



Exploring Educational Choices for the Christian Family

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I. Introduction

II. One of life's most important decisions

III. The starting point—what does God say about education in the Bible?

- A. God has given parents the responsibility to raise, educate, train, and disciple their children.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 1:8

- B. Knowledge should not be separated from faith in God

Proverbs 1:7

- C. Knowledge should be built on faith and character

2 Peter 1:5

- D. A Christian's mind and thinking should be radically different than a non-Christians mind and thinking.

Romans 12:2

- E. God deals severely with those who educate and influence children away from Him.

Matthew 5:19; Matthew 18:5

IV. What will we do with the responsibility God has given us?

Two major options:

Option 1: Delegate the responsibility

_____ School with parental support

_____ School with parental support

Option 2: Accept the responsibility

_____ School with outside support

V. How do we decide? We must have a clear picture of the “desired end.”

According to God’s Word, what are His goals for my child?

What does God say in the Bible is important to know in life?

What does God say in the Bible is important to be able to do in life?

What does God say in the Bible is important to feel and believe?

What does God say in the Bible about mission and purpose?

As we develop clear answers to these questions:

Will delegating the training of my child to public school, supported by my parenting at home, best help my child become who God wants him or her to be?

Will delegating the training of my child to a Christian school, supported by my parenting at home, best help my child become who God wants him or her to be?

Will assuming the responsibility for the education and development of my child by home schooling, supported by others, best help my child become who God wants him or her to be?

Questions when considering changing your education plan:

1. Have you carefully read and considered what God has said in the Bible about the nature and purpose of education? Do you believe the Bible is a sufficient guide for educational choices?
2. Is your son or daughter increasing or decreasing in their respect and responsiveness to mom and/or dad?
3. Is your son or daughter showing signs of spiritual growth or signs of spiritual stagnation?
4. Is your son or daughter demonstrating a social pattern of being negatively influenced, or being a positive influencer.
5. In the big picture – are you pleased with the overall faith and character development of your son or daughter? Do you see their heart, their love for Jesus Christ, as evidenced by their behavior beginning at home – moving in the right direction?

Our Story....

Q and A

Resources for Christian Parents on Educational Choices

This resource page is intentionally designed to offer a wide range of viewpoints on the subject of education. Many of the books referenced below are very aggressive in pursuing their position. I suggest that we, as parents, need to expose ourselves to all the major viewpoints in order to be sufficiently prepared to make this major life decision:

How will we carry out our responsibility to educate/disciple the children God has entrusted to our care?

Resources equipping parents for public schooling:

Helping Your Child Succeed in Public School, Cheri Fuller

Creative a Positive Public School Experience, Eric Buehrer

Resources equipping parents for Christian schooling:

Excused Absence, Should Christian Kids Leave Public Schools?
Douglas Wilson

How Now Shall We Live?

Chuck Colson

Discussion of the development of a Biblical Worldview, which has ramifications for decisions related to education.

A Passion for Learning: The History of Christian Thought on Education,
D. Lockerbie

Resources equipping parents for Home Schooling:

Homeschooling 101, Christine Field

Little Book of Big Reasons to Homeschool, David and Kim d'Escoto

The Right Choice: Home Schooling, Christopher Klicka

www.youcanhomeschool.org

What Your Child Needs to Know When, Robin Sampson

When You Rise Up, **RC Sproul, Jr.**

More parenting resources available at www.visionaryparenting.com

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Scripture References on Education

The most important factor for a Christian in making any life decision, in this case about the education/discipleship of our children is, "What has God said about this in His Word?" Before making any decision about education, it is essential for us to examine the Bible for it's specific teaching and principles related to knowledge, education, and preparing kids for adulthood. Take the time to study these Scriptures to determine for yourself what eternal truth God has given to us on this crucial matter.

If you find Scriptures about education that are not listed here, please email me at rrienow@wheatonbible.org so that I can include them in the future.

Chapters in the Bible which speak to the foundations and source of true knowledge:

Job, chapters 38-42
Psalm 19, 119
Psalm 139
Proverbs 1

Scriptures which relate to gaining and using knowledge:

Proverbs 2:6, 2:10, 5:2, 8:9-12, 9:10-14, 11:9, 12:1, 13:16, 14:6-7, 14:18, 15:2, 15:7, 15:14, 17:27, 18:15, 19:2, 19:25-27, 20:15, 21:11, 22:12, 22:20, 23:12, 24:4, 24:5, 28:2
Ecclesiastes 2:26
Isaiah 47:10
Daniel 2:21
Hosea 4:6
Habakkuk 2:14
Romans 1:28, 10:2, 15:14
1 Corinthians 1:5, 8:1, 13:1-8
2 Corinthians 4:6, 8:7, 10:5, 11:6
Ephesians 3:19, 4:13
Philippians 1:9
Colossians 1:9-10, 3:10, 2:8
1 Timothy 2:4, 6:20
2 Timothy 2:25
2 Peter 1:3-8, 3:18

Scriptures which speak to the teaching of children:

Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 6:4-9, 11:18-20, 31:13
Psalm 34:11
Psalm 78
Proverbs 1:8, 4:1, 13:1, 22:6
Ephesians 6:4
Matthew 5:19, 18:5-7