

# WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

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Revival In the Home Ministries, Inc

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## Introduction!

Is there hope for the American system of public education? Can the lack of discipline, poor methods, and weak standards produce the quality of education that Christian parents desire for their children? Children who need to be taught academic skills, patriotism, and hard work are growing up in an educational system which says that the whole of education is *"life adjustment."*

Max Rafferty, on the front of his book entitled Classroom Countdown, states *"Progressive education has produced many people who can riot but cannot read, who understand pot but not Plato, and many who think the classroom is a place for 'adjusting, but not learning'."*

There is no doubt that God has raised up the Christian Day School Movement. Thousands of Christian schools have been started over the past twenty five years. Many factors have affected the growth of Christian schools: poor academics, drugs, immorality, no discipline, busing, taking of prayer out of public schools, etc.

**But the underlying basis for the Christian school or biblical home schooling is not found in these weaknesses of the public school system. It is found in the need of a philosophy of education based on the Bible.**

Then many are not aware of the fact that Christian schools predate public schools in the United States by over 200 years. These were not "*parochial*" schools. They were supported in whole or in part by a church, but each was open to anybody who was academically qualified and willing to live and work by the rules.

The Christian philosophy of education is directly opposed to the public philosophy of education. Due to this philosophical difference the goals, objectives, and purposes of Christian schools (Christian Education) are different than those of the public schools. It is important that pastors, teachers, and parents fully understand the basis for the Christian philosophy of education and its implications.

Ephesians 4:14 states: "*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*"

Proverbs 23:19 states: "*Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.*" (We ought to read Psalm 1:1-3 at this point.)

Proverbs 19:27 gives this command: "*Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*" Many of our youth hear instruction that is contrary to the Word of God.

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We trust the following pages are significant to you and a major help in considering the importance of a Christian Education. From this you ought to know WHY your children will not attend a state university or college without a background in a good Bible College first. And from this you should see the importance of home schooling, or having your children in a godly, separated, biblical Christian school.

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-- ***Dr. Edward Watke Jr.***

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# The Christian Philosophy of Education

*"The Christian philosophy of education calls for an educational process that puts the Bible at the center and asks the student and the teacher to evaluate all they see in the world through the eyes of God -- because God and His Word is truth."*

1. Abraham Lincoln said, *"The philosophy of the classroom is the philosophy of the government in the next generation."*

2. Nearly 100 years before Lincoln, George Washington said: *"True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of the youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible."* For this reason, schools and textbooks of the post colonial period were Bible oriented.

2. Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson, Pastor some years ago of Bethany Baptist Church, West Covina, California said: *"We make a mistake when we say that the Pilgrims came to America to seek religious freedom. To a certain extent they had this in Holland. It would be more accurate to say that they came to America seeking an opportunity to give to their children the kind of religious education that was impossible in either England or Holland."*

## I. Christian Education in America's Past:

### A. Illustration of the New England Primer:

1. For over 100 years, first graders learned to read from the *New England Primer*. The 1762 edition taught the ABC's this way:  
A -- In Adam's Fall, We Sinned All  
B -- Heaven to Find, the Bible Mind  
C -- Christ Crucify'd, for Sinners Dy'd. . .

### B. The nature of morality that permeated the McGuffey Readers!

1. They were deeply religious, and religion meant a Protestant Christianity.
2. The world of the *McGuffey* readers was a world where no one questioned the truths of the Bible or their relevance to everyday conduct.
3. The *Readers*, therefore, were filled with stories from the Bible, or their relevance and application to everyday conduct.

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Ellwood Cubberly, a prominent education historian, wrote in his book: "Public Education in the United States" (Houghton Mifflin): *"The most prominent characteristic of all the early colonial schooling was the predominance of the religious purpose in education. One learned to read chiefly to be able to read the catechism and the Bible and to know the will of the heavenly Father. There were scarcely any other purposes in the maintenance of elementary schools. "*

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**C. Cubberly further points out in his introduction** that education and educators have different goals today: *"That our children, today, are better taught than were their luckless predecessors is generally conceded, though we are sometimes puzzled that we have not produced a generation of statesmen as distinguished as the founding fathers. "*

1. A church had on their sign: *"It does make a difference what you believe."*
2. Our beliefs determine our actions. When the early fathers used the Bible for the main text book -- the Bible became the point of reference for right and wrong and was the central truth and by it all other subjects were judged.

