

In this article we will take a look at three different institutions that are involved in the education of children in America. We also will see which of these institutions God has ordained for this task. Please consider this issue prayerfully. Adam and Eve took what seemed to be a shortcut to knowledge and jeopardized their relationship with God. Instead of waiting on God and obeying His command, they fell for the devil's lie that they could gain this knowledge apart from the Creator (**Genesis 3:5**), "*For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*"

STATE AND EDUCATION

In reference to state education, I am talking about the public or government school system. State run education is a Trojan horse in our nation. It has brainwashed and dumbed down every element of our society. This includes the elementary and high schools as well as universities and colleges. We send missionaries around the world to convert the heathen and at the same time send our children to state run schools to learn their ways. There are a number of ungodly things in this system to which a Christian should not be exposed. The following are just a few: evolution, humanism, new age, drugs, globalism, sex education, filthy language, immoral books, violence, sports, immoral dress, and behavior. The Bible says in **I Corinthians 15:33**, that, ". . . *evil communications corrupt good manners,*" and in **Matthew 4:4**, ". . . *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" This system is not training young men and women in the things of God. If God is not welcome in the public schools of America, why would we think our children are? By the way, only a fool would say, "I'm sending my children to this system to be missionaries to the other children." The big debate today is whether prayer should be allowed in this school system. My answer is no, neither should children be allowed in it. If every state-run school were shut down in our nation, it would save us a lot of money in taxes and would force parents to perform their God-given duty, that is, the education of their own children instead of subcontracting it out to someone else. According to **Romans 13:1-7**, God ordained the state (government) to restrain evil and bear the sword against those who would harm its citizens. The state is limited in its sphere and should not be in the educational business.

CHURCH AND EDUCATION

The church is also a divine institution, ordained by God. Its description and function is described to us in **I Timothy 3:15**, *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of*

God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." God's church is to stand for the truth and carry out the great commission. But many churches have followed the same pattern of the state in taking over the responsibility God has given to parents in educating their children. No where in the Scriptures can we find one verse that gives the church the right or privilege to usurp this authority. Children's ministries have become big business in most churches. Again, parents are to train their children and the church is to train the parents. Many churches have their Christian schools, gymnasiums, day care centers, children's church, youth groups and youth leaders. When a church builds a Christian school, they are in effect saying to parents, "Let us educate your children and release you from your God-given responsibility." Why are there so many programs in the church today such as segregated Sunday school, youth groups and children's church? Is the church saying to parents, "We can do a better job training your children than you can?" In the Bible, when God's people came together to worship and to hear the Word of God preached, everyone was included (**Joshua 8:33-35, Deuteronomy 31:11-13, II Chronicles 20:4,13, 34:10, Ezekiel 10:1, Nehemiah 1:1-8, Joel 2:15-16**). Please consider **Joshua 8:35**, "*There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.*" Many will say that the children are too young and must be taught on their level. But, as we have said before, that is the parent's job and besides, the children, get a lot more out of church than you might think. We have seen this proven many times in our own congregation. According to **Mark 10:13-15**, Jesus said to bring the little children to him while the disciples tried to shoo them away. Our Lord even took a child in His arms and taught certain principles pertaining to the Kingdom of God. The point I am trying to make is that children were always welcome where the Savior was. The Lord says in **Proverbs 13:2**, "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,*" and in **Proverbs 22:15**, that "*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child.*" Where children are in the company of wise people they will become wise, but when in the company of other children their own age, you have multiplied foolishness. If churches are to assist and support the family structure, why is it that most families ride to church together and once at church split into segregated groups until they get back into their automobile to go home? As a pastor, I love to see entire families together in church and worshipping the Lord.

HOME AND EDUCATION

According to God's Holy Word, parents are given the primary responsibility of training children, the home being the chief institution for

the task. Home education is as old as the earth, it's the first institution. Parents are the natural instructors, a one-on-one personal relationship with the child. In the Bible, the sons became apprentices of their fathers and the daughters apprentices of their mothers. The sons were taught the law of God, a vocation (usually that of the father), and were prepared for marriage. The daughters were taught, by their mothers, to be successful homemakers. They were given the skills of preparing for birth, nurturing of infants, sewing, cooking, etc. Boys and girls are to be prepared for different roles in life. This is contrary to the state educational system which prepares both the same way in the class-rooms. The Biblical command to parents in training their children is given clearly in **Deuteronomy 6:1-10**. The Lord Jesus Christ confirms **Deuteronomy 6:5** as the greatest commandment in the New Testament, *"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."* The verses that immediately follow this great truth show the responsibility of the fathers to their children (**Deuteronomy 6:6-9**), *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 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. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."* No trace of any state or church schools here, even though Egypt had them. The following Scriptures will show the parents to be the natural instructors of their own children: **Proverbs 1:8, 4:1-4, 5:1, 6:20, 7:1, 10:1, 13:1, 23:19,22,26 & 31:1-2**. How did God's people ever survive without schools in which to send their children? The answer is, they did very well. The Levites trained their own children to carry on the ministry God gave them. David was a great King and military leader but had no formal education. He attended sheep and learned the law of God. King Solomon, the wisest man on earth did not attend a university, and there is no mention of Jesus going to school for any formal training. The apostles were trained by Jesus Himself. Many kings, judges, priests, and prophets came from Israel, but where were the universities? May the Lord lead us back to the Biblical way of educating our children. AMEN



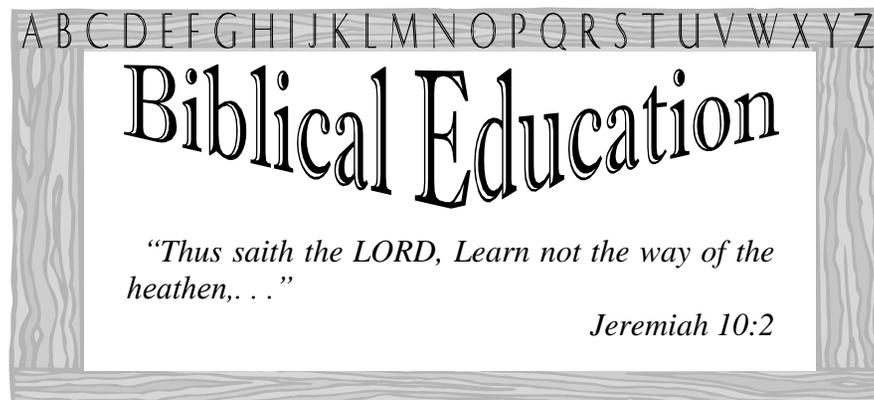
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*"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31*

The RICHES OF GRACE

"hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11

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In Scripture, all education is religious in nature because it is not viewed apart from God. There is no separation between religion and ordinary life. Education is synonymous with life itself and not the preparation for life that is later forgotten. Faith in God is the starting point in the process of Biblical education. For in **Proverbs 1:7**, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction,"* and according to **Colossians 2:3**, *"In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."* To determine how well educated one truly is, just observe his or her faithfulness to the Lord. According to **Psalms 14:1**, *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. . ."* We are either wise or foolish based upon our relationship with the Lord God. The culture of any civilization is simply the religious values of the people lived out. They will either be worshippers of God or worshippers of self. In **Romans 1:25**, the pagan society worshipped and served the creature more than the creator, but in the Christian societies, the Lord Himself is worshipped and served. **Psalm 97:1**, *"The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof."*