

Parent Update



Examining Education from
a Christian Perspective

The Seven Laws of Teaching

Reflecting on Where Our Children Attend School

As we begin a new year, it would do us well to reflect upon why we send our children to a Christian school. What should we expect to gain from our investments?

Reflective thinking helps us to examine the past in light of the present with the future in mind. At the close of every year, we tend to rethink the things we intended to do over the past 12 months, but didn't seem to find the time or sense the urgency to make it happen. So, we set new goals. But a few months later, some of our new year resolutions have been compromised or forgotten. Sometimes we set new goals without seeking God for direction. The best new year resolutions are based on Scripture (Proverbs 3:5–6) plus a heartfelt desire to acknowledge and honor God in place of trusting our logic and reasoning.

Reflection is an excellent mental tool to use in reassessing the goals we have set for our children. Do these goals align with Scripture? God's Word is truth, and His truth never changes. Since God is truth, we can trust Him to guide us in making all of life's decisions, including where we send our children to school. But in order to make Christ-honoring decisions, we must study His Word for direction. We also must depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us in the choices we make lest we make decisions that do our children more harm than good.

Trust the Book of Wisdom

When it comes to making wise choices for children, the Holy Scripture is the only rule and guide that we can depend upon. Only the Bible contains God's thoughts and tells about His ways (Isaiah 55:8–9). No guesswork is required in knowing how to serve God and how to guide children to do the same. God's guidance is at our disposal. We only have to ask. For example, "Where would God want our children to attend school?" This question prompts another question: "What does the Bible say about this matter?" Since the Bible tells us God's thoughts and ways, His wisdom only awaits our asking.

God wants our choices to be bathed in prayer and researched in Scripture. God's Book of Wisdom is the Christian family's moral compass. We can trust His truths. As our Comforter, the Holy Spirit guides and points us to what God wants in our lives. The Comforter helps us make wise choices (John 14:16–18). When we allow the Spirit of God to direct our lives, we think God's thoughts, we want what God wants, we love what God loves, and we loathe the things that God loathes.

Guard Against Misplaced Logic

Christian parents are often tempted to remove their children from a Christian school because of pressure received from relatives, friends, or finances. If we yield to temptations and “feel good” enticements, we may be tempted to leave Christian education in favor of secular education, especially if the decision saves us money. But why would Christian parents embrace a public school where secular and humanistic teachings permeate the textbooks and most classroom teaching? What would be the logical reasons for parents doing this? And would the Bible support their reasoning?

A change in values and beliefs usually occurs slowly, moving gradually from a convictional belief to a more tolerable belief. Eventually, what was once important loses its value. And when this happens, Christian parents start justifying public school education, a system they rejected when they first enrolled their children in a Christian school. Such pragmatism is rooted in humanism, materialism, and secularism. Pragmatism says, “I feel this is what I want to do.” Biblical theism says, “I feel this is what God wants me to do.” Remember that our children belong to God; He has first claim on their lives.

Don't Compromise

We lose the freshness and confidence of our convictions when we allow them to become preferences. Our preferences eventually lead to conveniences, and conveniences lead to indifferences. In other words, we compromise our commitment for Christian school education when we rationalize a philosophy of education that denies Christ. A forsaken focus leads to abandoned convictions. When this happens, Christ is removed from His rightful place in education (Colossians 1:18b) in favor of a school environment that has turned away from Christ and the Bible.

Refocus

Remember the day when you made the decision to enroll your child in a Christian school? *Remember* how excited you were to have your child attend a school where the Bible was taught and where Jesus Christ was exalted as the Son of God? *Remember* how appreciative you were of your child's “Christian” teachers? *Remember* how the Holy Spirit witnessed to your heart and mind,

giving you perfect peace to embrace a school where Christ is exalted. *Remember* your commitment to Christ-centered education. As we begin a new year, this is a good time to reexamine our philosophy of education and to reevaluate the spiritual and academic goals we have for our children. The beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect and refocus on what God's will is for our children's education.

Conclusion

A Christian school gives children an opportunity to develop Christian friendships. *A Christian school* exposes children to Christian teachers who love and care about them. *A Christian school* teaches children the importance of the Bible, prayer, and Christian living. *A Christian school* gives children an opportunity to learn in a safe learning environment that promotes Christ-centered academic excellence. *A Christian school* provides an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth, and the teachers are supportive of the home.

As you reflect on the past, never lose sight of the eternal worth of a Christ-centered, Bible-based education for your children. Never doubt your decision to support Christian school education or to allow anyone to convince you otherwise. A commitment based on the Bible will withstand the test of time.

Reenroll your children for next year and continue doing so in the years thereafter. And if Christian education is new to you, enroll your child as soon as you can in a Christian school. As you reflect and refocus on the benefits of sending your children to a Christian school, you can rest well in knowing that Jesus Christ will be very pleased with your decision to give Him first place in education.

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