**D. Dr. John Blanchard**, in *Education and the Christian Faith* (Christian School Crusade), reports on a survey that was made several years ago of the reading textbooks used in Massachusetts schools since 1780. The following:

1. The early Massachusetts schools preceded all other public schools.
2. In 1800, it was revealed that spiritual and moral lessons accounted for 99 percent of the content of the readers used.
3. By 1875, the spiritual and moral content of the readers used in schools had been reduced to 50 percent, and as of 1946, less than 1 percent of the materials used in readers used in the public schools in Massachusetts had any moral or spiritual content.
4. Dr. Blanchard said, *"These figures typify the trend in the content of all American textbooks."*

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More than a century ago when public schools were first being discussed noted theologian Dr. A. A. Hodge (of Princeton University of over 100 years ago) made these statements: *"It is capable of exact demonstration that if every party in the state has the right of excluding from the public schools whatever he does not believe to be true, then he that believes most must give way to him that believes least, and he that believes least must give way to him that believes absolutely nothing, no matter in how small a minority the atheists or the agnostics may be."*

*"It is self-evident that on this scheme, if it is consistently and persistently carried out in all the parts of the country, the United States' system of national popular education will be the most efficient and wide spread instrument for the propagation of atheism which the world has ever seen."* In light of recent history, these statements take on the appearance of a remarkably accurate prediction!

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## **II. Secular, Public Education in America's Present:**

**A. The decline in the moral content of present-day secular education** has prompted Arizona State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Shofstall to say, *"Atheism, called humanism, has become the religion of the public schools."*

**B. What has caused us to slide from a Bible-oriented education to an education system that has, for the most part, sterilized God out of its curriculum?**

1. Early churches are to blame for not offering Bible-oriented schools to the youngsters in their communities.
2. Only about 10% of the colonial children attended school at all.

3. What learning the 90% received came from their parents at home and the colonial trade schools.
4. Because the early American churches failed to establish an aggressive teaching and training program, the state and federal governments began a system of education for the masses.
5. The early founders of the public system set the pace philosophically for the new schools.
  - a. Horace Mann, a Unitarian Massachusetts lawyer turned educator, is considered the father of public education.
  - b. Under his leadership, the first teacher training schools were established, and Massachusetts established the first state compulsory school attendance law in 1852.

The first half century of U. S. public education saw the public school pretty much as an extension of the Protestant Church. So much so that the Catholic Church established its own Catholic schools in protest to the "*Protestant*" public schools, as they called them.

### **C. More recent developments in public education:**

1. Protestant influence (biblical) on public education lost much of its grip during the 1920's and early 1930's.
2. During this period Columbia University had a famous teachers' college with a famous head:
  - a. The man who headed this University was philosopher and educator, John Dewey, the father of our nation's progressive education.
  - b. He was a member of the board of the American Humanist Association in 1933 -- the year it hammered out the first *Humanist Manifesto* which said that "*faith in the prayer-hearing God. . . is an unproved and outmoded faith.*"

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John Dewey, a strong evolutionist and atheist, said, "*There is no God and there is no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural law or moral absolutes.* "

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- c. Dewey's philosophy of education and the teachers college at Columbia university in New York became **the flame from which the torches of other teachers colleges around the country were lit.**

Dewey's anti-faith, pragmatic, progressive educational philosophy swept through the nations' public school system. Dewey's thoughts and teachers continued to be revered in teacher-training institutions throughout America.

## **III. The Christian School and Home School Movement Today!**

### **A. The purpose of Christian Education:**

1. The purpose is a return to God's honor in the life, for the purpose of education is to build character, to mold a life that honors the Lord.

