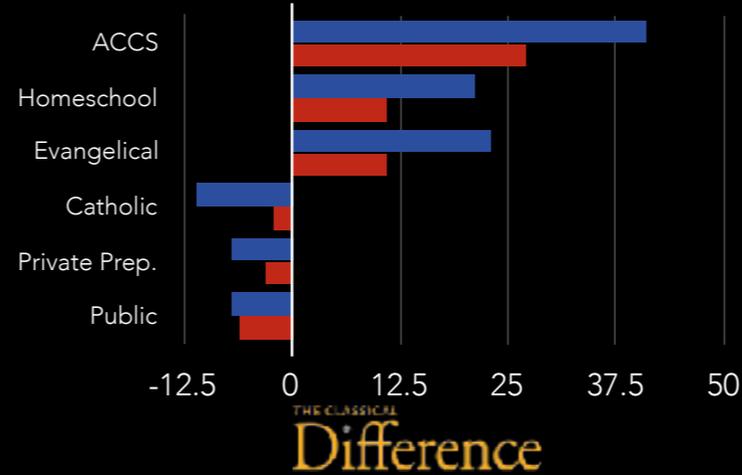
With marital satisfaction about the same, and beliefs about marriage's proper moral context different, how does this play out in real life...

Michael Fitts
U.S. Marine



The longer my boots were on the ground, the more I learned that the answers to complex dilemmas are not always so simplistic. The depth of thought provided by my education helped keep me grounded during times of stress.

Index: Conservative and Traditional



PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN ANSWER FOR: CAN GOVT. SOLVE PROBLEMS, GOOD SEXUAL ETHICS, WHO GOD IS, AUTHORITY OF CHURCH, SCIENCE AND FAITH COMPATIBLE, NO ERRORS IN BIBLE, MORE LIKELY TO KNOW LGBT, LESS LIKELY TO ACCEPT LGBT LIFESTYLE.

Scale: Percentage points above or below the median (~50%). I.e. "40" means 90% of respondents.
Blue = Actual responses on the survey
Red = Household influence adjusted to reflect the school's impact alone

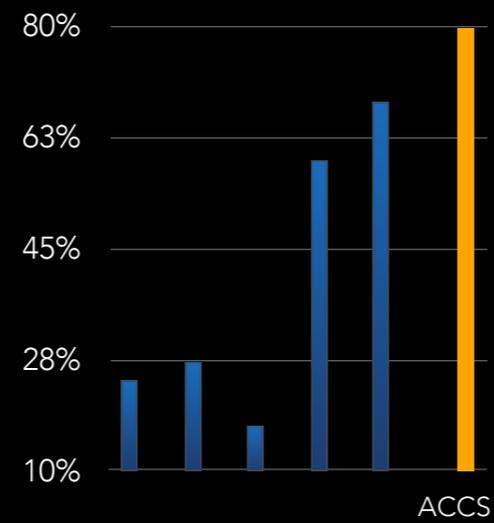
The "Conservative and Traditional" index attempts to measure the political, social, and orthodox views of alumni. All three forms of Evangelical school show strength in this index. However, ACCS school differences are more pronounced. Even when isolated to the "school only" cause, ACCS schools report more than twice the index score.

Michael Fitts, U.S. Marine instructor, articulates the distinction that his ACCS education gave him... <Read>

This index consolidates attitudes and beliefs, along with a few behavioral factors relating to how traditional or conservative alumni are in the area of sexual ethics, government's role in solving problems, faith vs. science, and theological questions of authority, the Bible, and sin. For example, how do ACCS alumni view the problems in America today...

