

THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE

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## INTRODUCTION:

### THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE

In presenting this paper the writer desire to bring to the attention of the readers there is a need for Christian education in our postmodern culture. Although, some who started Christian schools in America had impure motives when starting those schools. The founders of many of those schools started their schools simply because they did not want their kids attending classes in public schools with blacks or other students of color. It does seem odd however, that someone would use the name of Christ Jesus to justify their prejudice policies and beliefs. This is exactly what was done. However, God chose in His infinite wisdom to take the evil intention of men and turned it for His good. Genesis 50:20. In truth on the topic, the best schools for any student at any level today in our culture is a school which teaches sound biblical principles and hold its students accountable to the principles conveyed.

The culture is driven today by people who are self promoters from the entertainment, political, and sports realm whom many have chose to make them gods to be worshipped based on abilities given them by the One True Almighty God. The Christian schools today have the charge to prepare young ladies and men to take the gospels to the mission field of their neighborhood which are more dangerous today than many of the war zones around the world. Many of the students are stepping out on this challenge even in the midst of watching the so-called Christian leaders in the culture becoming victims of their own trappings. The sound teachings of Christian Schools are preparing students who are able and willing to address such hypocrisy from the standpoint of biblical text. Christian Schools should be seen as that light or a candle on a hill in many communities today.

These challenges are not new to the Church or those who are called to go forth to make disciple in the midst of turbulence. The young people which are being groomed in the Christian school classroom today are walking into mind-fields where friendly fire is the order of the day. Prior to now, the secular artist made his music to please and get a rise out of the natural inclinations of men. The Christian or gospel musician produced music that was to glorify God and designed to usher those who were submitted to Him into His presence. The two type of singers did their thing, but it was never ideal for the two to meet on the same platform.

Things have changed and further changers are coming in the music industry, today Christian and secular artists are performing together. The music industry are producing their music together. Placing that which are Holy and that which is profane should not be done. (Ezekiel 44:23) The Christian school must prepare students how to convey with those who see nothing wrong with Snoop performing with many Christian artist. They must convey it is dangerous because Snoop may get the impression by performing with Christians, he is now a Christian. The Christian School work is cut out for them if they try to accomplish these great tasks without the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Association of Christian School International (ACSI) has done a fabulous job training staffs of Christian Schools. The topics on accreditation, school laws pertaining to (local, state, and national) districts and much more are covered. Through annually held conferences staff members on every level are sharpened.

If one would look closely at the historical foundation of Christian education he may conclude its main purpose is to establish in the participants a solid relationship with God. Many people have made varied approaches to come to this conclusion for some time. *Kevin E. Lawson,*

states in the first chapter of the writing of *Introducing Christian Education Foundations for the Twenty-first Century*, from the Old Testament beginnings the opening chapter traces formal and informal means that were shaped by the people of God and inspired others to grow in their relationship with him. Mr. Lawson presented a historical overview that will provide the readers of the text with an appreciation for what has been done by others to facilitate the spiritual formation of God's people.

There is not a need to remake the wheel of Christian Education. Christian education has a firm foundation that was set from the days of the teachings and leadership of the apostles, to the majority Jewish leaders which followed and then the transition became increasingly Gentile. During those times most followers became Christian as adults, those were times of persecution of Christians and were in need of someone who could offer sound instructions during these tough times. Catechumenal schools were established to prepare new converts for baptism. The candidates spent two to three years listening to sermons on the basic of Bible doctrine and prayer. Later that century, some of the schools expanded their curriculum for theological training. One of the main goals of the catechetical or cathedral schools was to address heresy which had crept into the church after the death of the apostle.

Pantaenus became head of the school in A.D. 179 in Alexandria, Egypt. He added literature and Greco-Roman philosophy to the instructions which was already in place. His overall mission was to educate and minister to believers of all ages and genders. Also to converse with and share the gospel with non-believers. Throughout the fourth and fifth centuries, Christian schools grew in support by the government. The leaders in the church began to consider what kind of education should be received and the process by which it should be carried out.

In countries like America it is not an exaggeration to assume one needs a good education in order to be successful in life. In this wonderful country that was slated to be built on Christian principles the term success has somewhat been altered. Although, a Christian education is not for everyone Christian education is needed in this culture today, more than ever. There are a few exceptions to this rule when the one is deemed successful, but were not considered as smart by conventional standards. But regardless what direction one may choose to take as a career path it will behoove him/her to arm themselves with a solid education today. However, what may be one of the greatest misconceptions about the education system in America is many are highly looked upon by others based on where they attended school rather than what they acquired while in school.