2. The effort and purpose of a good Christian biblical education is to glorify Christ and the teachings of God's Word that are freely shared with a generation of youngsters who are reaching out for light in a dark world.
3. The purpose is to give an education that molds the total person to be "*a vessel unto honor, meet for the Master's use and prepared for every good work.*"  
(II Tim. 2:20-22)

### **B. A Philosophy of Christian Education:**

Here is one of the clearest and most concise statements regarding the Christian Philosophy of education: Dr. Roy Zuck of Dallas Theological Seminary wrote these words while Executive director of *Scripture Press Ministries*:

"Is there really a 'Christian view' of science, literature, and history? Aren't the facts of science, literature and history the same no matter where they are taught? Yes, the facts may be same. If it's mathematics, it is mathematics, if English, it is English.

But it's the interpretation of the facts that makes the difference. Whether my child attends a secular or public school, they'll learn basically the same facts. (Although they are changing many of the facts of history or even neglecting to tell the truth about them in their curriculum.) But in a Christian School or Home School they'll learn to understand, interpret, and analyze those facts from a biblical perspective.

**The secular vs. Christian school issue is really a question of whether a child will learn to view life from man's perspective or God's perspective.**

From man's viewpoint, history is purposeless; from God's viewpoint, history has meaning and it is "**His-story**";

from man's viewpoint, science is the laws of "*nature at work*": from God's viewpoint, science is the "*outworking of His laws.* "

In science, Christian teachers refer to the Creator of the creation.

In literature, Christian teachers evaluate man's writings by biblical standards.

In music and art, Christian teachers uphold a wholesome expression consistent with Scripture.

In health and hygiene, Christian teachers point out that man is God's creation, "*fearfully and wonderfully made.*"

In social studies, Christian teachers help students understand God's view of the world's cultures, governments, and problems."

In short, the purpose of the Christian school (as a Florida Christian principal put it) is "*to give the students added dimension of the realization of God in all of life.* "

1. The biblical viewpoint is to permeate every subject of knowledge.
2. Adding a Bible course, holding chapel services, and prayer in the school does not make it a Christian School -- it requires everything taught from the Scriptural point of view -- "*what does God say to us?*"

***In closing, note these statements by men whom God has used:***

Dr. Roy Lowrie, one of the great Christian School educators in America and a popular convention and conference speaker, illustrates the Christian philosophy of education before his audience by holding up the Bible. Then, just beyond the Bible, he holds up a textbook. He then tells the audience that the Christian philosophy of Education requires that we see everything in the life through God's Word -- even our textbooks. He says, *"If our textbooks do not agree with the teachings of God's word, then our textbooks are wrong, and God's Word is right."* (II Cor. 10:3-5)

He further says, *"For Christian School educators, God's Word, the Bible is not on trial! But every other book, every idea of man, and every philosophy of this world is on trial. They are not on trial by our standards, but by God's standards. "*

The late Dr. Mark Fakkema, in the forward of his *Christian Philosophy* lecture series, said: *"Truth is not necessarily truth because it is regarded as such by contemporary scholarship. By way of verifying His statements, our Lord did not appeal to the recognized leadership of His day. Our Lord constantly quoted Scripture as His authority, God's Word is the test of all truth. All teaching that is expressive of God's Word is the test of all truth. All teaching that is expressive of God's Word is true. Teaching that is not expository of the Word is falsehood."*

**Therefore**

1. The Christian philosophy of education calls for an educational process that puts the Bible at the center and asks the student and the teacher to evaluate all they see in the world through the eyes of God -- because God is Truth. (John 14:6; John. 8:31; 8:32-34; Jere. 15:16)
2. All must conform to Christ and the Word of God or it is not truth.
3. In true Christian education, students learn to use the Bible to evaluate all of life. The Bible is life -- it is the living Word -- it is above every other book for all truth comes from God!

# **A Concise Statement of A Biblical Philosophy of Christian Education!**

In view of the Bible command: "*Train up a child in the way he should go. . .*" every Christian school needs to develop the right philosophy of education. Sad to say, many Christian schools and other Christian organizations are permeated with the philosophy, curriculum, methodology, and productivity of the world's secular, humanistic, progressive education.

The true Christian day school must define Christian education as a Bible-based, Christ-centered, teaching-learning process in every area of the curriculum and school activity. This also goes for every family led, Christian Home School.

