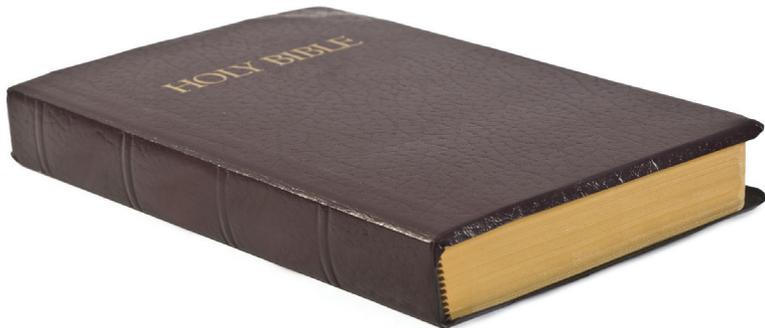


What is the purpose of Christian education?



Sunshine Bible Academy
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1. What is the purpose of education according to God?

School is an important part of our society. For many, the purpose of education is to simply prepare a person for a career. The focus is on self and individual success. Often success is defined by worldly standards and not according to Scripture. Christian parents should ask a very important question, "What is the purpose of education according to God?"

The purpose of education is to know that we were created for Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16) and in knowing this, that we would come to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and love our neighbor as ourself (Deut 6:4-7, Matthew 22:37-38).

Any school that denies God, teaches things contrary to the truth of Scripture, or diminishes His importance misses the very purpose of education and presents a faulty and destructive worldview.

What type of wisdom is my child being subjected to and ultimately influenced by?

Paul, addressing the church at Colossae, wrote that his desire for them would be that they "would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:9-14 full context).

The end of education is not mere knowledge or a good-paying job. It is that we would be filled with wisdom in making right choices, thus walking worthy of the Lord and being fruitful in every good work in serving others.

Through education, our children are acquiring knowledge and developing wisdom that forms their belief system (worldview) and ultimately their choices in life. James says there are **only** two kinds of wisdom: that which is worldly (humanistic) and demonic and that which is from above (godly) and is pure, peaceable and full of good fruit.

Sunshine Bible Academy believes and practices that the foundation of all education is to be built upon the fear of the Lord as revealed through Scripture. "For the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). The motto, "God's truth for today's youth," is the heart and soul of Sunshine Bible Academy. SBA promotes a lifestyle based on biblical principles and absolute truth from God's Word.

2. Is what I am teaching my child being undermined in the classroom?

Christian parents' greatest desire should be to teach their children God's truth. Many parents feel that an hour or two of church a week coupled with their ability to correct wrong views taught in school will offset any negative influence.

Think of this: Our children will spend approximately 1200 hours in school in one year. That is 15,600 hours from K through 12. In that time they will be under the authority of their teachers, influenced by their peers and taught from school books that often have a godless and humanistic worldview. Do you think they will escape without any influence?

Statistics show that 90% of all Christian parents have their children educated by the government education system. Did you know that over 80% of all children who grew up in Christian homes and were church-ed leave the faith? Is there a correlation here?

*Are your children's teachers
teaching them the truth?*

*Are your children's hearts and minds
being conformed to the pattern of the
world or to the truth of God's Word?*

Romans 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth."

Sunshine Bible Academy seeks to provide a nurturing environment from God's point of view that will lead to the spiritual and educational development of young people producing a responsible and effective life of service to the Lord.

3. Who is responsible for our children's education?

At first glance it seems obvious it would be the parents. Yet, many parents have the mindset that educating their children is in the hands of the government-run schools. However, the Scripture is clear that it is the parents that have the main responsibility of educating and training their children in the Lord. "Fathers do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4.

When parents enlist others to help assist them in the education process, they do not lose their responsibility or accountability to the Lord. It is the parents' God given right and responsibility to choose properly who will assist them in this process.

It is unreasonable to expect teachers in public school settings to teach children biblical truth. They are forbidden to do so. Our society says that religious views or beliefs are to be separate from the education process and thus to life. This could not be further from the truth.

Is school helping or hindering you as a parent to encourage your child's faith?

As mentioned above, you cannot separate education from God, since knowing God, loving Him and serving others is the end of education. To remove God from the education process is to present a worldview that is faulty and without purpose or hope.

Who parents partner with has a great influence on the student. Many teachers are very influential in the lives and minds of these impressionable children. Jesus said, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like His teacher." Luke 6:41

All teachers have a worldview and that will show itself in the classroom hour after hour. Can a biblical worldview and an unbiblical worldview exist together? NO. Can believers and unbelievers partner together? No. "What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" 2: Cor 6:15.