The greatest gift a parent can offer his child today is a sound education. Education today can be offered from different perspectives such as home-school, traditional public school, boarding school, Montessori school, Private, Special Education school, Magnet school, and even today virtual or online school. Although, there are many listed here this list is not exhaustive. It is important to note each school is beneficial for those who attend. A pupil may attend the most prestigious institution in America with the best educators and learn little to nothing if he choose not to be a willing participant in the process of learning. The system of educating American children publicly began in 1635 at the Boston Latin School. Georgia along with other colonies came about after the American Revolution begin to establish partially funded public Grammar schools.

For example, the reason Abraham was so valuable to God and the Body of Christ is God knew Abraham would teach his children. (Genesis 18:19)<sup>1</sup> Moses charged the Israelites to

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<sup>1</sup> Kahn, Pinchas. "The Mission of Abraham: Genesis 18: 17-22: 19." *Jewish Bible Quarterly* 30, no. 3 (2002): 155-163.

make teaching their children a priority throughout the day. (Deuteronomy 6:4) The Apostle Paul instructed Christian Fathers to bring their children up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4) Since prayer and the Ten Commandments were removed from public school buildings, we've seen a dramatic increase in school violence, teenage pregnancies, drug use, juvenile delinquency, and high school dropout rates.<sup>2</sup> Apparently God believes that the key to overcoming the negative influences of society can only be achieved by teaching children His commands. Amazingly, it has been reported by one source taking the Commandments from the Schools and one state was necessary because if the Commandments was there the students might read and obey them. The scriptures declare that they will not rebel and be disobedient if they are taught God's ways and commands. (Psalm 78:5) Current political and social issues are creating a demand for Christian instruction.<sup>3</sup> The Bible has a lot to say about government authority and accountability, Jews and the state of Israel, abortion, sexual identity, sexual immorality, religious persecution, witchcraft, and family roles and relationships.<sup>4</sup> Bible based education positively influences believing and lifestyle.

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<sup>2</sup> Jeynes, William H. "A meta-analysis on the effects and contributions of public, public charter, and religious schools on student outcomes." *Peabody Journal of Education* 87, no. 3 (2012): 305-335.

<sup>3</sup> Barna, George. *America at the Crossroads: Explosive Trends Shaping America's Future and what You Can Do about it*. Baker Books, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Myers, Jeff. *The Secret Battle of Ideas about God: Overcoming the Outbreak of Five Fatal Worldviews*. David C Cook, 2017.

## **CHAPTER ONE. That the next generation may know God and His commands**

God created mankind for relationship with Him. Contemporary brain research indicates we are wired for meaning or as the scripture declares eternity is in our hearts.<sup>56</sup> It should be apparent to everyone what has taken place in our public school over the past fifty years. There's a perception that the teachers are bad in public schools and that is not true in most cases. The fact of the matter God Word and prayer has been altered and not completely removed from the Public Schools in America and whenever God is not allowed in a place, chaos dwells there.

What we are seeing not only in our schools, but also in the culture is a breakdown in communication from one generation to the next, just as what took place with the generation after Joshua. In Joshua 2:6-14, the people was released by Joshua to take up possession of the place of their inheritance. The people of Israel served God during the days of Joshua and those of his generation who outlived him. There arose up a generation after Joshua's that did not know the Lord or the great and mighty things which he had done for Israel. The people of that generation forsook the God of their fathers and did what was proper in their eyes and worshipped Baal.

That particular generation did not know it was God who brought them out of the Land of Egypt and into the current place which they now dwelt. There's not a great difference today from the generation after Joshua. The people of Israel went after the other gods of the people in the area, such gods as Baal and Ashtaroth was worshipped by the people. The present state of the

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5 Shortt, John. "Education for shalom: dimensions of a relational pedagogy." In *Teacher Education in Challenging Times*, pp. 80-90. Routledge, 2016.

6 Emmons, N. A., & Kelemen, D. (2014). The development of children's prelife reasoning: Evidence from two cultures. *Child development*, 85(4), 1617-1633.

younger generation is a direct consequence of the past generation failure to pass down Gods Word and His traditions. In the current condition you will find young people who'd rather attack elderly citizens than speak to them. Parents defend children whom they have not taken the time to train up or instruct as the Bible words it as how to respect others and that which does not belong to them. Today, there's no respect for the law and or those in authority. However, many of those in positions of authority help to create the atmosphere we know live in daily. It is my belief the generation which followed Joshua's is the best example of how a race of people may be destroyed due to a lack of failing to pass down proper instructions to their children. The church is tremendously impacted by the culture in which it exists.

The church in most cases takes on the character of the day and have a tendency to speak the theological language in which it operates. The church always seek to make an impact on the culture which it belongs in several ways. By using a creative and unique approach to solve the unique problem of that particular community. Christian education is a very big part of the church's function. It is imperative however the church not allow that which is ungodly to become common in the church while attempting win the community culture.

