

# Christians and Schooling Options

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Christian liberty and biblical wisdom (see Romans 14)

*What (if any) guidelines does the Bible has for us when it comes to the education of our children? Has God left educating our children up to chance, or has he given us some instructions on how we can pursue this in a godly manner?*

### 2. Education or training is broader than simply reading, writing, and other learned skills.

### 3. Some guidelines before we start:

- a. Stop pitting one form of education against all others (the danger of pride)
- b. Stop spreading lies and making broad false claims against forms of education that we do not think are right (the danger of bearing false witness)
- c. Stop worrying about what everyone else is doing and focus on what the Word of God has for us to do (the danger of false guilt)

## WHAT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR CHILDREN?

### 1. Education is good, but it must be tethered to the Scriptures and done for God's glory.

"In addition to the Teacher being a wise man, he constantly taught the people knowledge; he weighed, explored, and arranged many proverbs. 10 The Teacher sought to find delightful sayings and write words of truth accurately. 11 The sayings of the wise are like cattle prods, and those from masters of collections are like firmly embedded nails. The sayings are given by one Shepherd. 12 But beyond these, my son, be warned: there is no end to the making of many books, and much study wearies the body. 13 When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil." (Eccl. 12:9–14).

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- 2. Regardless of the mode of education, there are standard commands that should be going on in each household.**

“Imprint these words of mine on your hearts and minds, bind them as a sign on your hands, and let them be a symbol on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates, 21 so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and those of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors” (Deut. 11:18–21).

“Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction, and don’t reject your mother’s teaching” (Prov. 1:8).

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, 15 and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:14–17).

“Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

“So Joshua summoned the twelve men he had selected from the Israelites, one man for each tribe, 5 and said to them, “Go across to the ark of the Lord your God in the middle of the Jordan. Each of you lift a stone onto his shoulder, one for each of the Israelite tribes, 6 so that this will be a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ 7 you should tell them, ‘The water of the Jordan was cut off in front of the ark of the Lord’s covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan’s water was cut off.’ Therefore these stones will always be a memorial for the Israelites” (Josh. 4:4–7).

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### THE BIG THREE EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS FOR YOUR KIDS

#### 1. Public School

- a. Opportunities
- b. Challenges

#### 2. Christian School

- a. Opportunities
- b. Challenges

#### 3. Home School

- a. Opportunities
- b. Challenges

### TWO THINGS TO CONSIDER IN CHOOSING AN EDUCATIONAL MODEL

#### 1. What is our own priority as a parent?

- a. We should stop using the language “this is what’s best for my child.”
- b. We should never do something because “that the way it has always been done.”
- c. We are to make decisions about our child’s education based upon what honors and glorifies God . . . not what is best for the child or the parent.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

#### 2. What are your idols in your own heart that motivate your choice?

- a. Comfort
- b. Academic prowess
- c. Morality
- d. Salvation

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### PRACTICAL QUESTIONS TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

#### 1. What are my children learning?

- a. Not all homeschooling curriculum is written from a biblical perspective.
- b. Not all governmental or public school teachers want your kids to learn Critical Race Theory or become transgender.
- c. Not all Christian schools teach the Bible, have saved teachers, or even share the gospel with the kids.

*No matter where your children are leaning basic academics, you as a parent have a responsibility to not only teach them about the Lord (Deut. 6; 11; Pro 1; Eph. 4) but since you are their parent you also have the responsibility to know what is being taught to them.*

#### 2. Who is the authority that is teaching my child?

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, 3 so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land” (Eph. 6:1–3).

*God has given the authority over your children to you as the parent.*

#### 3. What do I need to correct or teach differently to my child?

“Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15–16).

*We should never simply trust something because it comes from a certain source. We must always inspect what we expect.*

### FINAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Are you fulfilling the commands to make sure your children are being taught in the Lord?
- Do you know what the Lord expects from you as a parent?
- Do you know the content of what your children are being taught?
- Is your first priority in choosing a mode of teaching the glory of God or other reasons?

### PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON:

- Read “You Don’t Need More Parenting Advice” by Paul Tripp at [desiringgod.org/articles/you-dont-need-more-parenting-advice](https://desiringgod.org/articles/you-dont-need-more-parenting-advice)