

WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN?

1. Can my child get a quality education at a Christian school?

Students at Christian schools consistently outperform their public school peers. Reliable statistics bear that out. Even in the area of math and reading, subjects that are “less spiritual” in content, students have proven their knowledge. But that doesn’t mean every child in a Christian school will excel. The important thing for you as a parent to remember is that attending a Christian school in no way prohibits your children from getting a quality education. In many cases, it will enhance their experience, because in addition to solid academic training, they will be continually reminded of the spiritual foundation upon which all intellectual pursuits are built.

“In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3

2. What is a Christian Education?

Christian schools emphasize that the entire curriculum is shaped and nourished by faith in Christ. Christian schools help students not only to see the glories of God’s creation but also to discern and understand the brokenness of this fallen world. Christian schools are not just about Bible classes. While Christian education does deepen a students’ knowledge of God’s Word, it’s not the Bible class that makes a school Christian. Christian schools offer a refreshing, biblical alternative. The Bible is taught as the inspired Word of God and forms the foundation of all other subjects. In math, social studies, or science all academic roads lead to God, in whom all knowledge has its origin. Students need a challenging, comprehensive academic curriculum built on a foundation of biblical absolutes. Some institutions prepare students for a job. Others equip students for life. Only

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Psalm 11:10

a Christian education has the potential to do both.

3. What if we can’t afford Christian education?

This is a very real problem and one of the most common parental objections. Christian schools cost money. A lot of money. But before we get too carried away with fiscal concerns, we need to ask ourselves an important question.

Do we have a moral obligation to give our children a Christian education? If so, then God will do for us what He does anytime He gives us a command. He’ll give us the means to obey it.

Statements like “God will make a way” or “if He’s called you, He’ll equip you” may sound a little trite. But they happen to be true. If you have a biblical mandate to provide your children with a Christian education-and all of us have to make that determination for ourselves-God won’t let a little thing like insufficient funds stop you from obeying Him. Not if you are committed to hearing and obeying His will in the matter.

He may give you a raise. He may show you how to cut a few corners. But one way or another, He will make a way-because if educating your children in a Christian setting is a genuine responsibility, the financial cost becomes a genuine need. There are other ways God may provide the necessary funding. In some cases, churches have been known to assist their members. Talk to your pastor. And many schools offer financial aid to needy families.

God may ask you to take a step of faith. Then another. Then another. Pretty soon, you’ll be walking in a promise that’s been repeated so often it’s become the quintessential Christian cliché. When God calls us to a task, He equips us to fulfill it. The Red Sea was no match for Him. The red in your checkbook won’t be either.

God has promised “to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Phillipians 4:9

4. What does God tell us to do with our children?

God expects you, as a Christian parent, to plant and nurture His Word in the hearts and minds of your children. He says the education of children is a 24 hour, 7 days a week process. "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul... And you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19

This is best accomplished in settings where home, church and school all send the same message, teaching God's truth with conviction and consistency. And while the benefits of such a commitment are often realized much later, here's one you'll notice in relatively short order. An education that uses God's Word as its foundational text does more than produce spiritually-mature Christians. It makes them wiser and more knowledgeable. It forces them to be better thinkers. And isn't that the goal of education in the first place?

"in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
Col. 2:3

5. I went to a public school and I turned out okay. Can't my children do the same?

The short answer is yes. Just like you did, your kids can turn out okay. Maybe even better than okay. But our arrival at a place called "okay" does not necessarily mean that all our choices along the way were the right ones, or that our educational experience was the best one.

The real questions are these: Are you the same person today that you would have been had you attended Christian school? And what about the journey that brought you here? Might it have been a little more joyful, a little less troublesome? Is it possible that God could have used you for His glory even more than He already has?

These are questions only you can answer, and if you haven't already, why not do it right now? Give this issue an honest, thoughtful look, and then ask God what His will is regarding your children's education.

6. Why should I send my child to a school that is nowhere near my house when the public school is right across the street? Are Christian schools really that much safer?

Across the street or across the town, they are still in a school for six to eight hours a day that is not

allowed to teach God's relevance.

With thousands of students roaming the halls and taxpayer dollars funding the schools, public schools can only go so far in the area of discipline. The result? More frequent occurrences of theft and physical violence, not to mention coarse profanity and open rebellion in the classroom.

