

# Educational Options Seminar

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## I. Introduction:

- A. Why this seminar?
- B. What we hope to accomplish?

## II. First Things: Biblical Responsibility

- A. Biblically speaking, parents are responsible for the education of their children.

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- B. Biblically speaking, the home is the primary place of education (but not the only place) and parents have the primary responsibility.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 <sup>1</sup>Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup>that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- C. Biblically speaking, the primary purpose of education is not to produce a degree but godly offspring.

- 1. Psalm 78:5-8

<sup>5</sup>He established a testimony in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers  
to teach to their children,  
<sup>6</sup>that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
<sup>7</sup>so that they should set their hope in God

and not forget the works of God,  
 but keep his commandments;  
<sup>8</sup>and that they should not be like their fathers,  
 a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
 a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
 whose spirit was not faithful to God.

D. Biblically speaking, one cannot be truly educated apart from the true worship of God.

1. Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2. Colossians 2:1-3

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, <sup>2</sup>that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

3. Ephesians 4:17-19

<sup>17</sup>Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup>They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!—<sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

E. "Many a modern educator laments the sensuality and impurity that exists in schools today, but very few are willing to give up their "walk in the futility of their mind" and their teaching of the same. They hate the cure worse than they hate the disease." (See Romans 1) – PS, 1997

F. "Since we live in a world created by Christ (Col. 1:16) and are continually sustained by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3) and where all knowledge is therefore deposited in Him who is the The Truth (Col. 2:3; John 14:6), He must be Lord over all thinking. That makes secular, agnostic, atheistic, "neutral" education *nothing short of immorality.*" – PS, 1997

### III. Next Things: Practical Motivations

A. Good Education:

1. It's not holy to be uneducated.

2. For the Worship of God.
3. For the Sake of Holiness.

B. Preparation for Adulthood:

1. To no longer think like a child.
2. To be godly husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, church members, citizens in the community.
3. To minister to others.

C. Preparation for Employment

1. Preparation for vocation.
2. Discerning gifts and calling.
3. To provide for their families.
4. Teaching them how to work, rightly.
5. Not just how to make a living but how to live.

D. How exactly do we do this?

1. It begins in the home.
2. It begins with the Bible.
3. It encompasses all of life and it lasts a lifetime.
4. But what is the place of school?

IV. **The Options We Face and the opportunities and challenges of each.** Compare and contrast Home Schooling, Private Schooling, and Public Schooling.

A. Preliminary considerations:

1. Finances
2. Parents
3. Child

B. Home Education:

1. Advantages:
  - a. A truly Christian education is easier to establish.
  - b. Nobody knows and understands your child better than you.
  - c. You drastically reduce many outside negative influences.
  - d. Education time is usually reduced since there is a smaller student/teacher ratio.

2. Disadvantages:

- a. You will probably need help getting started.
- b. You have to explain what you're doing to your relatives.
- c. You will work hard. The challenges change as the child gets older.
- d. You probably won't be able to work outside of the home.
- e. There is some financial cost.

C. Public Education:

1. Advantages:

- a. Free
- b. Many more resources for learning.
- c. A lot of opportunities for the very gifted students
- d. Trained teachers. Some outstanding.
- e. Children learn to live and function in the context of diversity.

2. Disadvantages:

- a. Can be overtly non-Christian or even anti-Christian atmosphere.
- b. A lot of rebellion takes place. Bullying, drugs, fights, sex-education.
- c. A lot of extreme worldliness: drugs, sex, alcohol, no modesty.
- d. The negative influences are everywhere.

D. Private Education:

1. Advantages:

- a. If it is a Christian private school, then the education is more easily biblically based.
- b. Benefits from a highly committed parental involvement.
- c. Not as many discipline issues.
- d. The non-Christian atmosphere is reduced. Not eliminated.
- e. Trained teachers.
- f. More resources available such as labs and music teachers and athletic teams.

2. Disadvantages

- a. Expensive.

- b. You trade one set of challenges for another.
- c. Worldliness is not eliminated.
- d. Fixed school schedule. More structure.

E. Making the Decision:

1. This is not a one-time decision. You will visit this situation many times.
2. Age differences matter:
  - a. In elementary school age, public or private, the rebellion/worldliness issues aren't as great or perhaps not as obvious.
  - b. The pressure to conform hits very hard in middle school. Children are cruel.
  - c. High School is actually better than middle school with respect to pressure to conform. Violence increases a lot in high school.
  - d. In the Christian school, when middle school rolls around, you start to see the more insidious nature of the worldliness.
3. You will always find it hard work. The different schooling options only change the nature of the challenges.
4. What is the best thing for your child right now? It may change next year or in five years. Your children are all different.
5. There is a great variety in schools. Talk to people who go there. Find out what that school is like.
6. There is no one single right way.

**V. Questions to Consider**

A. About your child.

1. Is your child spiritually mature enough to enter into this particular environment?
2. Does your child presently show wisdom in his preference for companions (wise vs. fools)?
3. Does your child have age developed categories for worldly versus godly thinking and behavior?

B. About the school:

1. What is the religious philosophy of the school?
2. Would you be content if your child adopted the cultural values of the other students?
3. Do the advantages really outweigh the disadvantages?

C. About you:

1. What is your motive for this choice?
2. What will you need to do in order to insure that your child is being biblically educated (the fear of the Lord)?
3. Does this choice really accomplish the best education for this child?
4. In my choice, am I being affected by the pressure to conform to someone else's values as opposed to doing what is best for my child *Coram Deo*?
5. Is my personal philosophy of education truly biblical and centered in God?

**VI. Q & A**