

Berean Covenant Church Council on Family Issues

Topic: Education

Questions to consider:

- Who is responsible for children’s education?
- What is considered ‘education’?
- What is the purpose, motive, and need for education?
- What should be the source for education?
- How is socialization of children related to education? What are the positive/negative influences?
- What types of education are acceptable for believers?
- When should education begin/end?
- Is it permissible for a Christian to participate in a secular education system as an adult?

Doctrinal/Church Positions	Matters of Preference
<p>The motive of your heart is the most important thing to consider in decisions regarding your child’s education. Questions you should ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will my education choices bring glory to God? • Am I making my educational decisions out of fear for what man might do to my children? • Am I displaying trust in God or trust in self? • Do I feel that I am the only one who can do this? • Am I sending them to public or private education because I don’t want to take the time or hassle of doing it myself? • Am I afraid of what others will think of me? (The fear of man can go both ways). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In some circles, you may be outcast or looked down upon if you <i>don’t</i> homeschool. ○ In some circles you may be considered weird or fanatical if you <i>do</i> homeschool. • What consideration have I given to the sovereignty of God to protect me and my children? (This can be applied for people using any of the forms of education). <p>We should exercise extreme caution when sending children who have not expressed evidence of saving faith to receive a public education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are especially vulnerable to the deceit of ungodly teachers and peers. • The primary focus for a parent of children who have not expressed saving faith is to regularly, faithfully present the gospel to them. <p>Instruction of Scripture is to be a blend of corporate worship, corporate teaching, private devotion, and family devotion. The Lord gives gifts of teaching and preaching to whom He chooses within the church for the building up of all saints. Believers are never to rely on their own interpretation of Scripture, but need the gifts given by the Spirit to the whole body of Christ.</p>	<p>A believer’s decision regarding where his children are educated for general subjects (subjects not including Scripture) should be made with much prayer. Both spouses must be in one accord. Scripture gives examples of faithful believers being educated in public, private, and home education.</p> <p>A believer may choose to work in a public education field. He is to do this to the glory of God and should consider his work to be a mission field for sharing the gospel, as in any other secular occupation.</p>

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Believers are to carry the gospel into every avenue of the world. To say that there are places we will not go to carry the gospel—including public schools—is sin. Therefore, we would encourage any believer whom the Lord is calling to work in or attend a public school to approach this as an evangelistic opportunity.

Believers who work in or send their children to public education should be prepared to have an 'exit strategy' should the institution demand that they disobey or dishonor God.

Discussion Points

Scripture References We Discussed

1 John 5:19 → we are of God; the whole world lies in the sway of the evil one (unregenerate teachers)
1 Cor. 10:31 → do all to the glory of God
Col. 3:17 → do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
Deut. 6:7-8 → *You* shall teach these words (the Scriptures) to your children
Prov. 22:6 → Train a child in the way he should go...
Prov. 1:8 → My son hear the instruction of thy father and the teaching of your mother
Rom. 1:18-25 → God is Creator; many teachers are not teaching that God is creator
John 17:15-19 → Jesus has sent us into the world
Eph. 6:1-4 → fathers have the responsibility (and accountability) for the discipline and instruction of their children in the things of the Lord
Heb. 13:17 → elders have the responsibility to keep watch over all the flock, including the children
Dan. 1:4 → Daniel and the Israelite youths were faithful to God while receiving a secular education