





"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." - Mark 1:3

Contending for American Freedom • Contending for Fundamental Christianity



Public Education

A case of the Heart (Continued from Spring 2010 edition)

Dear Parent:

Is your child precious to you? I believe the answer is Yes! Is your child's teaching and training important to you? I believe the answer is Yes!

Is the will of God in your child's life a priority to you? If you have read this far, I believe the answer is Yes!

If you answered YES to the above questions then please for your child's sake, respond to the following evaluation of your child's education:

The following is true of my child's education whether public, christian, homeschool, etc.

True Statement

The Word of God is the absolute sole authority of faith and practice.

"God created" as recorded in Genesis and The Bible.

Character training, moral absolutes and classroom discipline are consistently practiced and enforced by the teacher.

Self-control, rules of conduct, and dress codes are essential to learning.

Bible, history, literature, science, math, language, writing, speech, music, and arts with academic standards are taught.

Memorization, repetition, drill and recitation along with regular quizzes, tests and examination are part of a lively, interactive classroom.

The worth of a soul and accountability to God is core to teaching.

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True Statement

"Authority," "direction" or "leadership" is not based on The Bible.

The Origin of the Universe and Man is primarily taught from an evolutionary viewpoint.

Absolutes, discipline, structure, and standards are detrimental and repressive to a child's development and learning.

"Self-expression," "freedom" and "creativity" will allow the students felt needs and relevance.

A "new" or "modern approach" in teaching methods and learning is used.

A "creative," self-expressive classroom environment removes inhibitions.

Abortion, homosexuality and freedom from restraints are viable alternatives.

The above is by no means an exhaustive questionnaire. Whether public, private or homeschool be it clearly understood the Bible places responsibility and accountability squarely upon the parents shoulders. Sadly, all too often that role is AWOL and our children, churches and a lost world suffers the consequences.

"Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 This word "provoke" indicates the God-given, powerful position the parent holds in the life of the child. The KJB pinpoints the parents responsibility to the child and accountability to God for instruction. This instruction is through actions and teaching. Dad and Mom (Prov. 1:8) will realize great reward both personal and in the life of their child when the Biblical model is followed.

Question and Answer Time

Dear Parent: Consider these answers to critical questions regarding your child's education.

Q: Are homeschoolers being isolationist?

A: Yes-but that doesn't mean that what they're doing is wrong.

However you educate your children, you're being isolationist. For instance, those children who attend public schools are being isolated from a Christian philosophy in virtually everything they're taught. Children who are homeschooled or sent to a good Christian school are isolated from being indoctrinated in a humanist philosophy. The point is, it's not a matter of whether one is an isolationist or not, but what you're going to isolate children from. We should want to do our best to train them up foundationally, beginning with the book of Genesis, so that they'll have a foundation for their doctrine and be able to defend their faith. We also train them to understand the humanist philosophy and its evil foundation of evolution, so they'll be able to fight it.

All Christian parents should be isolating their children from being influenced by evolutionary humanism – whether they homeschool or not. Our young people should have a Christian world view based on the authority of God's Word. [Amen!] Q: If the Bible was allowed in public schools, wouldn't this be promoting a religion?

Isn't public education supposed to be neutral?

A: From a biblical perspective there's no such thing as neutrality. Scripture says that you either walk in light or darkness – you're either for Christ or against Him – there's no in-between. When the humanist threw the Bible out of the public school, they simply replaced it with the religion of humanism. Just because public education doesn't mention God doesn't mean it's neutral. In fact, the philosophy that's being taught to students now is that they can think, believe and act apart from God. That's the religion of humanism.

Children are being told they can determine truth apart from God – that fallible man is the authority. Thus even Christian children who are in this system come out thinking like humanists. When they get into positions of authority, such as in government, they don't make correct decisions based on God's Word. They tend to think that the Bible is simply an interesting "guide book" to life that you somehow add to your thinking. We need to build all our thinking on God's Word – starting right from Genesis.