***Teachers (or parents in home schooling) must be born again. uncompromising, historic American Christian educators whose chief goal is to develop students of character and conduct who will live for the glory of God and for the good of society.***

Thus, leadership must seek to develop a distinctive ***American-Christian Education*** in contrast to the program of humanistic, secularistic education.

**This contrast may be set forth as follows:**

## **The Secular Education of Today Teaches Students. . .**

1. To be man-centered (humanistic); to love and to exalt self. (*me, myself, I*)
2. To be earthly minded (secularism); to reject religious faith and convictions in morality, education, economics, and government.
3. To work for earthly gain, material possessions, and mere human achievements (materialism). Live for this life.. get the gusto.. get it all!
4. To live for the here and now (temporalism); to be occupied only with the present as creatures of time.
5. To be free of restraints; to do your own thing; to accept the philosophy of situation ethics (or permissiveness).
6. To reject absolutes and to believe that there is no fixed truth, that truth must be discovered through man's reason and experience (relativism).
7. To accept socialism as our philosophy of life and government, leading to a "*One World Religion of Humanism,*" the deifying of man.

## **American Christian Education Teaches Students. . .**

1. To be God-centered, to love God with all the heart, mind, soul, and body. (Matthew 22:37-39)
2. To be heavenly minded, to learn all truth in the light of Scriptural revelation and principles, and to apply that truth to every facet of life. (Col. 3:14)



3. To labor for eternal riches as taught by Christ in Matthew 6:24-34 and John 6:27.
4. To look ahead to eternity and to look upon eternal values as the most important in view of ones ultimate accountability to God. (Romans 14:11-12)
5. To develop self-control; to live a disciplined life according to Bible rules under the control of the Holy Spirit. (II Cor. 10:5; Phil. 4:8; Titus 2:11-14; Eph. 6:18; Gal. 5:15-17, 22-24)
6. To embrace the absolutes and the unchanging truth of the Word of God and to relate all knowledge and life to this revelation. (John 17:17; II Tim. 3:14-17)
7. To be an American Christian patriot loyal to the principles of individuality, self-government, Christian character, and conscience as the most sacred of property.
8. And to be loyal to our Christian form of government as rooted in the sacred Scriptures, government under the fear of God with obedience to just laws. (Romans 13)

Every faculty member in a Christian School and every parent of their home schooled children ought to give himself unreservedly to implementing this philosophy wherever possible, into every subject taught in every classroom.

We should desire to produce Christian young people with the kind of character and conduct that will be a godly influence wherever they go. We desire to have young people whose lives evidence their devotion to serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Is There A Philosophy of Christian Education?

There is no doubt that God has raised up the Christian Home School Movement and the Christian Day School movement. Thousands of Christian schools have been started over the past twenty-five years. And the largest growth has taken place among those who are home schooling. Many factors have influenced the growth of these movements: such as, poor academics, drugs, immorality, lack of discipline, busing, taking prayer out of public schools, etc.

But the underlying basis for the Christian Education movement is not found in these weaknesses of the public school system. ***It is found in the need of a philosophy of education based on the Bible. What is that philosophy?***

**I. Does education need a philosophy?** Yes, definitely, in fact education does have a philosophy. The basis for all the educational systems of the ages is formed in a foundational philosophy. The philosophies of the Greeks, the Romans, the British, and Americans still speak throughout the centuries. It is the power of philosophical teachings that has shaped nations, governments, and movements.

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***If philosophy is so powerful, then Christians must recognize and evaluate it!***

***In contrast, the philosophy of the Christian Education movement is grounded in the Word of God.***

In Jeremiah 10:2 we read, “*Learn not the way of the heathen (or the unsaved).*” The apostle Paul also tells us, “*Beware lest any any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit.*” (Col. 2:8) Sad to say, many Christian young people are learning and copying the ways of the unsaved. They have become rebellious. Parents are not honored. Interest in Church and spiritual things declines.

Psalm 119:11 states, “*Thy word have I hide in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*” And Proverbs 19:27 gives this command: “***Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.***” Do our youth receive teaching that turns them from God’s truth?