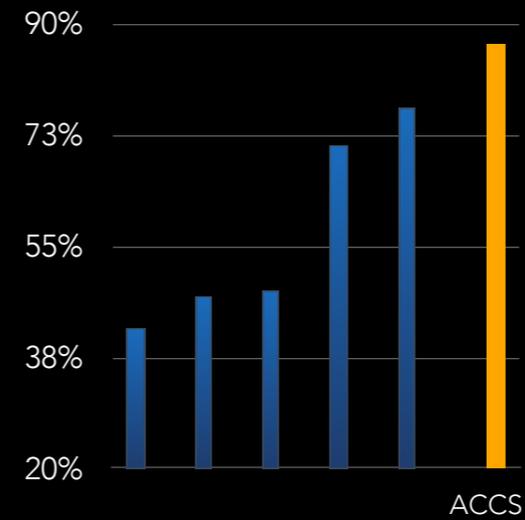
Social policies

Premarital sex is morally wrong



Always or almost always morally wrong

Gay marriage is morally wrong

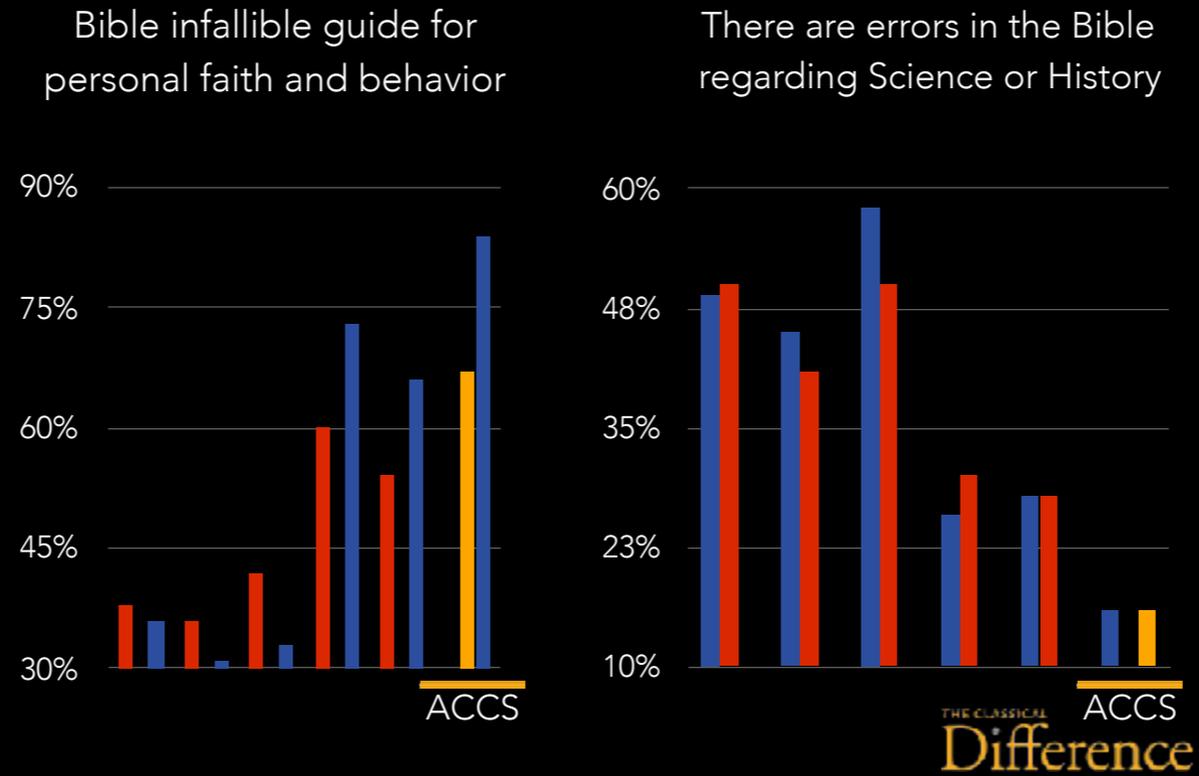


Always or almost always morally wrong

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The actual data shows that ACCS alumni are socially more conservative than their counterparts who graduated from Evangelical schools. We saw marriage attitudes earlier. These questions report the opinions on a broader set of sexual ethics. And, the differences are wide— below 30% for secular schools, and nearing 90% for ACCS. When the formula is applied to isolate the cause to the school, the differences are slightly less pronounced, but still significant. We used actual numbers here to show just how many alumni hold to traditional views.

Orthodoxy



ACCS alumni have pronounced differences with all schools, particularly secular and catholic, when it comes to orthodoxy. They believe the bible is infallible. <click> When you look actual data, the difference is quite clear.

<click>

And, they believe the bible is true with respect to history and science. We believe this is because ACCS schools typically do not isolate these subjects from “bible class”, so students grow to understand how the truth of the bible is true for everything, not just personal spirituality.

These both show percent who “agreed” in some form.

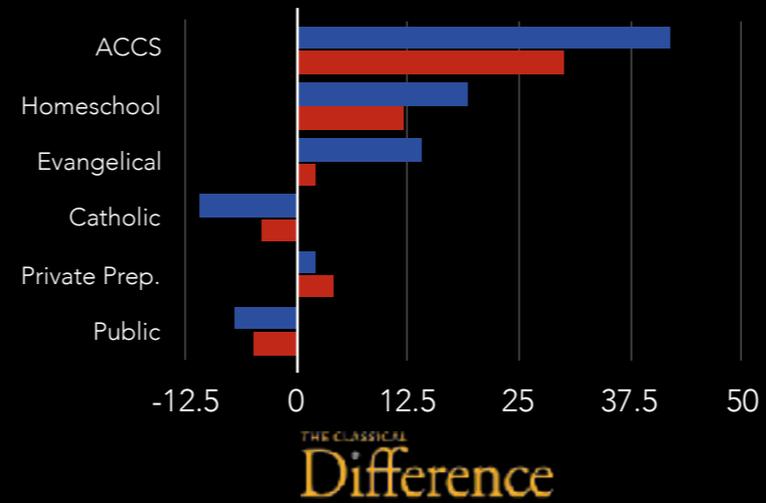
We’ve seen that ACCS alumni are about as politically conservative as their Evangelical school counterparts, but are more orthodox in their christianity, and more socially conservative than all groups.

Marissa Black
Journalist



[CCE] didn't give me a fixed lens for seeing the world through my "Goc glasses." Rather, it gently took off the dirty, smudged pair I already had on, and let me see the world as it truly is—God's beautiful story.

Index: Independent thinkers



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Difference

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN ANSWER FOR: INDEPENDENT VIEWS, READING, SCIENCE, WILLING TO DISAGREE, ACCEPT DIFFERENCES BUT WILLING TO CHALLENGE (THIS MEASURE USES MULTIPLE QUESTIONS IN CONJUNCTION TO REVEAL PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES).

Scale: Percentage points above or below the median (~50%). I.e. "40" means 90% of respondents.
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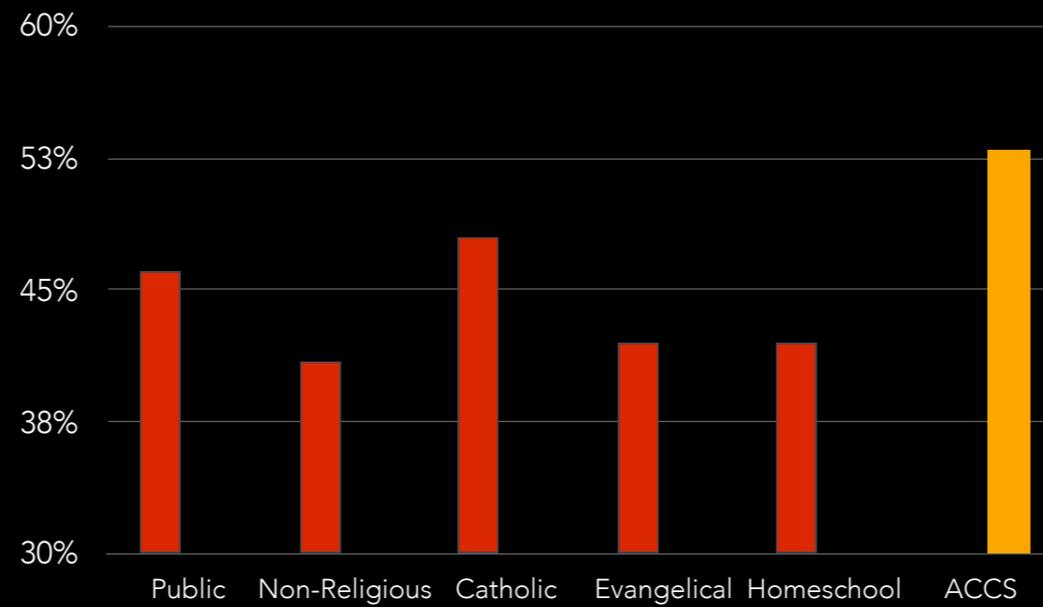
The last two indices reflect the independence of mind, and the influence of ACCS alumni. These are important when gauging the cultural influence of each group.

Marissa Black, ACCS alumni and journalist sums up her takeaway: <read>

ACCS alumni score more than 2x higher than Homeschoolers and much higher than all other groups on this index. Classical education has long been known as a form of education that "teaches students how to think well." This reputation seems to be supported by this data.