We are commanded from Scripture to “have no fellowship with the evil works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11). As caring and enthusiastic as some teachers can be they still cannot lead our children into a proper biblical worldview and exalt Jesus as Lord. “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Won’t they both fall into a pit?” Luke 6:38.

Furthermore, we must realize that education is never neutral. It is based on the worldview or beliefs of those writing the curriculum. In the education process, ideals and values are being communicated to the children.

Here is what the National Education Association said at their 2012-2013 convention: “Plans, activities and programs must...increase respect, understanding, acceptance and sensitivity toward individuals and groups in a diverse society composed of such groups as...gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender persons.”

The NEA also acknowledges that it is committed to a naturalistic, evolutionistic worldview and sees the public school system as the engine of social revolution. The classrooms are being transformed into ideological laboratories for experimentation and indoctrination from human sexuality to postmodern understanding of truth. The sad thing is that these are not rats they are experimenting with, but children.

The NEA also believes, and has said in its own words, that “the public school system should provide...family planning counseling and access to birth control methods.” And that is often without parental consent. Is there an agenda?

*What beliefs and values are
your children learning at school?*

Colossians 2:8: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Jesus said, “He who is not for me is against Me.” Luke 11:23.

Sunshine Bible Academy exists to assist parents with their responsibility to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord by integrating God's truth in all areas of life. Sunshine Bible Academy is a refuge that allows young people the opportunity to become rooted and grounded in their faith without the onslaught of godless philosophies.

4. Shouldn't our children be salt and light?

The short answer is yes. Christians are called to be salt and light. We are called to be in the world but not of it. We are called to have an impact on our society for the glory of God. But that does not mean we put our children in harm's way. We are never called to put them under the influence of that which opposes the existence of God and Jesus' central role in human history.

Jesus also said that "if the salt loses its saltiness it is good for nothing but to be trampled underfoot of men" (Matt. 5:13). A significant role of proper Christian education is to prepare our children to be salt and light. We are to give them every opportunity to develop a biblical worldview and to become rooted and grounded in their faith. That way, when they do go on to wherever God places them, they will know what they believe and be able to defend and proclaim it to a world in desperate need of the saving grace of God.

Sunshine Bible Academy is committed to constructing a solid foundation of biblical understanding and practical application through mentoring relationships with Christian staff who prepare and teach our young people to serve Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

Many students leave Sunshine prepared to engage the world as mature, grounded, visionary servant leaders. Our graduates are confronting godless worldviews, standing strong as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, and impacting the current and coming generations for the Lord, thus being salt and light.

*Is school helping
your child to become
salt and light?*

5. Isn't paying for Christian school expensive?

Throughout life we make many investments. What better investment could there be than in providing for our children a Christian education that honors God and will help them develop a proper worldview? Is there a price tag one can put on that?

Parents have the responsibility for the care and nurture of their children. Children are a blessing from the Lord and parents must be good stewards with what the Lord has blessed them with.

Matthew 6: 19-21: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Through the generous support of faithful patrons who have designated funds to assist qualified students and their families in tuition payments, Sunshine Bible Academy has options available for students with financial need.

*Are you looking at
paying for education
biblically?*

When I started attending SBA I had no idea how much it would impact my life. Right away, God started working in my life through devos, chapel, class and many other ways. I had so many amazing examples to look to and learn from. The Lord has taught me so much in my time at SBA, and He continues to teach me more and more every day. Looking back, I really don't know where I would be if God had not sent me to SBA. I thank the Lord every day for sending me to, and giving me the privilege of attending, SBA. Now I am serving and growing closer to my King every single day.

~ Stetson Erickson, SBA student

6. I can't imagine sending my child away to school.

The fact of the matter is that if you choose to partner with someone to help educate your child you are sending them away, whether that is each day for 8 hours or for the week. The better question is, "into what environment am I sending my child?"

Am I sending my child into a godless, humanistic environment that will teach a worldview void of God and thus influencing them in a negative way or am I sending my child into an environment that will help nurture and support that which is being taught at home thus affecting them positively? Yes, sending a child to school away from home is a difficult choice. There is a sacrifice. However, many testimonies bear witness to the fact that when children do return home on weekends they are much more engaged with their parents and are appreciative of that relationship.

"If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in Me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Matt. 18:6.

*What kind of environment
are you sending your
children into?*

Sunshine Bible Academy is committed to the concept of a strong relationship between the home, church and school; working together in the building up and spiritual training of our young people as they work toward their diploma.