In years past when the Ten Commandments were posted in schools the main problems taking place in the classrooms were chewing gum and throwing paper. Today, kids are being bullied, molested, raped, buying and selling drugs. Also, in those days there were great respect for teachers and staff by not only students, but parents of highly esteemed school faculty staff and teachers. Today, things are different in many instances due to the staff and faculty where members are not conducting themselves in a manner worthy of respect in many instances. Sadly, by now it should be public knowledge our kids will not always do what they hear from us, but they will repeat our actions more times than not.

The organizations running schools today doesn't want kids bring bibles to school, reading their Bibles in school, praying over meals, athletic competition or anything else. The American Civil Liberties Union is often used by school systems to threaten and sue those who do not know their rights. The method which the ACLU often use when bringing litigation is the separation of Church and State, however, citizens are becoming more informed of their rights through such organizations as The Center For Law And Justice founded by Jay Sekulow with his son Jordan.

### God's Purpose for Creating Mankind

An intimate knowledge of God can only come through acceptance of Jesus Christ and spiritual disciples that promote conformity to his image. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3) Prayer is one way we fellowship with God. In spending time with Him we learn of His character and nature. Private and public prayer has preserved Judeo-Christian traditional values in cultures for centuries.

The deterioration of the family can be traced by the removal of prayer from schools. Of course, this was precluded by the abandonment of these disciples in the home. In 1962, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a prayer approved by the New York Board of Regents for use in schools was unconstitutional. It was ruled a violation of the first amendment that warns against the establishment of religion by the government. The following year the Abington School District vs. Schempp case made Bible reading in schools illegal.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Gooch, D. M., & Abel, C. F. (2017). Supreme Court Religious Expression Doctrine in the Public Schools: A Test of the Composite Model of Policy Compliance in a Study of Texas School Administrators. *Journal of Church and State*.

God's reason for creating mankind is simple, God created mankind for His glory. Man fulfills his purpose by living out their lives in a right relationship with Him. Also, being faithful and obedience with God will occur when a person life is truly right with God. David writes in Psalms 8:4-6, because God first gave us glory we are able to glorify Him. Gods glory was temporarily aborted due to Adam's sin, but Jesus restored Gods glory to man through His obedience.

Children are also created to serve in missions and ministry.<sup>89</sup> To place children in roles in ministry and missions might be frowned upon by many because in the West it is customary for parents to assume childhood should be all about having fun. Whereas, the mission field and ministry for the most part are about work. Both, ministry and missions are about helping people establish, restore, or maintain their lives. Most children and adults who has been on mission trips have a greater appreciation and perspective of what is happening in the world than those who have never experienced being on a missions journey. The West has caused young people to be cynical, sarcastic, closed minded and judgmental in many cases. Too many children who never experienced missions spend too much time watching television. Those on the mission field can tell you such thing as televisions are almost none existence in many mission areas.

It is very beneficial for children whose been trained to do so to work in ministry. Children in some cases are more devoted, they have not been tarnished by the political process in many instances. Also, many have a greater zeal for God than the adults whom they are working with. However, wisdom must be applied here as to any person working within a ministry, the right child for the right job is most important.

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8 Meyers, Dave. "Rise Up Church—for Children and Youth!." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 54, no. 1 (2018): 66.

9 Keeley, Robert J., and Laura Keeley. "The Building Blocks of Faith." *Story, Formation, and Culture: From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children* (2018): 284.

## Parents as Primary Teacher

The Proverbs encourage parents to train up their children in the way they are to go. (Proverbs 22:6) The family unit is responsible for the socialization of children.<sup>10</sup> Many of society's ills can be traced back to a dysfunctional family.<sup>11</sup> Christian educators partner with parents by coming alongside them in support of the values being taught in the home.<sup>12</sup> There is a new term used today which should alert parents as to what to expect around the time their child reach three years old. The term "school readiness" features guide books, websites, scholarly debates, and academic articles.

A Christian education to a degree is no different from other educational institutions on the side of academics. However, from the perspective of Christian education the parent desire sound academics but, a sound relationship with God, at the forefront in the mind of most Christian school parents. There's a misinterpretation by many who perceive Christian school parents does a better job preparing their child for school than those who chose other methods to educate their off-spring, that's not the case. The parents starts their role as educator the moment they arrive home from the hospital with their baby. Parents have the greatest impact on his child during the early and some cases the parents who are the biggest influence to the son or daughter throughout their entire life. Therefore, it is of extreme importance parents are aware of their capabilities to help the child's development in the early stages of his life.

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<sup>10</sup> Miller-McLemore, Bonnie J. *Let the children come: Reimagining childhood from a Christian perspective*. Fortress Press, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Kroff, Savannah L., Katie Lee Cragun, J. Roberto Reyes, Joe D. Wilmoth, David C. Dollahite, and Loren D. Marks. "Relationship with God and the Word: Faith among American Evangelical Christian families." *Marriage & Family Review* (2018): 1-13.

