

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *Hear, <sup>4</sup> O Israel: The LORD our God is one<sup>1</sup> LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I [God, through Moses] command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes<sup>2</sup>. <sup>9</sup> And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

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## I. Introduction

### A. Christian education

#### 1. Biblically training your child

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

#### 2. Greatest investments to make in life is in our children

#### 3. Popular saying: "Christian education does not cost, it pays."

### B. Distinct philosophy of Christian education

#### 1. Biblical worldview as opposed to secular worldview

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

#### 2. Christian worldview based on the saying in Deuteronomy 6:4 (see footnote this page)

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

#### 3. God commands parents to lead their children and be involved in their children's instruction & development

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<sup>1</sup> The concept of One: When this statement was first made the Children of Israel (the original recipients) had just left Egypt, where there was a god (idol) for everything. They were passing through countries populated by idol-worshippers, and each country had its own primary god and many lesser gods. The statement here was to show the dramatic contrast between the idols that these countries had made for themselves and the singular God that had just performed miracles before their eyes in leading them out of slavery in Egypt. There was to be no divided loyalty to many gods, but this God who had revealed Himself is emphasizing His supremacy and unity: No other god, no multiple methods of worship, no division of powers in the spiritual realm. The reality is that there is only One God.

<sup>2</sup> "...upon thine hands...between thine eyes..." To get the sense of what God wanted the Children of Israel to do there are numerous other verses that say this in different ways. These can help in understanding: Exodus 13:9, 16; Numbers 15:38-39; Deuteronomy 11:18; Proverbs 3:3, 6:21, 7:3; Hebrews 2:1

4. Parents to raise children in nurture & admonition of the Lord

Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath* [fathers, don't drive your children to anger by antagonizing them]: *but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

II. Responsibility of Christian Education []

A. Responsibility given to parents

1. Fathers to teach children diligently
  - a. Fathers first leads by example
  - b. Fathers lead by Bible reading (personally & in family) at home
  - c. Children will do what children see done
2. Parents practice your faith at home
  - a. Children need to see their father loving God, loving God's Word, loving them & loving church
  - b. Family is cornerstone to any community

B. Responsibility given to the church

1. Mandate to teach gospel
  - a. Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*  
<sup>20</sup> *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
  - b. Every family's ministry is to their children first before other ministries
  - c. Family responsibilities come first before church responsibilities
2. Church responsibility
  - a. Partner with parents in teaching children
  - b. Teaching of the Bible and biblical principles
3. Shared responsibility
  - a. Some teaching delegated to others in household and/or church

Galatians 4:1-2 <sup>1</sup> *Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant* [is treated the same way as any servant], *though he be lord of all* [even though he will eventually become the master of the household];  
<sup>2</sup> *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father* [But this heir is being taught by teachers and managers the skills he will need when he is old enough to inherit the household as determined by his father].
  - b. The responsibility for training can be shared by teachers, tutors, and guardians

### III. Risks of Public Education []

#### A. Contrast to Christian education

1. Practices of secular philosophy (note the progression of increasing comfort with secular philosophies)

Psalm 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

- a. Walking in the counsel of the ungodly
  - b. Standing in the way of sinners
  - c. Sitting in the seat of the scornful (mockers)
2. Contrast to public education

- a. Every person is unique in God's eyes

Psalm 139:14 *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

- b. God created every race on earth, Acts 17:26
- c. Education is God-centered

Psalm 1:2 *But his [the man who avoids the ungodly] delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

#### B. Academic risk

1. Philosophical base of equity standards in education: your opinion is all that matters, as long as you can defend it.
2. Outcome based education guidelines: everybody passes
3. Reading & math deficiencies are well known

#### C. Activity risk

1. Exposure to sinful habits or lifestyles in classroom work, such as sex education/invitation
2. Exposure to celebrations of sinful lifestyles & political expression, such as portraying adulterous or homosexual lifestyles as normal and healthy

#### D. Apathy risk

1. "Innoculation" of contrary ideas: exposure to ideas to become commonplace, desensitization to horrible ideas (abortion)
2. By belittling/bullying
3. Treated scornfully & mocked
4. Marginalized: social rejection for non-compliance
5. Often produces apathy or antagonism to application of Biblical doctrines

6. Abraham Lincoln, "The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next."

IV. Role of Church in Christian Education []

A. Teach principles of God's Word

1 Timothy 4:9-11 <sup>9</sup> *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.* <sup>10</sup> *For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because **we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*** <sup>11</sup> *These things command and teach.*

1. Teach the living God & the Savior of all men
2. Moral conscience – moral right & wrong

B. Teach Christ centered academics

1. Sunday School
2. Doctrinal teaching in worship services

C. Cultivate hearts for God

Ephesians 6:6 *Not with eyeservice* [Not just behaving correctly when someone is watching you], *as men pleasers; but **as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;***

1. Teach our children to serve from the heart
2. Want to mold the child from within & not with outward conformity
3. "Accusations harden the will [toward rebellion], but questions stimulate the conscience [toward godliness]."
4. Learn the heart of each child
5. Love is spelled t-i-m-e.