

# The Necessity of Christian Education

**Introduction** – “All things are to be considered and conducted under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, including education, and especially the education of our covenant children. God has neither charged nor authorized the state to educate children within its civil jurisdiction. God has commanded parents to bring up their children in the education and admonition of the Lord. Given the importance and enormity of the task, and the impossibility of neutrality in education, we do heartily affirm the necessity of educating our children in a manner that is explicitly Christian in content and rigor. Government schools are, by decree and design, explicitly godless, and therefore cannot be considered a legitimate means of inculcating true faith, holy living and a decidedly Christian worldview in the children of Christian parents...” – the *Confederation of Reformed Evangelicals*.

**A Stern Warning** (Matt 18:6) – We, as a nation, have been guilty of experimenting upon our children through our government education system. Christians have bought the lie of ‘neutrality’ in education and, in the process, truncated what we mean by Christian in education. The Lord of the universe has declared a great woe upon us. And He has done so whether we acknowledge Him or not.

**Rival Religions** (Rom 1:18-31) – When it comes to acknowledging truth and where that truth comes from, you have one of two options. Either you openly acknowledge and thank God for all things, declaring His glory in everything – or you suppress the truth in darkness, pretend to be wise by making man the center of everything, and set up your own system of ‘right’ and ‘wrong’. This is the great sin of the Enlightenment.

**The Impossibility of Neutrality in Education** (Prov 1:7, Matt 12:30) – All knowledge must be received and evaluated in a mind filled with presuppositions. Those fundamental assumptions about the nature of truth, goodness, and beauty are either submissive to the declared Word of God, or they are in rebellion to them. Education is therefore, one of the most religious things we do.

**The Wrong Government** (Deut 6:7, Eph 6:4) – There is no warrant for the civil government to be involved in the education of children. The responsibility for that rests squarely on the shoulders of fathers. Abdication of this responsibility has brought us great grief and confusion. Fathers are not simply being told to talk about theology all day long in Deut 6. They are being told to bring their theology (their worldview) to bear on everything that happens all day long. All subjects are to be submissive to Christ (Col 1:16-17, 2 Cor 10:5).

**The Work Ahead of Us** – Do we see signs of God’s mercy upon His church today (Mal 4:5-6)? Having begun the process of turning us around, we are all beginning the next school-year. Whether you are involved in home-schooling, tutorial-services, or private Christian schools, there is great work to be done.

**Will Be Hard** (Gal 6:9) – Ever since the Garden, our work has been much harder than God originally ordered. And we are now trying to recover systems of learning and thinking that we have tried to destroy for generations.

**Will Require Constant Encouragement** (Gal 6:2, 10) – We are a community of believers and around you here are a number of great needs. While the responsibility for the education of the children rests in the hands of the fathers, we have a responsibility as brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage, comfort, admonish – to love one another.

**Must Be Done in Faith** (Deut 7:6, Psalm 103) – Except for the grace of God, nothing we teach our children will make sense in any ultimate way. But He has given us promises for our children and we must stand on those promises. If we do the work without faith, absent of believing in God’s promises, we will be guilty of another form of man-centered arrogance.

**Cultivating a Culture of Love for Learning and for Children** – Ours is a culture that hates to learn anything other than the contemporary, the ‘pop’, and the simple. Ours is a culture that hates children, seeing them as inconvenient appendages to be aborted or neglected in our pursuits of pleasure and power. We must set our hand to the plow and cultivate something very different here.

**No Hypocrisy** – We say the Word of God is central to all learning and decision making. Would your children say, by observing your commitment to Bible reading, study and application, that you really believe this to be the case? What about great literature, history, and all the subjects we tell our children are so important?

**Servants to Little Ones** (John 15:13, Phil 2:7) – Do your children see your sacrifice to them as a sacrifice of joy, without any bitterness or sidelong glances at careers or vacations or other pleasures that have been set aside? Fathers particularly - having set ‘the plan’ for education in place for this school year, will you ever be inquiring on how they are doing, involved in what they are studying, and investigating what the state of their soul is?