<sup>12</sup> Martin, Kenrick E. *Parent partnerships: A descriptive study revealing parent partnership strategies being practiced in Christian schools*. Columbia International University, 2015.

The Christian school and Christian teacher hopefully coming along beside the parent and confirm what have been put in place by the parent. His primary job is to introduce the student to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ if no relationship exist. If the student have an established relationship with the Lord his goal is to enhance the relationship. The teachers mission is complete not simply by sharing Jesus. Every instructor at the Christian school has a subject they are responsible to convey to the students in their classes as well. Therefore it is the responsibility of the school to recruit the most effective teachers who are the most proficient in helping its students receive the instructions and assisting them with the ability to apply those instructions.

The ultimate purpose of the Christian School teacher is to make sure the student has a sound relationship with the Lord. Also, to make them disciples of Jesus Christ no matter the subject he has been assigned to teach at the school. That's not saying all the teachers must attend the same church or believe the interpret every biblical text the thing same in the same manner. It is of extreme importance however the faculty and staff does agree on the core issues. How can the two walk together unless they agree. Amos 3:3. It's never the job of a teacher or preacher to force Jesus Christ on anyone. All Christian educator should trust in the fact if Jesus is presented properly those who are in darkness will eventually come to the Light of Christ.

## **CHAPTER TWO. The Role of The Church**

Jesus established offices in the church for the purpose of administering the Great Commission. Pastors and teachers are charged with equipping the saints (including children) for the work of the ministry.<sup>13</sup> The role of the church is to teach or instruct the entire family as to the

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<sup>13</sup> Keeley, Robert J., and Laura Keeley. "The Building Blocks of Faith." *Story, Formation, and Culture: From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children* (2018): 284.

Lord's Commandments and most church's today are led by men and women who wish to create programs within the Church to further educate its members in every area of their lives. The church should be God's representatives and His ambassadors in the community. There are areas within society which the Church has stood by while the government has taken responsibilities to do. But, the government simply don't have the Holy Spirit or the compassion to do. The government has never placed much emphasis of caring for the poor, for example. However, Jesus stated much about the church helping poor people. There are nine New Testament Scriptures specifically which speaks in reference about assisting the poor.

It is the role of the church to set an example for the people according to the Bible. God's people are expected to live sanctified, pure, and holy lives. Sadly, today the Church are caught up in more scandals than any other community within the culture. It is unbelievable much of what the church have embraced simply desiring to be accepted by a system which it is not designed to be a part. The church musicians now are connected with secular musicians producing the majority of the music which is performed in The House of God. It was instructed to keep that which is Holy sacred. Today, Christians may find it more difficult to reach the lost because many who are lost are under the impression they are ok because their affiliation to other believers.

The Church is responsible for training parents who will raise up Godly young men and women. Eventually, what has happened is the line that was once so clear between the holy and secular has become blurred. Because things are no longer as clear as they once were there are many who professes to be in the family of God because they have obtained bad or misinformation. The majority of the individuals are not bad according to the standards of the world in which we live. But, it is not the world standard by which we will be judged, we will be judged by God's holy and righteous standards.

## Evangelism

The scriptures reveal that everyone is born with a sin nature and need to be born again, including children. We are to “suffer the children” to come by teaching them the gospel.<sup>14</sup> Christian schools can be great entities of evangelism. A Christian school which operates with trained leaders (Administrators, teachers, and other staff members) can create an atmosphere conducive for learning through not only what is being taught in the classroom. The students will witness Christian principles being lived out daily in the lives of the teachers and other staff members.

Christian schools are unique in the fact that a student is encouraged to seek God and establish a personal relationship with Him. Evangelism should be seen as a tool and like any tool if it is going to be beneficial to man he must know the purpose of such tool. The tool of evangelism is meant to bring the bright light of Jesus Christ to a dark world. It is important the student are made aware of the pitfalls of evangelism. Through those training him for such a daunting task he must be made aware of the armor of God that is made available to him. He should be aware of the fiery darts of the enemy. Ephesians 6:16

Christian Schools teach its students the first art to evangelizing is to know the Word of God and stand on its principles. The student is taught to know his enemy and his methods of operation. Christian school teachers prepare their students for war by teaching them war time skills. Whereas a public school student may never hear about enemy strategic methods it's common place for the Christian School student because he knows there is a fight coming and this battle will not be waged with bombs and bullets. This battle will first commence in the realm of the spirit. Christian schools prepare it students to walk in the spirit. Teaching them the art of

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<sup>14</sup> Baart, Aaron. "Why They're Leaving and Why It Matters: Gen Z's Mass Exodus from Church." (2018).

warring in the spirit realm. If the student does not learn the art of walking in the spirit, warring in the spirit successfully is out of the question.