The Independence index is different because it uses several direct factors, but also the combination of several indirect factors that when seen together, indicate an independence of mind. We'll start with a few interesting results from the survey...

Obligation to care for the environment



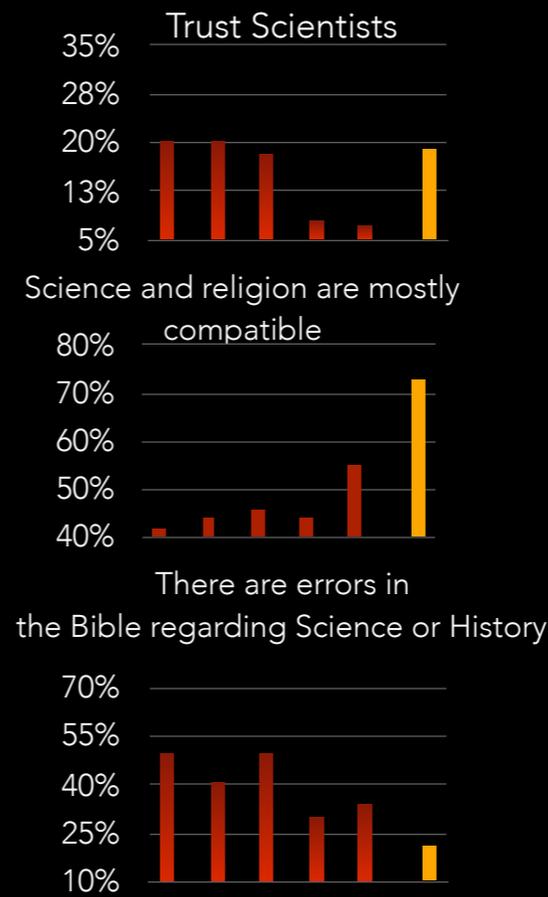
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Given the conservative numbers we just saw, it seems surprising the ACCS alumni are the most likely to feel an obligation to care for the environment. This question was asked in a series of “obligation” questions about religious practices, business ethics, and personal practices. ACCS alumni generally answered in the affirmative more than any other group on most of the obligation questions. This indicates a higher general level of felt responsibility among ACCS alumni. The following factors also indicate the independence of mind of ACCS alumni.

ACCS Alumni are not swayed by “consensus”

- ACCS Graduates are most likely to...
- ✓ Trust scientists
 - ✓ Believe science and religion are compatible
 - ✓ Believe the bible is true, both in science and history

THE CLASSICAL
Difference

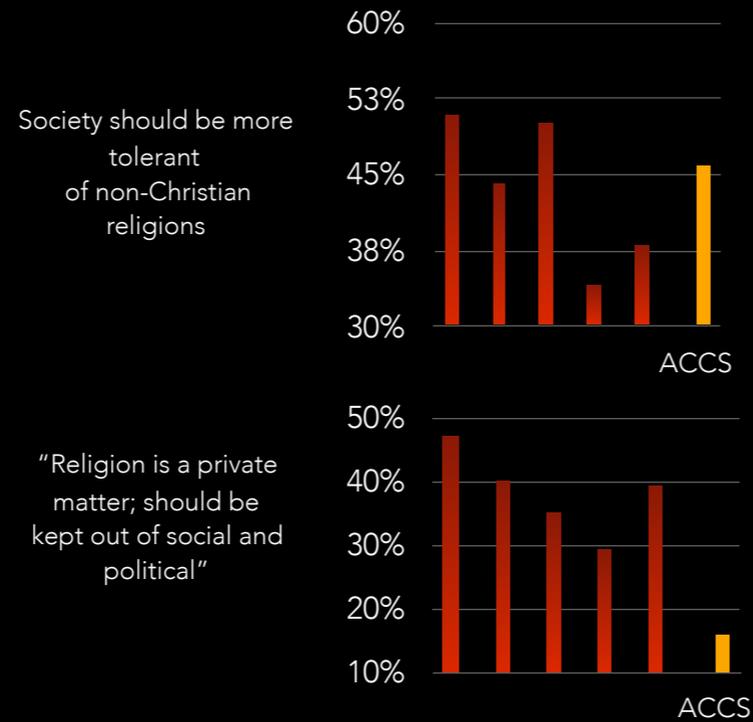


ACCS alumni trust scientists at about the same level as their secular educated counterparts, and much more than their Evangelical counterparts. And they believe science and religion are mostly compatible— by a wide margin— unlike their Evangelical counterparts. But, even more so than their Evangelical counterparts, they do not believe that the Bible has errors regarding science or history. Why this apparent contradiction?

ACCS alumni are able to take the good from science without being swayed by their arguments about scripture. Classical education integrates Christ into every area of study. He’s not relegated to the Bible class or a time of prayer before class starts. Interestingly, other data in this survey shows that ACCS alumni took more advanced science in high school. <click>

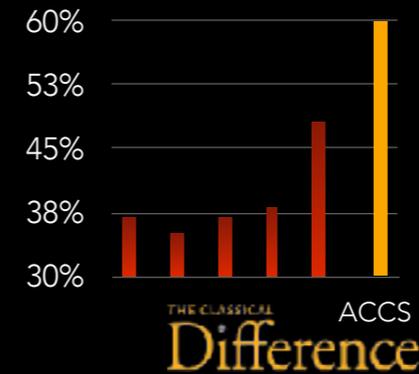
From this triad, it is apparent that ACCS alumni are very adept at thinking independently rather than dogmatically about science and religion.

More tolerant, but more challenging



- ✓ Be more tolerant of non-Christian groups
- ✗ Religion is a private matter.
- ✓ Challenge religious views in public

Okay to Say Things In Public
Offensive to Religious Groups



Here, there is an attitude difference. ACCS alumni are the most likely of Evangelically educated students to be tolerant of Non-Christian religions— about the same as secular prep schools. While they are tolerant, they do not believe that religion is to remain private— they are committed far more than the other groups to believe religion should be in the public square. And, to reinforce this distinction, ACCS alumni are far more likely to assert that it's OK to say things that might be deemed offensive to religious groups. In this day and age, this level of independence is essential for reasoned discourse in the public square. And ACCS alumni are unique in this way.