We understand the importance of family and for that reason have implemented a four ½ days school week which helps allow for more time on the weekends with family. There is also the option for those in close proximity to drive into school. This is available for K-12.

Is Christian Education Really Important?

by Linda Kardamis

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Christian education is my passion, so it sometimes amazes me when I hear other Christians dismiss the whole concept or speak flippantly about it. Christian schools are deemed by some to be inferior or unnecessary. They're too expensive, too strict, too intrusive, or too much of a bubble.

While no school is perfect, Christian education plays a vital role in the training of our children, and I believe it is absolutely essential. This is no knock on those who choose to work in the public school system – that is an entirely different mission field. But when it comes to the future of our children, we must make Christian education a priority.

Satan is the master deceiver, and He desperately wants us to think that Christian education is not really important and that the public schools can educate our children just fine. He will use every technique and argument he can to trick us into complacency. But we can't afford to be fooled.

Christian education is vital because...

1. The public school system has an agenda – and it's not just about evolution.

I've heard parents say that they know their child is hearing about evolution in the public school but that they talk to them about it at home, so everything's fine. I wish this were the case, but it's just not.

Yes, kids are good at refuting evolution and staying true to their belief in a Creator – that's not really a problem. The issue is that the public school system is pushing way more than evolution, and most parents don't even know the assault of dangerous philosophies their children are facing.

The public school system is humanistic at its core and pushes its progressive agenda every way it can. From a young age, students are taught that there is no absolute truth, that homosexuality is an acceptable alternative, that some people are more valuable than others, and that socialism is the key to the future of our society. And the problem is that these philosophies are taught very subtly – weaved into illustrations and application questions. A mature adult might not even catch them, much less a child or teenager.

This subtle teaching of humanism, socialism, and progressivism is dangerously persuasive to impressionable children and teens. And since we as parents are not in the classroom with our students, we don't even know what to refute.

2. Our kids need to do more than just survive.

Can a child survive the ever-rising onslaught of unbliblical philosophies and graduate from a public school with their faith intact? Of course. But don't we want more than this?

Since when is the goal to raise kids who “made it.” Don't we want kids who understand God's truths and how to apply them to every situation in life. Don't we want our kids to have a deep, meaningful relationship with God? Don't we want them to be everything they can be and to use their lives for His glory?

I'm not saying a kid who attends a public school cannot be used of God – that would be ridiculous. But what I am saying is that a main purpose of Christian schools should be to intentionally disciple students. Effective Christian schools should be using every opportunity to speak Biblical truth into students' lives and help them become more like Christ.

Christian schools should not just be the absence of wrong philosophies. They should instead be the infusion of truth into every aspect of the day – from academics to peer relationships to sports.

A student who learns to hear and apply Biblical truths has done way more than survive – He is ready to thrive.

3. Our kids are still in training.

The public school system may indeed be a mission field, but the missionaries should be mature adults, not our kids. Why not? Because they are still in training themselves.

To illustrate, let's imagine that the government wants to send spies to infiltrate an Al-Qaeda training facility that uses propaganda and indoctrination to radicalize its recruits. The general carefully selects his candidate – a 13-year-old teenager. He's a loyal American, the son of a Navy Seal who is smart, independent, and loves his country. They send him into the Al-Qaeda base where he will train and gather intel for the next six years. To help him remember the truth of freedom, they periodically schedule secret meetings and smuggle in American pamphlets and materials.

What's the problem with this scenario? The boy is only 13 and has had no training. He is still at an impressionable age and has not been taught how to resist the indoctrination of the extremists. Even if he remains true to his country, it's unlikely that he will emerge from the facility with the same system of beliefs.

I'm not saying the public school system is Al-Qaeda, but we are fighting a spiritual battle. We are fighting for our children's future, for Biblical truth, and for right. Our children are not yet ready to be sent out on their own into the fight. They are still in training. And if we want them to be effective soldiers for Christ, they need to complete their training in a place that will drive them closer to Him not away from Him.

Children and teens are particularly impressionable and are still learning how to distinguish truth from error. This is the time that they need Biblical guidance and direction – and an hour on Sunday morning just isn't going to cut it.

One goal is not to insulate them from the fight, but they just cannot train properly in the camp of the enemy. We must diligently teach and train them as young people so that they will grow up to be powerfully effective soldiers for Christ.

So is Christian education important? Absolutely. Our children's future depends on it.



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God's Truth for Today's Youth