Answers in Genesis.org 1/3

THE BIBLE SAYS-

The following are excerpts from "A Beka Book" demonstrating the Biblical position on various school subjects. Does your child's education have at its core a Biblical foundation?

Science/Health

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

-Proverbs 25:2

Science is the study of God's order, provision, and reasonableness as revealed in His physical creation.

English

How forcible are right words!
-Job 6:25

Because God has given us the great commission of communicating His truth to mankind, we must give our students the finest tools available to carry out this goal in a reasonable, well-articulated manner.

Bible

From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.

-2 Timothy 3:15

The clear teaching of the Bible is the foundation for all other learning.

History

History is for time, what travel is for space; it is an intellectual journey across oceans and continents of duration, and of ages both

remote from our own and vitalized and enriched by stupendous events.

-Moses Coit Tyler

Mathematics

Mathematics is the language God used in His creation of the universe, and thus it is logical, orderly, beautiful, and very practical in science and in daily life.

No subject matter better reflects the glory of God than mathematics. To study mathematics is to study God's thoughts after Him, for He is the great Engineer and Architect of the universe.

The above is only a brief description of how the Christian parent is to approach the importance of every subject and text the child is educated from. These Biblical Distinctives are vital to THE WAY you teach and train your child.

to spank or

"Time out, go sit in the corner. I warned you twice not to do that again!" "Spanking does

not work. I've tried it and it just does not work with my child!"

"Oh no, I would never spank children. That teaches them it's O.K. to hit people. How can I tell my child it's wrong to hit, if I hit him? Spanking is child abuse. It will damage self-esteem. There are much better ways. Children are different and you see my child is unique."

I may not have heard them all, but I've certainly heard many of the arguments against spanking. Again, what does the Scripture say about the subject. Not, how you and I feel about it. Not what the modern psychologist and socalled child rearing experts have to say. Does the Bible speak expressly? Do we have a final authority we can go to in trust for direction? Deuteronomy 5:16 says, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

1. The Command

If Dad and Mom are walking contrary to the Lord's commands, that places the child in a precarious and vulnerable position. Ninetynine percent of the problem is Dad

and Mom. Almost (please note I say ALMOST) without exception, if Dad and Mom would do right, little Johnnie and little Susie would come inline. When parents behave contrary to God's commands, what can we expect from the child? Could the parents' disobedience to their heavenly Father in like manner yield disobedience in their children (offspring)? Dad, Mom have you yielded your heart and life to the heavenly Father?

Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

No, parents are not perfect. When a couple becomes Mr. and Mrs. First- Time parents, they are certainly the least experienced with very little on-the-job training unless their parents demonstrated Scriptural obedience to them throughout their childhood. What a blessing when, as a child, one is reared in a home of love. forgiveness, and discipline. A home where body, soul, and spirit are nurtured by parents who love the heavenly Father and keep His commandments - not an atmosphere of perfection, but a relationship where the child sees parents forgiven by the Lord when failure comes, growing in the Lord

not to spank?

Is there a question?

on a daily basis, and whose hope is in the Lord through times of weakness. The child's success does not so much hinge on the parents' perfect faith as it does on the parents' practicing faith step-by-step, day-by-day.

Parents, that tiny, precious bundle of joy is waiting for you. You are commanded to "Train up" your child "in the way he should go:.." Your child's obedience to you must emerge from your relationship and obedience to your heavenly Father. I cannot at this time deal with the parents' walk with the Lord, but it is critical for each of us to immerse ourselves in The Word. You will have the answers as you study His Word and yield to the sweet leadership of His Holy Spirit. He has given us the instruction manual, and now we must choose to obey His commands. The question is, will you do it God's way? Here is what the Lord has to say about our subject.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 13:24

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 19:18

"Withhold not correction from the

child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 23:13, 14

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: But a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverbs 29:17

For brevity's sake, permit me to list for you the basics for spanking:

1. The parent is instructed to use the rod, not your hand. Susannah Wesley spanked John and Charles before they were a year old. My wife and I used a lightweight paint stir stick and progressed to a heavier instrument. A wooden dowel or a wooden correction paddle could be used.