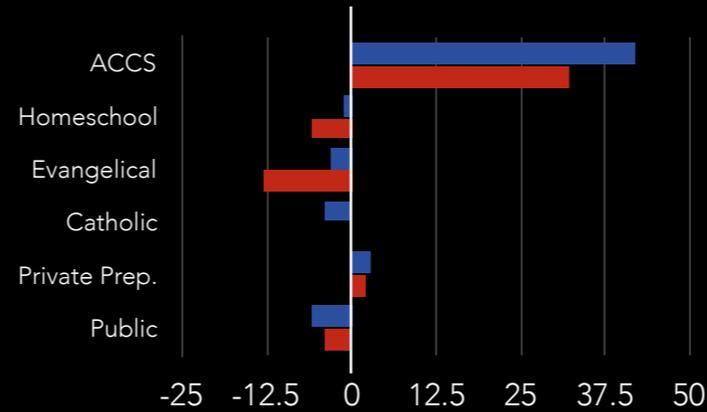
The combination shows that, once again, ACCS alumni buck the natural categories. ACCS schools train students to engage their faith in every aspect of life— public and private— and they teach them to respectfully engage in substantive debates through our focus on rhetoric.

N.D. Wilson
Author/Filmmaker



CCE gives students something valuable to squander. I think of every CCE grad as a trust-fund kid. What will they do with it? Do they comprehend what they've been given? Are they going to slack off and waste the educational wealth they've received? Or are they going to break a sweat and consciously serve God with it?

Index: Influential



PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN ANSWER FOR:
KNOW ELECTED OFFICIALS, CEO'S, COMMUNITY LEADERS,
ATHEISTS, READ NON-RELIGIOUS BOOKS, VOLUNTEER AND LEAD
NON-CHURCH ORGS, OBLIGED TO TAKE ACTION, BELIEVE THEY CAN
IMPACT, GIVE TO ANY ORGANIZATION, OK TO OFFEND IN PUBLIC
DISCOURSE, JOB IS CALLING BY GOD, ACCEPT LOW JOB PAY.

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Difference

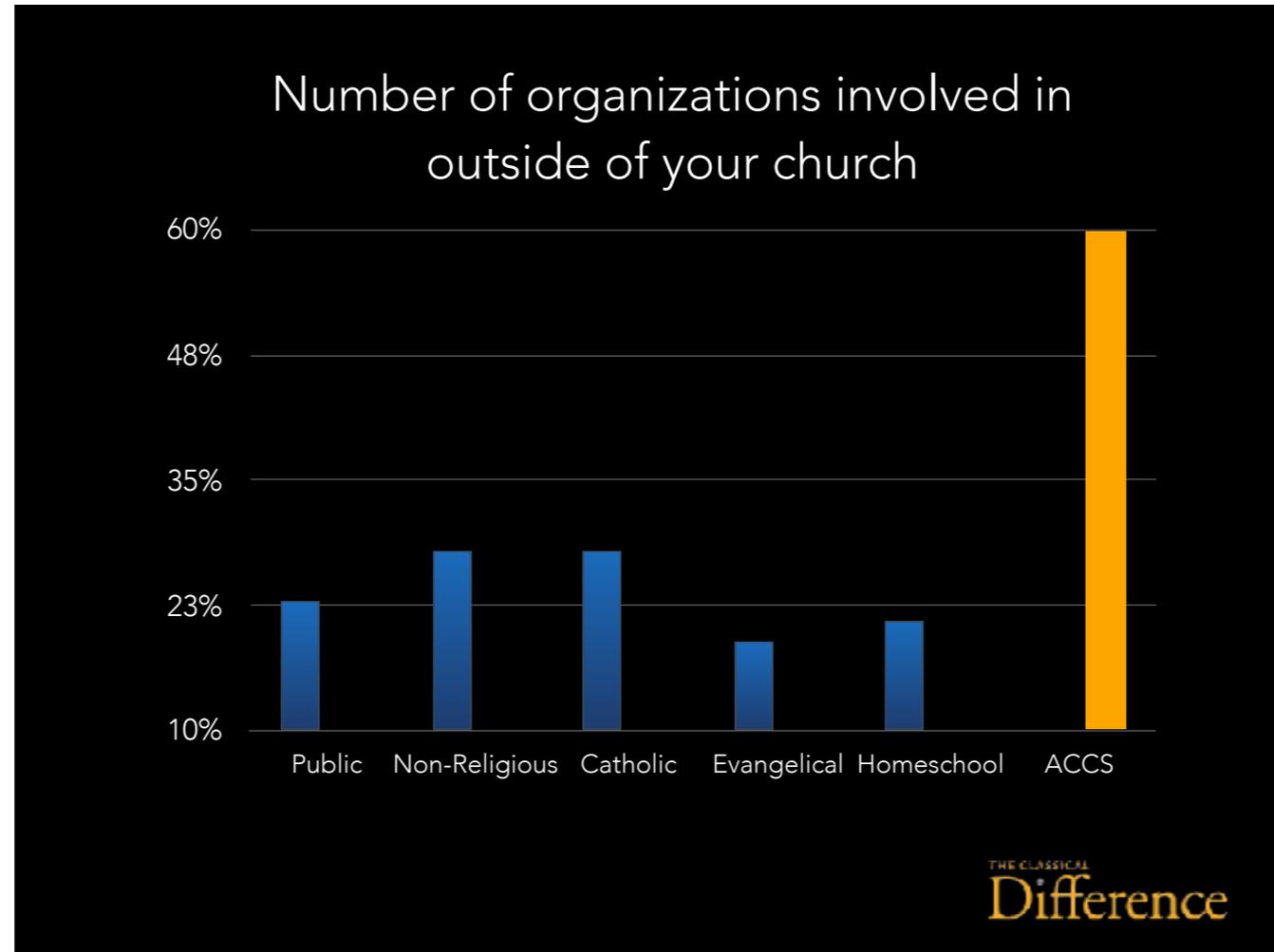
One of the most significant index differences is in “Influence”. This metric looks at how likely ACCS alumni are able to engage in culture and society. And, how they are likely to influence it. Of course, influence, like college preparation, is not an aim of classical Christian education. The data does show, however, that ACCS alumni stand alone as strong influencers in this index.

N.D. Wilson, ACCS alumni and best selling author and film maker, challenges alumni in their calling and service to the kingdom: <read>.

This influence measure is made up of several factors. It measures the connection they have to influential people. A series of questions were asked about knowing CEO's, politicians, local community leaders, etc. Another measure was volunteering. While ACCS alumni reported more volunteerism in general, they were much more likely to volunteer and lead outside of their church.