### Discipleship

Children are to show God's glory by using the gifts and talents entrusted to them to advance God's kingdom. They are to intentionally be devoted to God in prayer, study of the Word, missions and ministry in an effort to grow in Christlikeness.<sup>15</sup> (John 12:32) states, "If I be lifted up I'll draw all men unto me". This text doesn't place a requirement of the age of the individual(s) who are lifting up the name of Jesus. Jesus does not discriminate based on age, race or gender. The Lord responds to obedience to His Word.

Discipleship can be interpreted as heavenly boot camp. Similar to evangelism in the fact as to the goal is to win in battle. Although, discipleship is training for the ensuing battle whereas evangelism is going into the battle. The Christian school is not ground zero, Christian schools are the war room where strategy is planned. Discipleship can be explained by watching how Jesus watched over and guided those who walked with him while on the earth. He protected, fed, taught, and corrected them. If you walked into a good Christian school you will see the same ministry Jesus extended to His disciple being granted to the students by the faculty and staff of the school.

### **Distinctives of Christian Schools**

Christian schools are on the rise around the world because of their distinctions.<sup>16</sup> Whereas, the secular educators are driven to create more successful and educated people. The Christian educator purpose is to teach the academics, but he has a greater mission. The Christian

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<sup>15</sup> Carr, Jane. "Equipping kids for ministry." *Christian Education Journal* 14, no. 2 (2017): 350-360.

<sup>16</sup> Maddox, Marion. "Too much faith in schools: The rise of Christian schooling in Australia." *Zadok Perspectives* 127 (2015): 5.

educator greatest desire is bring about transformation of his student into that of the image of Jesus Christ. Christian education is such a great calling in the culture which exist today. In the field of secular education there are some great and very talented individuals who loves and cherishes their students.

As Christians we should never feel the need to tear others down to lift Jesus Christ up where He belongs. In most cases the secular educator especially in late secondary school years and beyond are seeking to discover the talents and gifts bestowed within the individual so his money making potential may be maximized. The Christian educator desire his pupil to earn a good income as well, however, helping the student discover his God given purpose is the mission which drives him. The role of the Christian educator is so unique in this endeavor.

In years gone by those who wanted to gauge what was happening in a community would turn to the clergy at some point for an opinion as to where the locals were heading. Today, things are different, it doesn't matter if it's a high school student writing for a class paper, a local news reporter, national, or world journalist. Most seek to speak to a politician or a professor of a university over a clergy member in most cases. This reveal the word of Christians are not as sought after as it once was. The Christian educator is not to be swayed by this, they must keep instilling the love of God in the heart of their students. The Christian educator will likely make less money than secular teachers and professors and will probably receive less attention from the natural world. However, his reward is far greater.

It is extremely important the Christian educator keep things in perspective, he deals with the eternal whereas the secular professor and teacher main focus are on the here and now. The Christian educator address the transcendent and the secular education focus deals with the human. Dealing with the human is daunting work and not to be taken lightly, but man is so much

broader than just one aspect. Being a Christian educator as stated earlier is possibly the most important job a person could have, he get the chance to literally watch a life transform right before his eyes. As a student grasp revelation knowledge of the Word he morphs from a caterpillar into a butterfly and the Christian educator has the opportunity to witness this transformation.

Watching the caterpillar transform is a beautiful thing but, there are often difficult stages while teacher(s) walking along side the pupil waiting for him to get it right, can become overwhelming. There are incidents which has transpired in public schools recently that can't be described nothing short of heartbreaking. Christian schools today seem to be dealing with what one might view as disciplinary problems far better than most public schools who have hired local police in many cases. There has been news recording of children being slammed on floors by an officer, choked by an officer, and just the other day a middle school boy was picked up and slammed to the concrete in the parking lot. This adding to an already tense racial atmosphere. There are security officers at some Christian schools. However, it seems escalating confrontation don't reach their full potential because the student realize expulsion is a possibility that will be taken. A student being expelled is far better than some of the alternatives that has been recorded on the evening news lately.

#### Divine Purpose

Christian educators take on the charge out of a sense of calling to evangelize and disciple the lambs of the flock. Because of this they are distinguished from their secular counterparts. The scriptures indicate they will be held accountable to God for what they teach, and they are to lead exemplary Christian lives. The scriptures tell us that a student will become like his teacher. Therefore, the Christian educator are not to take his/her position for granted. The

Christian educator has to approach their position as if they are holding a lump of clay which God and parents has entrusted within his care for a time. This clay unlike Play Dooh have in it the ability to resist the artist or do his own thing. However, as the artist, the Christian teacher, professor have unlimited access to God and limited access to the parents of the students.