**II. The Christian philosophy of education calls for an educational process that puts the Bible at the center and asks the student and the teacher (or parent) to evaluate all they see in the world through the eyes of God -- because God and His Word is truth.**

1. Abraham Lincoln said, “*The philosophy of the classroom is the philosophy of the government in the next generation.*”
2. Nearly 100 years before Lincoln, George Washington said: “*True religion affords government its surest support. The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of the youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible.*” For this reason, schools and textbooks of the postcolonial period were Bible oriented.
3. Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson, Pastor some years ago of Bethany Baptist Church, West Covina, California said: “*We make a mistake when we say that the Pilgrims came to America to seek religious freedom. To a certain extent they had this in Holland. It would be more accurate to say that they came to America seeking an opportunity to*

*give to their children the kind of religious education that was impossible in either England or Holland.”*

**Consider:** In view of the Bible command: *“Train up a child in the way he should go,”* every Christian school and home school parent needs to develop the right philosophy of education. Sad to say, some Christian schools and other Christian organizations are permeated with the philosophy, curriculum, methodology, and productivity of the world’s secular, humanistic, progressive education.

The true Christian day school must define Christian education as a Bible-based, Christ-centered, and teaching-learning process in every area of the curriculum and school activity. Such should also be the case of the home school family.

### **III. The contrast between the secular (*public education*) position of education or the Biblical, God-honoring viewpoint can be seen in the following:**

1. The issue is to be man-centered (humanistic); to love and to exalt self **or to be God-centered, to love God with all the heart, mind, soul, and body.** (Matthew 22:37-39; 6:33)
2. To be earthly-minded (secularism); to reject religious faith and convictions **or to be heavenly minded, to learn all truth in the light of Scriptural truth and to apply those principles to every facet of life.** (Col. 3:14)
3. To work for earthly gain, material possessions, and mere human achievements (materialism) **or to labor for eternal riches as taught by Christ** in Matthew 6:24-34, Luke 12:15, and John 6:27.
4. To live for the here and now (temporalism) **or to look ahead to eternity and to look upon eternal values as the most important in view of ones ultimate accountability to God.** (Romans 14:11-12)
5. To be free of restraints; to do your own thing; to accept the philosophy of situation ethics (or permissivism) **or to develop self-control; to live a disciplined life according to Bible rules under the control of the Holy Spirit.** (II Cor. 10:5; Phil. 4:8; Titus 2:11-14; Eph. 6:18; Gal. 5:15-17, 22-24)
6. To reject absolutes and to believe that there is no fixed truth, that truth must be discovered through man’s reason and experience (relativism) **or to embrace the absolutes and the unchanging truth of the Word of God and to relate all knowledge and life to this revelation.** (Jh 17:17; II Tim. 3:14-17)

### **Here is the Central Problem of Government Schools!**

Protestant Biblical influence on public education lost much of its grip during the 1920’s and early 30’s. During this period Columbia University had a famous teachers’ college with a famous head:

1) The man who headed this University was philosopher and educator, *John Dewey*, the father of our nation’s progressive education.

2) He was a member of the board of the American Humanist Association in 1933 -- the year it hammered out the first Humanist Manifesto which said that *“faith in the prayer-hearing God. . .is an unproved and outmoded faith.”*

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*John Dewey*, a strong evolutionist and atheist, said, “*There is no God and there is no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural law or moral absolutes.*”

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Dewey’s philosophy of education and the teachers college at Columbia university in New York **became the flame from which the torches of other teachers colleges around the country were lit.** *Dewey’s anti faith, pragmatic, progressive educational philosophy swept through the nation’s public school system. Dewey’s thoughts and teachers continued to be revered in teacher-training institutions throughout America.*

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Christian school teachers in the Christian School or in the Christian Home School must be born again, uncompromising, historic Christian educators whose chief goal is to develop students of character and conduct who will live for the glory of God and for the good of society. We want to produce Christian young people with the kind of character and conduct that will be a godly influence wherever they go. We want to build young people whose lives evidence their devotion to serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

# The Definition of Christian Education!

Often people ask for an answer to the question.."*What is Christian Education.*" Various answers are given such as having a Christian faculty, having rules and dress codes, having the Bible in the curriculum or just having the name, *Christian*.

