

# The Biblical Mandate

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Education has been defined many ways. Some classify education only in terms of what it does for a child, while others are concerned with what it means to a child. What is education? Webster defined education in his dictionary in 1828, First Edition, “the bringing up; instruction; formation of manners; intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations”. Others have defined education as “learning”, “preparation for life”, “training”, “assimilation of facts”, “transfer of knowledge”, “learning how to live”. From the perspective of the Christian, all of these definitions mean a great deal. Consider the following:

*Education is the transmission of communication skills and the accumulated knowledge of society - along with principles (especially moral) to individuals. This is more effectively done by teachers having authority who present the material to students trying to motivate them to endure the pain of learning in order to reap the fruits of intellectual attainment. Character is developed by decisions made as principles are presented. Honest presentation will cause there to be decisions made with the full knowledge of consequences either way. The end result should be a person who can communicate on his own and having become whatever he has become by his own choice.*

-Dr. Wayne Van Gelderen

Pleasurable learning is a reward that follows the willingness to endure hardness. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding* - Proverbs 9:10

Based on this understanding of the definition of education, it is evident that education is a religious task, and is undeniably related to the religion of our society.

The Bible states in Judges 2:10 that “*there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord...*”. What a terrible commentary on that society. But are we any better? An honest examination of our current society, religion, and leadership reveals that every man still does that which is right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6). Humanism rears its ugly head to challenge the Word of God over and over again.

Christians are quick to condemn society and public education; but, in reality, statistics from our own homes and ministries are often not very impressive. We see positive results in many cases. We also see negative results far too often. This problem has caused some to abandon the idea of Christian education while others have suggested that we do a better job of training young people and then send them back to public school as “salt and light.” What are we to do? Christian schools and Christian education systems are not perfect. They are terrible flawed because they are operated by flawed human beings. Should we abandon the Christian education scene for this reason? Certainly not! The mind that embraces such an idea must also embrace the abandonment of the church with its failures and shortcomings. No, what we need is to understand the Biblical imperative relating to Christian education and to more effectively seek to accomplish the task of Christian education.

Why should we believe in Christian education? Why should we battle for rights relating to the religious education of our children? Why should we keep trying to produce young people from Christian schools who will walk in the ways of the Lord? Why must Christian education be a firm conviction with pastors, parents, and educators? The same reason you should do everything else. God said so! ***It is a Biblical mandate!*** The Bible commands, dictates, instructs, and orders us to religiously educate our children.