The educator must not forget he will weigh heavy in the student outcome his or her approach, presentation, and or interaction with the student. The teacher is responsible for creating an atmosphere conducive for learning. The student(s) are pliable and the teacher will get good results out of a group with the proper atmosphere. The teacher who practices Godly principles not only in his classroom but in his life God will honor. A Christian teacher should be mindful ungodly conduct have a way of following a person who profess Christ no matter what is his/her profession. The students, especially secondary are like blank tapes and will play back what is recorded on them. This plays out daily, whether it's a parent, teacher, or a filthy mouth comedian. The students will absorb like a sponge whatever they are exposed to so the teacher must be mindful who she is (a woman of God), where she is in (The House of God), and what she is there to do (nurture the children of God).

It is imperative every staff member, student, parent, and or visitor realizes the building in which the school operates is a House of God. And because it is Gods House those in it should conduct themselves accordingly, and the facility should be treated as the holy place in which it is. Too many Christian schools fail to implement this rule and failure to do so can lead to unnecessary future problems. The students, staff, or visitors should never engage in such conduct as smoking, drinking and profanity on God's property or any other prohibited action.

## Bible Based Curriculum

Christian schools have the Bible as the primary textbook and the Holy Spirit as the teacher and guide.<sup>17</sup> If the school is not driven by Bible principles and guided by the Holy Spirit it is not a Christian School. It may be a private school masquerading as a Christian School. But, only those schools which are biblically based and whose policies are in line with the Word of God are true, authentic Christian schools. This is precisely where parents who are seeking to find a Christian school for their children should place their focus.

Most parents when searching for a schools have a plethora of reasons what they desire in the school they hope to register their child. For example some place emphasis on the schools popularity, the building, even a certain popular individual connected to the school. A wise parent would not choose a school on any of those credentials. If the parent made his choice on a popular individual, the individual would be Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is not Lord of the school which you are in the process of registering your child, save your money and place him or her in a good public school which you have taken the time to research.

Martin Luther once stated, "I would not advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme". This is the difficult decision parents, both believers and non-believers are having to make today. Parents who chose not to place their children in Christians are not bad parents. Also, it doesn't mean parents who place their kids in Christian schools are good loving parents. People oftentimes have many different motives and take different routes to arrive at their desired destination.

There are many misconceptions about Christian schools, such as they staff and students simply sit around and pray and sing worship songs most of the day. However, good

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<sup>17</sup> Horner, Jeffrey Michael. "Christian Curricular Emphases and Academic Rigor: A Mixed Methods Study." (2016).

Christian Schools teaches its students how and why they must integrate Gods Word into every phase of their lives. The term Christian education means more than the study of religion to those who really understand the term. Many so-called learned evangelicals have narrowed down the term Christian education causing harm to those who seek to understand its much greater meaning. Activities such as prayer, chapel, praise and worship does occur at all good Christian Schools. They are implemented into the program of the school to mold and shape each student into the well rounded man and woman of God they were intended to be.

### **CHAPTER THREE. The Benefits of Christian Education**

A majority of students in Christian families excel academically according to standardized tests such as the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).<sup>181920</sup> Wright (2016) found a correlation between years enrolled in a Christian school and composite SAT scores.<sup>21</sup>

Researchers have found that the achievement gap decreases for minority students.

African-American students are more intrinsically motivated and have better behavior and higher grade point averages (GPA) when enrolled in Christian schools.<sup>22</sup> There are possible activities which add to the Christian school students higher grades that may take place beyond the student abilities to school higher. A Christian school offer smaller class sizes in most cases. Because many schools require uniforms, that is one less distraction.

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18 Wilkens, C. P., Wade, C. H., Sonnert, G., & Sadler, P. M. (2015). Are homeschoolers prepared for college calculus?. *Journal of School Choice*, 9(1), 30-48.

19 Blount, Angie. "Intentional Practices of Christian Schools for Spiritual Formation of Third-and Fourth-Grade Students: A Multiple Case Study." (2018).

20 Vaughan, Christy. "Differences of Mean Scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) for Classical Christian Schools Compared to Non-Classical Christian Schools." (2018).

21 Wright, W. (2016). *College-Bound Students: A Study of the Relationship between Religiosity/Spirituality, and Achievement*.

22 Walker, K. & Dixon, V. (2002). Spirituality and academic performance among African American college students. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 28(107), 107-121. doi:10.1177/0095798402028002003

Also, Christian schools are most time independent and therefore they are operating by a different set of laws and rules from public schools. Those laws are normally enforced in a spirit of love, but no doubt are enforced. There are parents who assume if they put their child in a Christian school they would be shielded from the sins of the world, it just doesn't work that way. The Christian school nor any other school can't assure parents there will not be any sin. However, they can create an atmosphere where that sin can be limited and addressed quickly once discovered.

Christian schools must also protect themselves against being used as a reform school. There are parents who would take their kid to school after school due to conduct issues. And the parent last resort many times are The Christian school. The Christian school should be the first choice rather than the last. In such situations the Administration must fast and pray because chances are the child didn't cause the initial problem, it was probably caused by the parent or a teacher.