Christian education is far more than the above. Along with what we have written elsewhere we submit the following: Christian education "*is that education which is Bible Based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit controlled, pupil related, socially applied with the Scriptures being the authority in all things.*"

## I. Christian Education is Bible Based:

### A. Why Bible based?

If the Word of God isn't the foundation for all that is done, taught, etc., then we are on very shaky ground. If we can't prove a God given mandate for the Christian school then we could well ask why we should have it. If there isn't a Bible reason for the Christian Home School movement, then it should also cease to exist.

### B. Why are the Scriptures so important?

We live in a day when many saved adults do not make the Word of God the authority in their lives. Hence, to them many things are relative, and it all just depends on what you want to accept or believe. In many cases these Christians reject certain things strongly taught in the Word of God as 1) either not for today, or 2) for a culture from which they are far removed, or 3) it just doesn't fit their feelings, 4) or it isn't what their peers say, or 5) what is convenient to them.

If the Word of God is not the authority-- then what is? And if every man's idea is as good as anyone else's, then we are at sea at best, and we are disobedient to the clear revelation of God. *Let God be true and every man a liar.* The Word of God has many strong statements as to its veracity, is infallibility, it's divine origin, it's power and authority for every aspect of life. (II Tim. 3:15-17)

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In the book, "*Elemental Theology*," written by Dr. E. H. Bancroft, you will find the following words: "*By the credibility of the Scriptures is meant that their records are true and are thus to be relied upon as the statements of the facts.*" "*The books of the Old Testament and New Testament as we have them today are shown to have been accepted by the Church throughout the Christian era as comprising the complete revelation from God and as having been written by the human authors to whom they are accredited.*"

*"By the inspiration of the Scriptures is meant that the writers were so empowered and controlled by the Holy Spirit in the production of the Scriptures as to give them divine and infallible authority.* (pages, 1-10)

The Word of God clearly states that IT IS His Holy Word, to be accepted by mankind as the authoritative, divine revelation of God's will and purpose.

*"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but , as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* (I Thess. 2:13)

**Consider:** (Col. 1:1,2; Matt. 22:29; II Pet. 1:20,21; John 16:12-15; Josh. 1:8)

## **II. Christian Education is Christ-Centered!**

### **A. Christ-centered education puts salvation first. (Col. 1:18)**

1. Christ is the center of life and the message of Christian education.
  - a. The first emphasis is that youth be in right relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - b. This comes when they are born again for until the child is saved, the teacher is limited in his ability to teach him.
2. Christ-centered education recognizes that the child is basically evil. That may sound like a strong statement, but a study of God's Word makes it very clear as to the condition of the human heart. (Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:1-3)
3. It is not the environment that causes the discipline problems in the child, it is the sin nature. We sin because we are sinners. We practice sin and live in self will and self-centeredness. The heart needs a drastic change that takes place through salvation by faith in Christ's death on the cross. (I Tim. 1:15; Prov. 22:15; Psa. 51: 5; Psa. 53; 58:3; Eph. 2:1-3)
4. Only the child that is rightly related to Jesus Christ can receive the full benefits of a Christian education. (Rom. 6:16-20)

### **B. Christ-centered education teaches the claims of Christ upon one's life.**

1. The secular, public education is thoroughly pupil-centered.
2. The child and his rights are emphasized, often in schools the child is even encouraged to disobey his parents and to express his selfish, self-centered will.
3. Self-esteem is often the basis of much false teaching in the public school, where the child is taught directly and indirectly to be selfish, self-centered. Instead of Christ-esteem, it is worship of self, the deifying of man.
4. Christ-centered education teaches Christ and His claims upon the lives of the students.
  - a. The student ought not have selfish rights of his own for once he is saved he belongs to Jesus.
  - b. We are bought with a price, we are not our own. (I Cor. 6:19-20)
  - c. We are to yield our bodies to Christ. (Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2)
  - d. To become Christlike must be the goal of each student. (Rom. 8:28-29) For Christ is our pattern and example. (Col. 3:17; I Cor. 10:31)

### **C. Christ-centered education states that the content for Christian education must be in harmony with the teachings of the Bible.**

(II Tim. 3:16-17; Psa. 119:128; Psa. 119 )

1. This provides the basis for the integration and correlation of all subject matter.
  - a. Every subject is taught with Christ as the center.
  - b. Instruction takes on new meaning when the subjects are interpreted in the light of the Word of God. What does God say?
  - c. *History* becomes the story of God's dealing with mankind.

