



Why is Christian Education So Important?

A Christian education for your children may be one of the most important decisions you can make.

Barna research has found *“children begin forming their worldview between 15 and 18 months of age and by the age of 13, it’s almost entirely formed. And for the majority of people, research shows, it is unlikely to change much, if at all, over the remainder of their lives.”*

All of a child’s education should be Bible-centered and God-centered.

“Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

Training that is not of the Lord will “exasperate” (provoke to anger or sorrow or frustration) our children. The contrast in the verse (“Do not exasperate...instead bring them up in the training of the Lord”) tells us we should expect “exasperated children” from secular education.

Education should be positive and truthful.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

We should avoid situations that desensitize our children so they are more comfortable living in the midst of repeated sin against their Lord. Train a child in the way he should go.

Peer influence should be positive and Christ-like.

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion to fools suffers harm” (Proverbs 13:20).

“Do not be deceived, ‘Bad company ruins good morals’” (1 Corinthians 15:13).

Every teacher’s pattern of life should be worthy of imitation.

“Everyone when he is fully taught will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).

Jesus knew that teachers will have tremendous impact not only on studies, but on attitudes toward all aspects of life:

Only God-centered education gives true wisdom.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

“In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

How can we get a true perspective on God’s creation from a system that begins by excluding His words? If we quietly assume the Bible is mainly intended for use inside Sunday School classes, then secular education will be our natural choice. But, if we do think the Bible guides us in all areas of life, then we’ll give our children education that applies Scripture to every area of training for life.

Christian schooling is the best hope for transforming society.

“You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13, 14).

School is where we learn to think. It’s where we learn how to work and relate to others and influence the world. Christian parents sometimes say they want their children to be “salt and light” in a secular school. But how much salt and light can untrained, silent Christians be? Must we not rather train our children in Christian school that they may become salty and brilliant lights to transform a society wandering in darkness?

(Taken from “Biblical Reasons for sending Children to a Christian School” by Dr. Paul A. Kienel, a pamphlet by A.C.S.I.; Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, October 11, 2023)