The days we are currently living in has been described as the "new dark ages" by the late Charles Colson. He used the term to address the barbaric and decadent conduct of our day. The Church also is dealing with out of control sin which has crept in due to its leaders being asleep. The church have waged a war to win souls at all cost and by doing so has watered down the Word and hurt every level of Christendom, even education. The Kingdom of God is at the crossroads, either men and women will take a firm stand soon or the world will push the church to the point of no return for many in this present age. But, this can only happen if the Word of God is completely abandoned. No matter how bleak things appear (Psalms 24:1) states, "The earth is the Lord's, (Isaiah 55:11) God's Word will not return to Him void and (Matthew 16:18) the gates of hell will not overthrow the God's church. God's Will, shall be done.

It is imperative that all involved with Christian education understand we don't want to destroy public schools. We may not agree with the concept of public school, but we have love ones there who are teachers, students, or serve in some other capacity in the public schools and are in need of our support. At no time a Christian school faculty or member should ever be allowed to speak down on the system of Public School, its staff, teachers, parents or students. Many of those in public schools cannot get out of the system even if they desired to do so due to many reasons. Besides, just because the Bible and prayer are not welcome there does not mean Jesus Christ does not dwell in the heart of many of the adults and students walking the halls of most public schools.

If there was method to gauge the level of faithful, obedient and sincere believers of the Lord Jesus Christ in the public schools against those in Christian schools, I'm certain many would be shocked. What is happening in the culture presently, some choose to believe worldly wealth (regardless how acquired) equals God favor. These individual don't stop for a moment to thank the degree of faith many of the students and parents have to continue to enter and function daily in some public schools. Those Christian schools who does consider the plight of what goes on in some the public schools and consistently pray for the students, parents, faculty and staff there are to be commended.

### Academic Achievement

Academic achievement is just one of the benefits of Christian education.<sup>23</sup> Since Darwin's theory of evolution infiltrated public schools there has been a steady decline in achievement and a devaluing of human life (e.g. increase in abortions, euthanasia, and divorce). Parents either by showing enthusiasm about the child's education or participate in a child

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<sup>23</sup> Hoekstra, Mark, Pierre Mouganie, and Yaojing Wang. "Peer quality and the academic benefits to attending better schools." *Journal of Labor Economics* 36, no. 4 (2018): 841-884.

education process normally motivates the child. Children for the most part are inspired when they feel their parents are interested in what they are doing.

Mr. Richard Williams taught his daughters the game of tennis and the sisters became the best women tennis players in the world at one point. It would be hard to imagine if anyone other than their father could have gotten so much out of them at such a young age. Perhaps both would have been great, but, they started at such a young age. The reporters would drool over Venice the older sister shortly after her talents were apparent. The father Mr. Richard Williams quickly brought it to their attention Serena would be the better of the two players.

An ordinary tennis coach can't make such an assessment of two of his players without being fired. However, a loving father can make those assertions and did make those assertions which allowed all three to become rich. Mr. Williams and his two black daughters entered a circuit blacks was not traditionally welcome. In less than three years of his comment his daughters were number one and two in the Women Tennis Ranking.

Tiger Woods father Earl trained his son to play an athletic game one which does not embrace people who look like him. Mr. Woods did not push his son, instead after the son showed interest he supported his son. The son like the Williams sisters became the best at his craft. It was the father who started and molded him to become the golfer and to accomplish those great feats.

This translates to the classroom as well. If there were surveys done to show kids with fathers in the home, but fathers who are active in the educational process of their children. The other section of the survey should show fathers not in the home, and kids whose parents does not show interest in their education. The conclusion would show the children whose parents are more involved are the highest ranking students. The academic achievement of Christian

schools students are well documented. To reiterate something stated earlier. Christian schools offers smaller classes which translates into more attention for the average student if he needs it.

### Character Development

The transformative nature of Christian education produces godly character within students.<sup>24</sup> This can have a significant impact upon society. Researchers have found that Christian education can enhance physical health, crime rates, divorce rates, and general relationships.<sup>25</sup> If taught and applied in the proper context Christian education can not only change a life it can change an entire family. There are instances in which the lifestyle of a teacher or another staff member is so impactful it causes a life change in those around them which may cause a domino effect. This happens more than one might imagine.

The atmosphere of Christian schools should be where a delivery person just entering into the place to deliver a package will feel its impact. People which know not God will walk away stating, "there is something different about that place". And a visiting believer will experience a peace which passes all understanding whenever visiting a House of God where the Holy Spirit actually dwells. This type of atmosphere can't be found everywhere, a man will be hard pressed to find this calmness in churches in this day. This can only be developed when the leader or Administrator have decided he/she will live by (Joshua 24:15) As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

What is apparent in the culture today is everybody want the blessings of God without developing their character and walking in integrity. The development of character can be formed

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<sup>24</sup> Kang, HoKyung Paul. "Teaching for Transformation: Exploring Potential Domains of Transformative Learning." *Journal of Christian Education & Information Technology* 28 (2015): 99-125.

