

ChristFellowshipSLC.com

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

Education is the preparation of a child intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and physically for life and eternity. In God's kindness towards parents, He has been forthright concerning His will for the training of children. He has given mothers and fathers a wide array of instructions to think through, as they seek to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

As parents educate their children, they can go with confidence to God's word to find the guidance they need to lead them in this important responsibility. The following is a brief compilation of biblical principles and practical questions we ask parents in our congregation to wrestle with as they seek to be doers of the word and not merely hearers.

Deut. 6:4-15; 11:18-25; Psalm 1:1-3; 78; 119; 127; Proverbs 1:7-8; 9:10; 22:6; Matthew 7:15-20; 12:30; 22:37-38; 28:18-20; Luke 6:40; Acts 20:25-31; Romans 1:21-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 10:31; 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 10:5; Ephesians 4:11-24; 6:1-4; Colossians 2:3, 8; 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12, 15; 6:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-5; Titus 1:6, 10-16; 2:4-5; James 1:22-25; 3:1; 4:4; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:3-6, 15-24; 5:21; 4:1-6; 2 John; Jude...

- **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS PRIMARILY A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.** Children are a gift of the Lord, and parents have been given the responsibility to direct and guide their education that they might be equipped in every area of life to think God's thoughts after Him and walk as Jesus walked. The goal in child training is reverence for, and submission to, God.
- **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS A COSTLY COMMITMENT.** This parental commitment towards children is to be a daily, Word-saturated, Gospel-rooted effort that begins at breakfast and concludes at bedtime. Parents should diligently pursue their children in this way, from birth through maturity, for the glory of God and their joy.
- **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS AN IMMERSION IN TRUTH.** The Lord has clearly expressed that neutrality is impossible, particularly in the realm of education. Parents, therefore, have the joyful obligation and great privilege of immersing their children in the knowledge of God, holding Christ preeminent in all things. Parents should see to it that their children learn all things, as much as is humanly possible, in light of God's revelation.
- **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM FALSEHOOD.** Parents, along with local churches in general, are charged with the solemn mandate to guard the children in their care from false prophets, corrupt teachers, bad company, and ungodly worldviews. If parents delegate any part of their child's education, it should be done with the utmost caution, thoughtfulness, and care.
 - In the training of our children, does our confessional faith and functional faith accurately reflect the Word of God? Have we evaluated our approach to education with the Bible?
 - What goals do we have for ourselves and for our children in the area of education? Do these goals have their roots in the Bible? How will we attempt to accomplish these goals?

- Is teaching and equipping our children a priority for us? Do I feel adequately equipped to provide this kind of instruction for my children? If not, who in my church family might be able to walk with me in this area of life?
- Is our household structured in a way that enhances our commitment to the discipleship of our children? Are there any unnecessary obstacles that hinder us from this responsibility?
- What will each day, week, and month look like in our home? Are we being good stewards of our time and our child's time?
- Does the content of our child's instruction reflect reverence for God and His word as the sole standard of conduct and interpretation? Does our child's education give Jesus Christ His proper place as Lord over all? Are we seeking to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ?
- Have I delegated any part of my child's education to someone else? If so, do their teachers (and curricula) encourage them to respond to God in appropriate worship?
- Do we know what our children are seeing, hearing, and doing? What different mediums (institutions, books, internet, textbooks, music, teachers, coaches, friends, and so forth) have significant influence in our child's life? Are these influences reinforcing the goals we have for our children? Could any of those mediums be seeking to introduce a false worldview into the life of our child? If so, how should we approach this issue?
- Is our child being taught anything that might draw him or her away from Jesus or hinder their walk with Him? Are we confident that false prophets or false teachers haven't crept into our child's life? If false worldviews were introduced to them, how would we know?
- Are there other followers of Christ who we might be able to glean wisdom from regarding our child's education? How could our church family hold us accountable so that we are always reforming to God's Word as parents? Is my church family willing to do whatever it takes to honor the Lord in the discipleship of the next generation of disciples?
- How could we be an encouragement to other Christian parents? Are there any parents in my church family who might be in a difficult place in life (such as a single parent household, ongoing illness, new believers...)? How could we assist and support them in the education of their children?
- Have we discussed this important issue with our elders/pastors? Since our elders keep watch over our souls as those who will give an account (Hebrew 13:17), have we sought their counsel as we make decisions about our child's discipline and instruction?

This document is obviously not an exhaustive treatment on this crucial subject (there are many other issues at stake and the whole counsel of God to consider), but it is a starting point for thoughtful consideration and discussion. We implore our parents to carefully test their presuppositions about education and diligently examine the potential implications behind every decision they make concerning their children.

As elders of Christ Fellowship, our desire is simply to shepherd the flock of God (parents in this case) under our care, believing He is the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-5) who has spoken to parents and the church concerning the education of children. We should be found negligent, if we fail to address this reasonably and biblically.