Simply put, Christian schools are a safer place for your children to receive an education. While not devoid of problems-even severe ones like drug and alcohol use-they are far less likely to occur, and far more likely to be met with firm disciplinary action.

In addition to physical well being, Christian schools offer a much safer emotional and spiritual environment. Verbal insults and hazing, things that go largely overlooked in a public school setting, are less likely to be tolerated. And the politically-correct, socially-tolerant attitudes that pervade secular classrooms never see the light of day at distinctly Christian institutions.

7. Many of my friends say they want their kids to be salt and light in the public schools. Shouldn't we do that?

Many Christian parents share this sentiment. And it's a noble one, too. Every one of us should strive to be salt and light wherever we find ourselves. But asking a child whose faith is still developing to serve as a witness can be dangerous. Most children are not ready for this commitment. Can fifth graders, or even junior high students, effectively explain the Gospel? And what about high school students? Are they, on average, capable of defending their faith to the degree to which they can be genuine salt and light to their non-Christian peers?

In a vast majority of cases the answer is no. Simply put, most kids are not mature enough for the job, emotionally or spiritually. They are still at a time in life when they need to receive salt and light, not provide it.

And in those rare cases in which a young person might be up to the task, placing your child in public school for that reason would put him or her under tremendous pressure. Sending a child into an environment that is not Christian in philosophy sends the message to your child that God can be separated from certain areas of their life. It's a dangerous experiment, one that could have lasting repercussions.

8. If I put my children in Christian school, will I be sheltering them from the real world?

There is no denying it. You'll be sheltering them from part of secular society. But as Christian adults, we have been instructed to keep the world at arm's length-to be in it but not of it. How much more should we try to protect our children, most of whom are nowhere near ready to withstand the more sophisticated worldly temptations?

But make no mistake. We haven't bought into the common misconception that Christian schools shield children from every temptation and all exposure to sin. This is not only untrue, it's impossible. Christian schools have the same type of kids non-Christian schools have. Sinners. They're all prone to offensive behaviors such as selfishness, anger, and malicious talk. And no matter where your children attend class, they can hardly escape the worldly influences found in movies, books and television.

The difference in the Christian school is that it can apply the Bible to every instance of sinful thought or action, and with God's help, renew the mind of the child. By doing so, Christian schools have a better chance of helping parents produce adults who have been trained in the fine art of godly living and thinking. And when they finally enter the "real" world, they'll be much more equipped to handle it.

9. My child wants to play sports, and the local Christian school has a weak athletic program. What should I do?

Scripture does not even hint that athletic competition is sinful or immoral. You and your children are no more prohibited from playing sports than you are from eating a hamburger. In fact, the Bible encourages healthy competition.

Unfortunately, too many Christians presume that once the lawfulness of an activity has been established, they are free to pursue it the same way the world does. Many Christian parents place their children in secular schools solely because of the athletic program. For them, the pursuit of sports has taken precedence over the pursuit of wisdom. This is an anti-biblical mindset.

While we sympathize with parents who want their children to have every opportunity to succeed in athletics, the truth of the matter is that they can participate in sports without attending public schools. Many Christian schools offer sports programs. And for those of you who have particularly gifted children, it may

help you to know that college and professional sports rosters are dotted with graduates of Christian schools. If your kids are good enough, the scouts will find them.

10. Will attending Christian school make my children Christians?

While there are no guarantees on this-God has not promised that everyone who hears the Gospel will embrace it-it is true that faith in Christ comes by hearing the Word of God. Because Christian schools share God's Word with their students daily, your children will have more opportunities to accept Christ than they would in any other educational setting.

Of course, whether your children comes to faith in Christ during their school days or not, one thing is clear. Their time in Christian school will give them a better understanding of the Bible, and should they

eventually accept Christ, they will be better able to defend and share their faith with others.

And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:14

United Christian Schools represents five Christian schools in Southwest Minnesota: Chandler, Edgerton, Hill, Worthington and Southwest MN Christian High School.

Our schools are all multi-denominational with over 8 different denominations and 30 different churches represented by our students.

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Source: DiscoverChristianSchools.com and
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