<sup>25</sup> Schildkraut, Jaclyn, H. Jaymi Elsass, and Mark C. Stafford. "Could it happen here? Moral panic, school shootings, and fear of crime among college students." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 63, no. 1-2 (2015): 91-110.

and shaped in Christian School even more so than church. Many people have been conditioned to act a certain way in the church, whether believers or non-believers. Those individuals believe you simply don't do certain things in Gods house especially on Sunday or Saturday, according to which sect you are affiliated. They don't mind you doing practically anything else any other time but, not on Sunday.

### **CONCLUSION. THE ANSWER FOR A POSTMODERN CULTURE**

This postmodern age demands a return to Biblical education models.<sup>26</sup> A Christian Philosophy of Education posits that the fear of the Lord is a prerequisite to teaching and learning. Children broaden their egocentric thinking and learn to trust and obey God when their parents and teachers agree that God's Word is the foundation for teaching and life (Deuteronomy). They are more likely to trust God, obey His Word, know their purpose for life, and respect others when they have a model to follow.<sup>27</sup> "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart." (Jeremiah 24:7) Oh taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Psalms 34:8

#### Biblical Worldview

A Christian education which is founded upon the Bible enables children to refute dangerous philosophies such as atheism, secular humanism, evolutionism, pluralism, relativism, materialism, hedonism.<sup>28</sup> Anti-biblical beliefs lead to the toleration, acceptance, and condoning

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<sup>26</sup> Attfield, David G. *Proclaiming the gospel in a secular age: A general theory of religious communication*. Routledge, 2017.

<sup>27</sup> Blanc, D. Alan. "Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil: Theology and Practice." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 61, no. 2 (2018): 423.

<sup>28</sup> Morrow, Shad Alan. *The effects of a Christian academic program on undergraduate biblical Christian worldview*. Grand Canyon University, 2015.

of sinful lifestyles which lead to the destruction of man<sup>29</sup>. Deception and error negatively impact a child's self-image and how he treats others.<sup>30</sup> As believers one should come to a place that he is centered in Christ. Therefore, once that is attained he may debate from that position in love and not feel as if he is under attack when holding a conversation with someone who does not agree with him.

Having a sound biblical worldview and being willing and able to stand on the principles of the bible has never been more challenging than this present time. Also, it should be noted, having a biblical worldview is not really beneficial to you without you having the Holy Spirit today. Currently America is being led by an President who profess to be a Christian, the President also stated he wishes to establish policies that would place Bibles back in school. He is passing policies to reduce abortions throughout the nation on average. However, this President is one of the most disrespectful individual whose ever held a political position in America, that itself is saying a lot.

What the biblical worldview gives an individual is the perspective by which the Bible stand on any topic. In our culture today most people are quick to state, "I feel this or that". It is not good to bring ones feelings into public dialogue. The Christian school teacher can teach his student how to reason from his biblical worldview during the most heated discussion. It is the biblical worldview that will keep the Christian grounded when all around him seems chaotic.

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29 Smith, C. Fred. *Developing a Biblical Worldview: Seeing Things God's Way*. B&H Publishing Group, 2015.

30 Mcdowell, Josh. "Models of Christian Apologetics." *Evangelical America: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religious Culture* (2017): 273.

### Implications for Society

Christian education has a providential view of God as its foundation. Its principles lay a strong foundation that will enable its students to be firmly rooted in the midst of the trials and storms that will uproot and shipwreck the faith of those who lack Jesus as the Chief cornerstone of their development.<sup>31</sup> A holistic teaching pedagogy promotes development of the whole child, just as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52) Christian education helps students make decisions based upon an eternal perspective rather than temporal emotions. They are empowered to live in light of eternity.<sup>32</sup>

Christian Schools are an entity that encourage its students to build their lives on the Rock of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 7:24). Because, the storms are going to come and the winds are going to blow. And the person whose house is built on sand will be destroyed. In this day when people appear to have more faith in their political party than they have in the all-knowing God, it is high time the Christian Schools administrators, staff, and students feel compelled to act, by impact their students, who in turn will impact the communities around them. It is apparent not all schools which profess to be Christian schools, are Christian Schools. However, there are a few out there which are true to the Word of God. Those students, teachers, administrators or anyone else who are connected with those schools will transform lives by standing on those principles they've been taught and are currently living out.

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31 Spring, Joel. "The American School: From the Puritans to the Trump Era." (2018).

32 Wilkie, Sharon Edge. "Living for eternity: A predictive analysis of manifestations of biblical worldview of university freshmen." (2015).

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