

THE NEED FOR TRUE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Byron Snapp (edited for use by Faith Baptist Church)

Christian education begins with the fact that children are God's gifts to parents. "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3) Children belong to God. Parents are to raise them in a manner that honors God.

Christian schools exist to help parents fulfill this responsibility. Teachers, answerable to parents and God, instruct with the realization that students are not theirs.

Parents should not think they are giving their children to the teaching staff to meet educational needs, thereby relieving themselves of their responsibility. Parents have the responsibility to oversee their children's homework, help where necessary, deal with behavioral problems, and instruct in biblical living.

Christian education exists on the foundation that all facts are God-created; therefore, true learning cannot be separated from God. As children do not ultimately belong to man, neither does knowledge. By learning facts we learn more about our Creator, God.

Through godly education, students should realize that math is not just a useful subject for those who plan to be scientists, accountants, or engineers. Studying math helps one learn more about the God of all things. History is not the learning about dates and people. Instead, it is the study of God working out his eternal plan. It is a study of wise choices and mistakes made by previous generations. Without a working knowledge of this information, a generation can easily make the same errors. Wise or foolish actions in history are determined by comparing those choices with Scripture. Every subject has new importance when studied from this perspective.

The Bible is more than a book for use in bible class, or a book by which one's ethics and character are to be shaped. Students are to be reminded that every thought is to be taken captive for the Lord (II Cor 10:5). For example, the early chapters of Genesis are foundational for teaching origins in science.

Scripture teaches that God is a God of order. He has planned all things for a purpose (Rom 8:28, Eph 1:11). This facet of God's character is extremely important in teaching the proper order of words, punctuation, and capitalization in a sentence, or the proper steps in solving a math equation, word problem, or geometry proof.

The word "education" comes from the Latin word "educare" meaning "to lead". Teachers must have a goal to which they lead students. This goal must be either truth (God-created facts), or distorted truth (man-decreed "facts") that may or may not be actually true.

True Christian education provides the proper goal to which students are to be pointed, because the teaching is based on Scripture, which makes one "thoroughly equipped for every good work." Man is not his own god with the ability to solve problems without reference to anyone higher than himself. As children are educated to think God's thoughts after Him, we are laying the foundation for our children to become adults and prayerfully and wisely apply God-centered thinking in their families and cultures.