

Schooling vs. Discipleship: What are dad & mom supposed to do?

MAIN POINTS

“Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, focusing on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

- Don't focus on college, academics, or the things the world focuses on. Focus on pursuing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

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“This is your heritage. How did that impact the way that you raised your kids in terms of their education experience?”

- Bring an even more Christian approach to the education of our children.
- Remember education is not neutral. World views are being shared and taught, and shaped in the minds of our children.
- Do not be robbed of the knowledge of Christ. 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.” (NKJV)
- Don't let the deceitful ideas of the world and ungodly writers into the education of your children.
- Read books on Christian education.

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“Does everybody make this big of a deal of education? What is the big deal and what have people in the past thought about this issue?”

- Education is a huge deal.
- The devil wants our children—we are in a big battle.
- When considering matters such as education and curriculum, ask, “What do I want for my children?”

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That they walk away from the faith and go to hell? Or that they walk faithfully with Jesus and spend eternity with Him?”

- Consider what godly men from the past have said and counseled regarding education.
- Give your children the Word of God.
- Read materials that will cast a vision for what to teach your children and the best means of doing so.

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“The humanistic ideas all around us are very influential in our minds as parents, as to defining what our job is. And what we find, I think in many cases, is that the world imposes heavy burdens.”

- Misconception #1: All education is safe. There is bad education, and there is good education. 2 Corinthians 10:5-6 says that, “We’re to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God and Christ.” It’s a war of ideas, and there’s a good side and a bad side on this.
- Misconception #2: Education is about success. Education is not about material success, high grades, getting a good job, etc. It is about seeking what God prioritizes, which is faith, character, and the fear of the Lord.
- Misconception #3: Education is secular. The world distinguishes between secular and sacred. The world does not allow God to be brought into education. But for the Christian, our lives are centered around God and His Word, so we bring God into all we do, including the education of our children. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 commands that we continually keep God’s Word before our children’s eyes.
- Misconception #4: Education is all about smarts. As godly parents, we desire to nurture and disciple the whole of our children. So we nurture and disciple more than just the brains of our children—we help them grow emotionally, spiritually, physically, and academically.
- Schooling is not enough. Education is not about material success; it is about preparing children for eternity.

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“What is success?”

- Ask yourself, “What are you looking for? Success? Or blessing?”

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- Success is based on what we did; blessing is based on what God does.

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The real question: “How can I be faithful, and then seek the blessing of God?”

- God desires parents to be faithful to Jesus.
- At the very core of parenting, Jesus asks parents to feed His lambs, teach them His words, and be consistent in these things (John 21, Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6).
- Discipleship recognizes the real needs of our children and brings them to the feet of Jesus.
- Teach your children to read the Word of God.
- Teach the basics first, then move on to calling.

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What are God’s goals for education and specific outcomes of a God-oriented education?

- A Christian education focuses on glorifying God, praising God, worshipping God, and standing in awe of God.
- Education is more than getting to know the world, ourselves, and other things. It is about getting to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ, because that is eternal life. “One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: hat I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple,” Psalm 27:4.
- Live by faith and be confident in God, not in ourselves.
- Seek the kingdom, disciple the next generation and take dominion of God’s world for His glory.

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What are God’s means of education?

- Parent-integrated, life-integrated, Word-integrated education (Deuteronomy 6:7). Parents must be

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involved, the Word must constantly be drawn in, and the truths must be applied to life.

- Come back to the Word.
- Fathers and mothers are given the responsibility to educate their children.
- Education needs to be integrated into the family economy.
- Follow the Jesus' model of discipleship. It's a walking beside in faith and prayer.

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Four pillars of education:

- #1 Family discipleship
- #2 Biblical worldview
- #3 The best teachers and best books
- #4 Worship and life application

Notes: _____

Final Thoughts:

- How do you know you're doing your job as a parent? Test yourself. Are you focused on faithfulness and receiving God's blessings as opposed to primarily focused on success? Are you trusting in God's power to work through you and your children? Are you using God's model of education? Are you consistently feeding your little lambs? Are you teaching them a biblical worldview? Are you setting them before the wise? Are you leading them in worship and life application so that every aspect of their lives is saturated with the Word of God, and their lives are pouring forth worship to God? If yes, continue in confidence. If no, you know it needs to change and following sessions will give some practical tips and application of these principles so you can pursue this kind of faithfulness that God desires.
- Remember, your job is to be faithful!

Notes: _____