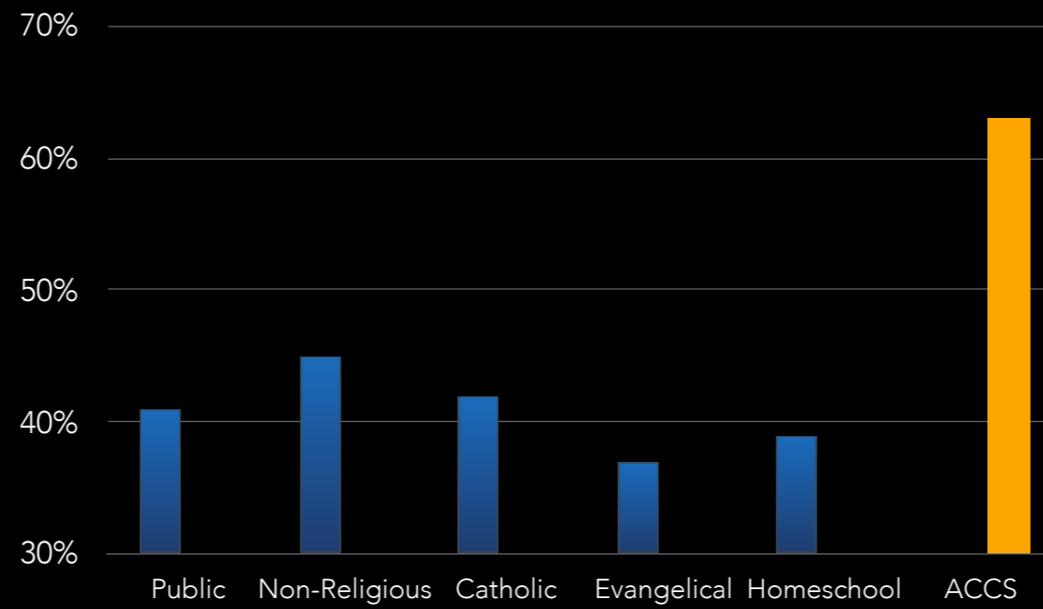
As an attitude, ACCS alumni believe in public debate and that they have an obligation to address problems in our culture. They also seek jobs that will allow them to influence their communities and culture, and they are willing to take lower pay to do it.

Let's take a look at ACCS alumni community involvement...



ACCS alumni are much more likely to be involved and volunteer in organizations outside of their church. While we have already seen that ACCS alumni are active in the church, this metric indicates that ACCS alumni are engaged in their community and in charities outside of the church as well. Which means that their influence will more than likely spread further.

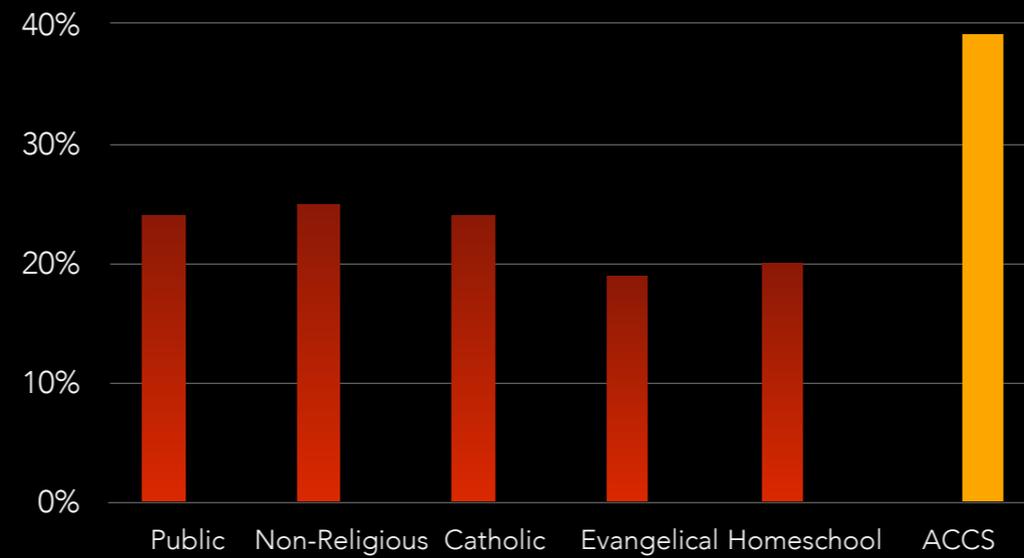
Percent who know an atheist



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Also of interest is that ACCS alumni know more atheists than other graduates of Evangelical Christian schools. This indicates that ACCS graduates have circles include acquaintances and friendship beyond their own believing communities and therefore reaches and influences the culture in a greater way.

Willingness to protest

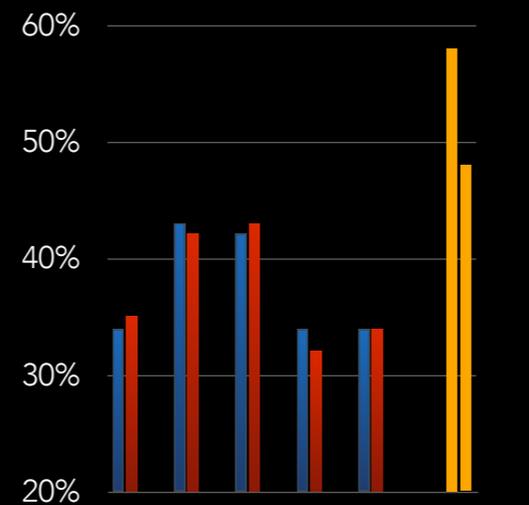


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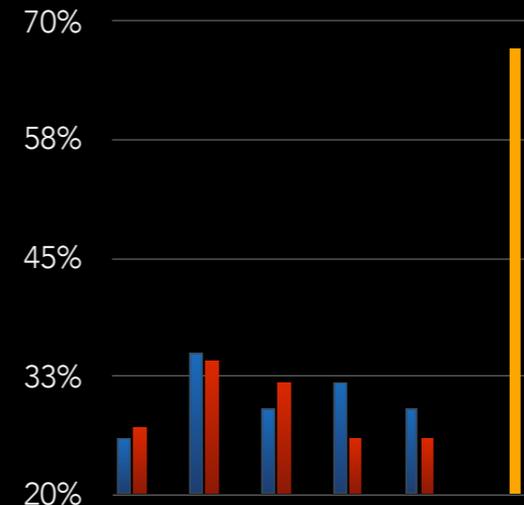
In addition to getting involved and connecting with people who believe differently than they do, ACCS alumni are willing to put in the time to protest or actively support their causes. We saw that these causes are mostly conservative and strongly Christian. We can conclude, therefore, that this influence magnifies the impact on our culture in positive ways.