- d. *Geography* lives as you see the gospel spread throughout different countries.
- e. *Science* is the outworking of God's laws.
- f. *Math* shows the absoluteness of God.
- g. *Civics* shows God's view of world culture, government, and problems.
- h. In *Health* we see that man is fearfully and wonderfully made.

2. Yes, the student is to see God in all of life!

**D. Christ-centered education evaluates all of life by Christ's life and ministry.**

- 1. The goals, objectives, and desires of life are to be evaluated in the light of Christ. (Phil. 3:4-14; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:12)
- 2. Biblical education teaches the student to seek God's will in planning his life. (Eph. 5:17, 6:6; Col. 4:12; Psa. 37:23; Rom. 12:1-2)
- 3. Every action, thought, or deed should be done in a way that would be honest, truthful, and pleasing to God. (I Cor. 10:31; Phil. 1:9-11)

**III. Christian Education is Holy Spirit Controlled!**

**A. Holy Spirit controlled education recognizes the Holy Spirit as teacher.**

- 1. John 14:26 says: *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*
- 2. Christian education is only truly effective when the Holy Spirit is at work through the teacher.
- 3. The reason there is so much teaching that has no power to elevate and sanctify lives is that the teacher has forgotten the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. The Holy Spirit inspires; He is the One who gives encouragement and and uplifting power to the teacher.
- 5. The Holy Spirit convicts; He takes the teaching and drives it home to the heart.
- 6. The Holy Spirit fills the teacher with power; He gives special anointing for the teacher's task, and relates it to everyday life of the student.
- 7. The teacher who recognizes the importance of the Holy Spirit's ministry in his life will find that his teaching will mold and change lives.

(For a complete study about the Holy Spirit and His work in the life of the believer, check our web site at <http://www.watke.org/> )

**B. Holy Spirit controlled education guides the teaching-learning process.**

- 1. It was God who created laws of teaching and learning.
  - a. It is God who dispenses the gift of teaching.

- b. God works through human instruments.
- 2. Effective teaching takes place to the extent that the teacher allows the Holy Spirit to speak through him and use him in the teaching-learning process.
- 3. The Holy Spirit provides guidance, instruction and wisdom (James 1:5-8) that the teacher needs in order to instruct each individual child. (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26; 16:7-14)

**C. Holy Spirit controlled education helps the teacher accomplish the goals of Christian education.**

- 1. Every Christian School should have certain goals to accomplish or they exist without purpose and direction.
- 2. Each teacher, in turn, must have individual classroom goals.
- 3. The main goal of Christian education is:
  - a. see each child saved, and
  - b. each child or youth growing in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, (Eph. 6:1-4) and
  - c. to be an extension of the purposes of the godly home.
- 4. The Holy Spirit works through the school and each teacher especially in order to accomplish these goals.
  - a. Mere human reliance will not succeed.
  - b. The teachers themselves cannot accomplish these goals.
  - c. The teachers must depend upon the Holy Spirit.

**IV. Christian Education is Pupil Related!**

Christian education is pupil related in the sense that the Bible is made relevant and becomes a part of the pupil's everyday life. Education is not to be pupil centered, but instead God-centered.

Christian education is concerned with helping the pupil know, feel, and do God's will. The student must see the relationship of the lessons (taught) and the implementation in those lessons to his life for God's glory.

Christian education will seek to relate Biblical truth to the individual in his relationship to God, home, society, vocation, and church. By showing this relationship the goal of Christlikeness in the pupil can better be achieved.

**V. Christian Education is Socially Applied!**

Though Christian education is not socially centered, it is socially applied. We are all social beings, we live, move, and work in a world with people.