- The punishment must fit the disobedience.
- 3. Punish immediately. Do not warn repeatedly. Do not raise your voice, yell or scream at your child. Do not wait to punish when you are out of patience, angry or frustrated. Tell your child what is expected, and require immediate obedience. "I told you a thousand times, if you do that once more. . ." Do not confuse your child as to what is required and when. Obedience is required immediately and if not, immediate punishment

will commence.

- 4. Before spanking, tell the child what was expected, how they disobeyed, and this is why they are being punished. Do not jerk your child up in a fit of temper. If this is your disposition, you need a spanking more than your child. You must be under control. By the way, have you explained to your child beforehand what your expectations are? Make clear the rules.
- 5. Do not allow excessive screaming/crying resulting from the spanking. This may very well be a display of temper and rebellion toward the spanking.
- 6. Following the spanking, sit down with your child. Allow him/her to regain composure. Explain why you spanked and then express your love verbally.
- 7. There is so much I would like to share at this point. However. you must not miss this. It is so critical that the parent develop a loving relationship with the child. If the parent/child relationship is where it should be, the worst part of spanking for the child will be broken fellowship with Dad and Mom. Yes, the spanking should be painful, and fit the crime. But the child should also feel the pain of disappointing Dad and Mom. This will be a deterrent if the love relationship of parent/child is strong. I cannot overemphasize the need for the child to know "Dad and Mom love me." Spanking, yes the whole of training your child, is not

a power thing. The purpose is not to get what you want. The purpose is not to have control over your child's life or get peace and quiet when you desire it. The Scriptures above clearly put forth the purpose of the rod. Always keep in mind Ephesians 6:4 ". . . bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Nurture carries with it the training, education, as well as correction and chastening. Admonition is obvious—warning and reproof are a must in each child's development. All is to be "of the Lord." Parents, you are God's representative to your child. Should we not therefore implement His instructions for training our children?

II. Consistency

This preaches to us all. Is it ever difficult for us mortals to be consistent? Prayer and preparation will go a long way. Ask the Lord to help you to be consistent. Then make the necessary preparations.

Does your child know the boundaries and what the rules are? There should be praise and reward for good behavior, character, etc. Explain the consequences for disobedience. Immediate obedience is expected. Now, here is where the parent confuses the child. Sometimes our patience is endless, and then again, we lose it over the least little thing. One time it's, "Go to your room" then it's, "No privileges for a week." We spank or maybe scold or even

yell and scream. When guests are present the child is cute, but at another time the behavior "gets on our nerves" and BAM! The parent may even allow the child to throw temper tantrums while the parent leaves the house to get some fresh air. "I'm warning you, if you do that one more time you are going to get it. . . What did I tell you?!"

Have you ever heard that?
Can you imagine taking away good things from the child as a means of punishment? We parents can be so inconsistent and confusing that we are a part of the problem, maybe even the problem. Be consistent:

1. Lay out the rules clearly-start early.

2. Explain the consequences for disobedience.

3. Develop a positive and powerful relationship with your child.

4. Obey immediately disobedience will be punished immediately.

By the way, this time out—take away things, etc. prolongs the punishment and allows the child to develop and harbor bad feelings toward Dad and Mom. The Lord is right. Punish disobedience

immediately. Talk about the situation with your child, and restore the child to your fellowship.

III. Character

Start with day one. Then when your child is old enough to understand, set forth rules and expectations. Explain the consequences for disobedience.

Develop a strong relationship of love and assurance.

"Train up a child. . ."
Proverbs 22:6. Yes,
that is the parents'
responsibility.

Hebrews 12:11 says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." We cannot go wrong by following the Lord's instruction-and if the

parent is disobedient, my, what consequences! But Dad and Mom, if we obey, my, what rewards!

{Taken from "Under Loving Command", A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL. Editor: I am not endorsing all associated with the booklet, but it is well worth the read. RLW}