Likely to impact community

To what extent can you impact community & politics



Know an influential person



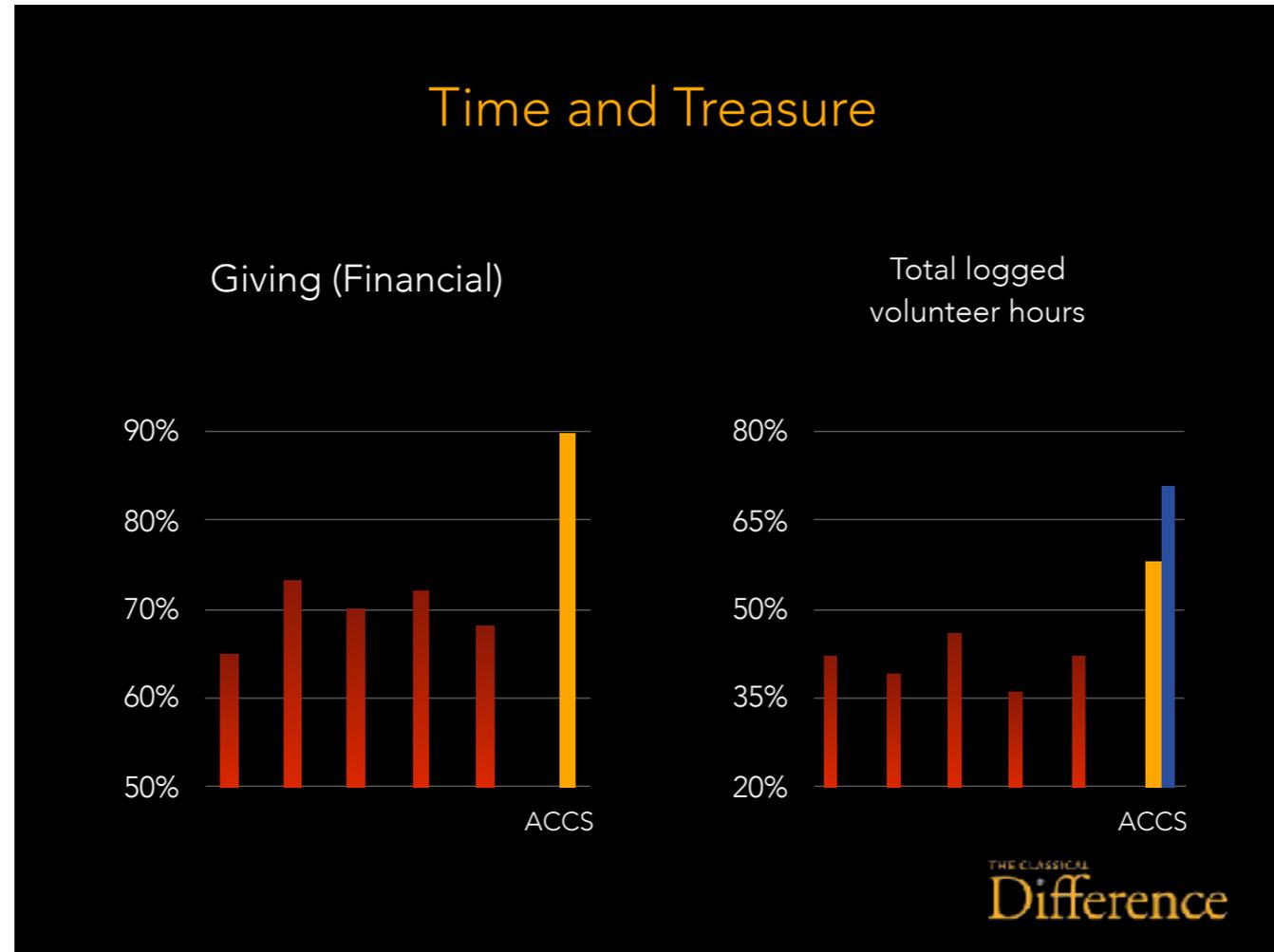
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ACCS alumni feel empowered to impact their communities. Compared to other Evangelical schools more than twice as many ACCS alumni believe they can have an impact on their community. The next highest margin, preparatory and catholic schools, they exceed by a wide margin.

<click>

Pair this belief with ACCS alumni's high likelihood of knowing an influential person and you see that the combination is complimentary. Once again, this reflects a combination of questions asking if they know a politician, a CEO, a community leader, etc. For those who want to make a difference in our culture, the evidence indicates that ACCS alumni are doing just that.

Time and Treasure



ACCS alumni are more likely to influence through their time and their treasure. ACCS alumni have donated to all groups at a higher rate in the past 12 months than other sectors. Again, these bars in red reflect the influence of the school, independent of other factors, like income.

<click> Again, we see that ACCS graduates log more volunteer hours overall than the alumni from other sources.

ACCS alumni blend academics, independence, and influence with Christian lifestyles and beliefs.



ACCS	NEXT HIGHEST	CONCLUSIONS
23	11 PRIV. PREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger academically and in career than any other group.
14	2 HOMESCHOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outlook on life more likely to result in productivity and satisfaction
23/32	9/10 HOMESCHOOLS/ EVANG. CHRIST.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian in both practice and lifestyle.
27	11 HOME&EVANG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative and traditional both in religion and socially.
30/32	12/2 HOMESCHOOL PRIV. PREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent thinkers with influence.
NA	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several data-points indicate less of a "Family priority"

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Based on this survey's measurements, ACCS alumni are strong players in two worlds.

<click>

They are also the strongest group academically, tied for career preparation with private preparatory schools, and they are the most independently minded with high influence in our society. <click> They have a healthy outlook on life which is a key component of happiness.

<click> In their Christian lives, they maintain strong commitment to their faith and they hold generally to more traditional views with one notable exception— their acceptance of old-earth creation is higher than other Evangelical groups.

<click> The two most pronounced differences between them and graduates of other schools, is their independence of mind and the influence they have in society.

<click>

There were a few interesting and concerning details. The one concerning factor is that ACCS alumni report as less "family oriented" in that they prioritize things like jobs far from home (albeit in missional purposes), and they report slightly lower marriage rates. When they do marry, however, they stay married, have children, and put those children in Christian schools.