The Bible states that we are in the world but not to be of the world. Jesus said in John 15:19: *"If he were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, the world hateth you."*



Students must learn how to live, work, and play in the world and yet be separate from the sin practices and live a life that brings glory to God. (I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 1:12; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-11)

Present day social problems are to be interpreted in the light of the Bible. Christian education applies Biblical principles to our social relationships so that the students learn to live victoriously over the world.

## **VI. Christian Education Has a Bible-based Foundation!**

The basis of all Christian education is the Word of God. It is the primary source of truth about God, man, and the world. All of life is to be viewed and interpreted through its pages; the Bible alone is absolute; it will never change or vary. (Matt. 24:35; John 5:39; II Tim. 3:15-17; Psa. 1:1-3)

Bible-based education gives standards, and students must have standards of dress, conduct and rules of discipline. The world's standards are constantly changing.

***The public schools of the 1930's and 1940's had better standards of dress, conduct, and rules of discipline than many Christian schools have today. . . sad, but true. Many Christian schools have embraced the world.***

Bible-based education gives absolute truth. Truth has been decided by God. Therefore all materials and activities must be based on what pleases God. All teaching must take place in the light of what is truly Christ centered.

# The Importance of a Philosophy of Education!

## Introduction:

The word philosophy has numerous meanings, such as:

*"It is the study of the truth of principles underlying all knowledge. It is a system for guiding life, as a body of principles of conduct, religious beliefs, or traditions."*

*"It is a person's thoughts and opinions concerning certain subjects."*

**It is said that everyone has a philosophy even though it has not been formulated in words.**

Education, like other disciplines in life, seeks for a basis or foundation for its demonstrated principle.

Does education need a philosophy? Yes, definitely, in fact education does have a philosophy. The basis for all the educational systems of the ages is formed in a foundational philosophy. The philosophies of the Greeks, the Romans, the British, and Americans still speak throughout the centuries.

It is the power of philosophical teachings that have shaped nations, governments, and movements.

**If philosophy is so powerful, then Christians must recognize and evaluate it!**

Many Christians feel that a study of philosophy is sinful. Some are afraid of being caught up in philosophical heresies that could lead to liberalism and modernism. Reasoning such as this is faulty. A knowledge of the errors of philosophy is as important as knowing the errors of a cult.

1. Philosophy exerts an influence that has moved churches, schools, and organizations throughout history.
2. Christian needs to be aware of the right kind of philosophy and the wrong kind of philosophy.
3. The basis of Christian Education is found in its philosophy. This is the key that calls for the difference.

## Consider the following:

Modern education has been deeply influenced by e popular philosophies of the day. *Rousseau* denied the sin nature. He said that if the child could be isolated from society until he desired knowledge, then he would develop into a good person. *Froebel* said that the goodness of God could be brought out in a child through self-expression and free development. *William James* said at the only valuable thing in education is that which works (pragmatism). *Dewey* felt that education was learning by doing. He exalted humanism (the deifying of man).

**Modern education is a "hodgepodge of philosophical ideas." Men have tried to pursue and assimilate the truth according to man's thinking -- divorced from God, the Bible and salvation in Christ.**

The Christian educator needs not look to worldly philosophers and educators for the basis his education system. This philosophy is found in and based on the Bible.

**The Bible is the basis and the foundation of Christian education and its philosophy as well!**

1. It teaches us that before a man can be truly educated, he must be born again.
2. It gives us authority and a God-given basis for discipline.
3. It teaches that there is no difference between the sacred and secular, that all of life is to be lived for God, and
4. that every discipline of life is to be taught in relationship to Christ, and to His claim upon a person's life.

**Does education need a philosophy? Yes, but it must be based on the Word of God and that alone!**

1. Philosophy is the difference between Christian education and the world's education.
2. It is extremely important that parents understand the dangers of the world's philosophy which is based on humanism, secular atheism, anti-God evolutionary teaching and a host of things contrary to Scripture.

**Goal of most unsaved Public Educators:**

Parents are to leave the education of their children to the professionals who are basically "*change agents*," set to prepare your child for a "*one-world*" order where God is ruled out totally.