Once again, these outcomes are reported here as corrected for other life factors. This is so that we can pull out the schools influence as the most contributive factor for these scores. While there are areas to focus on for improvement, ACCS students are quite distinct in the ways their parents desire and the Christian community needs. Probably the most important takeaway from this study is the breadth of difference between ACCS graduates and graduates of other schools. The other 5 categories



An ACCS Alumni Study



"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering [100 fold more than was sown]"

— LUKE 8

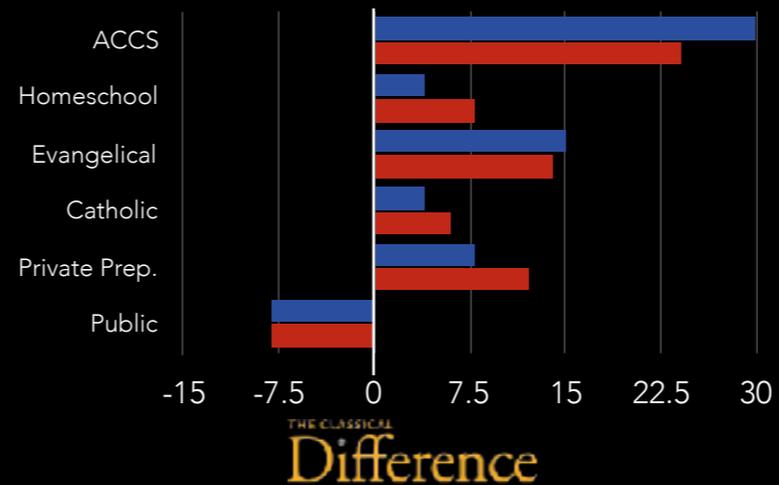
The goal of the ACCS is and will remain to cultivate the soil of our children's hearts so it is prepared to return 100 fold when the word of God is planted there. We have a long way to go before we have restored classical Christian education as it was practiced so effectively in the past. With thousands of years and a strong track-record of success historically, defending classical Christian education's effectiveness through a survey seems unnecessary. 20 plus years into this movement, there is much work to be done in recovering the lost tools of education. Given classical Christian education's long history of cultivating the hearts and minds of students, we should not need data to confirm that it meets this goal. But, this study certainly reinforced what thousands of parents and classical educators already knew. Visit the classicaldifference.org to learn more. Or, to find a school, visit classicalchristian.org and click on "schools."

Emily
Dewind



When I tell people I went to a classical Christian school they often ask, "What is that?" or "How is that different from regular school?" These questions always resonate with me because, if there is not a difference, then what is the point? ... That was the true beauty of my classical Christian education. It prepared me not just to go on to college, it prepared me to go on to the world.

Index: Experience in High School



REPORTED GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER STUDENTS, A CLOSE-KNIT HIGH SCHOOL, TEACHERS CARED, ENJOYED HIGH SCHOOL AND WERE PROUD TO HAVE GRADUATED FROM THEIR HS.

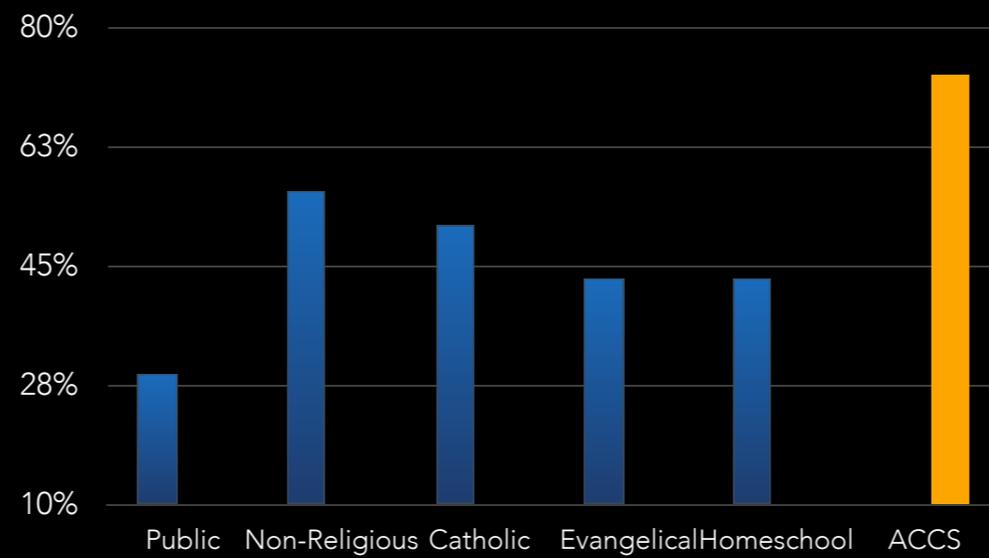
Now for a bonus: The first 7 indexes reflect the outcomes, attitudes, beliefs and practices of alumni. With the distinct differences of outcome seen from the alumni of ACCS schools, it stands to reason that the classical school experience is quite a different experience for the student. This at times can lead parents and students to question whether its worth it.

This final metric is included as an extra for parents with this question. Often, students in the midst of a difficult time in school will seek other alternatives. They may not see the relevance of reading so many books from old authors. They may not like to write or speak so much. Or, they may seek a STEM-based future career. Or, parents may think the rigor will make their children "hate school." Parents should realize that, with the perspective of time and experience, not only do these concerns fade, but the students express that they are grateful for the discipline and rigor that their education gave them once they have entered college and the workforce.

Emily Dewind, a missionary, looks back on her experience: <read>

From the testimonies of students, it is evident that ACCS schools are appreciated more by the students, when looked back upon from adulthood, than any other type of school.

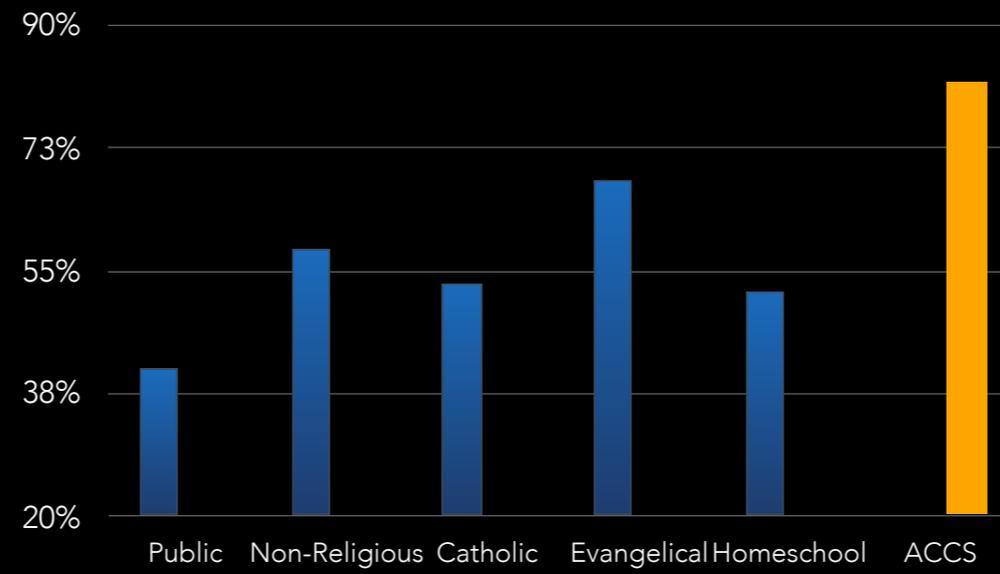
Received a High Quality Education in High School



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ACCS alumni believe they received a high quality education. In these charts, we're using mostly actual data since the corrective factor for "school alone" is embedded in the questions.

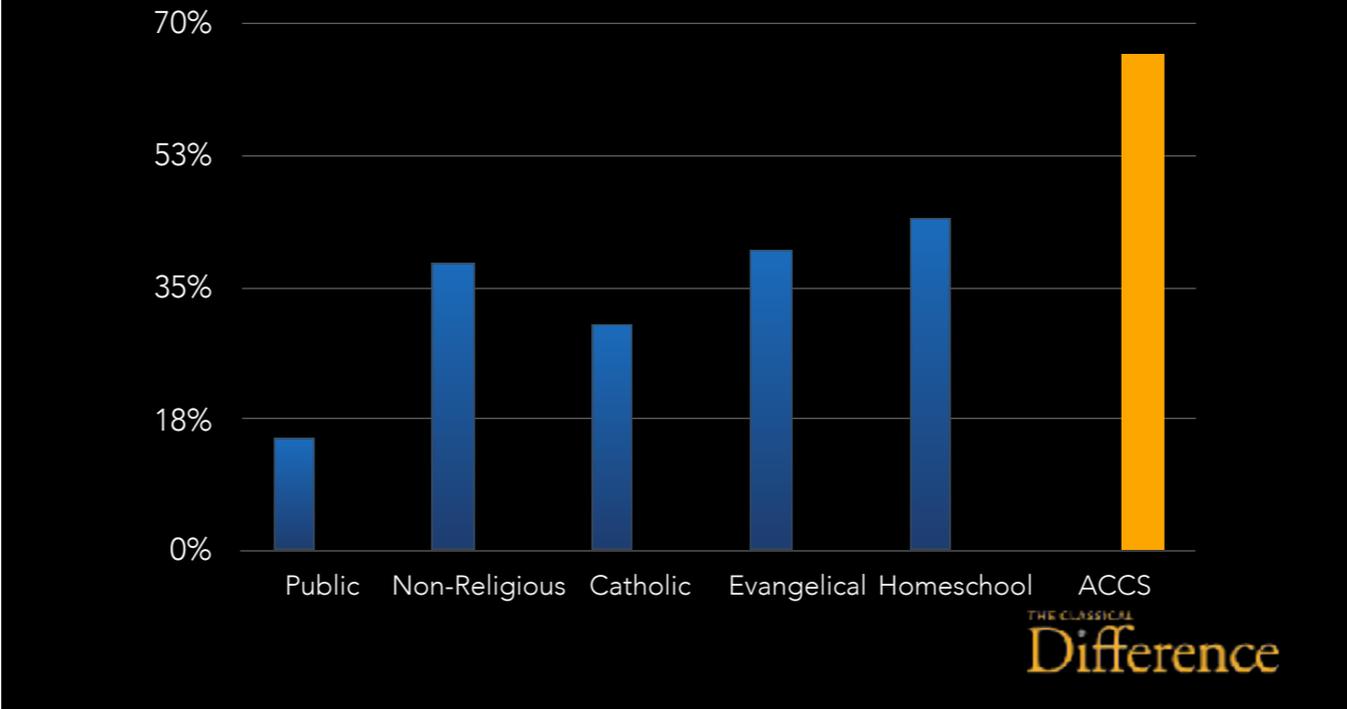
Students Got Along



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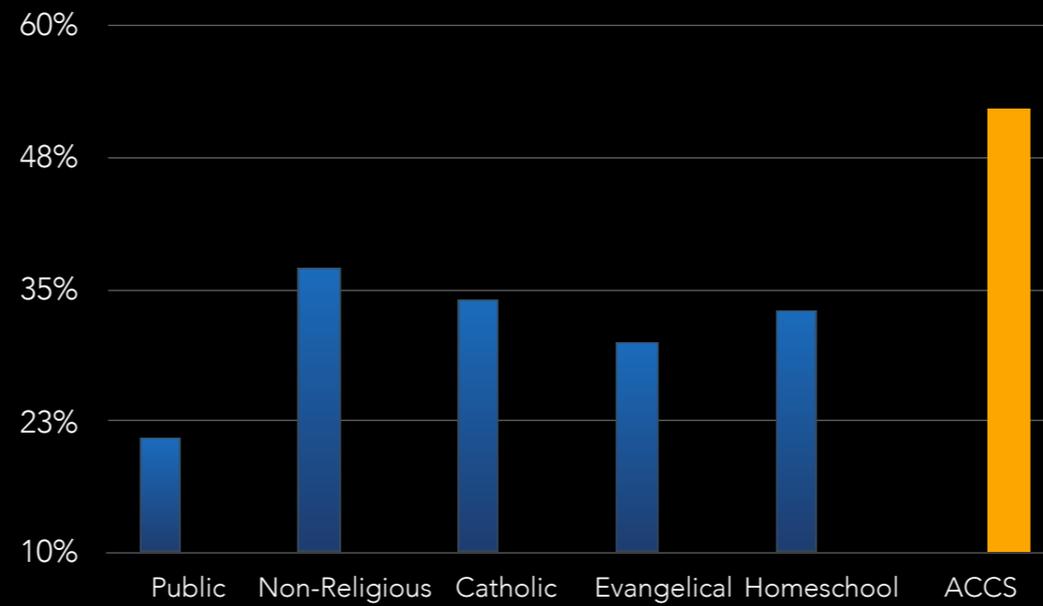
Students at ACCS schools get along with each other.

Agreed "Teachers Cared"



They feel their teachers cared about them.

"Enjoyed my high school"



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Difference

They enjoyed their high school.

Respondents, in nearly every data point in the survey, respected their school experience.

Now, one last slide to explain the way most of the data in this survey was reported.

(mostly agreed)