

Education

By

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Education

Grateful for the Heritage of a Godly Education

Education. That word brings many things to mind, often ones associated with knowledge and getting a job. In this issue, I want to examine what education is. Is it really just about getting knowledge or a job? Scripture teaches us that the beginning of knowledge and wisdom is the Fear of Lord so education as it is often defined isn't really about real knowledge even though we may associate it with facts. In terms of getting a job, education can help, but without determination and hard work it really doesn't matter that much. I submit a new definition of education: ***life preparation with practical application...as well as the formation of a worldview.***

I'm grateful, very grateful for the education I have had. I know that I wouldn't be where I am or who I am if I had attended a public school. The reason being, as I was homeschooled, I was taught from a Biblical perspective in every subject. Bible was always a required subject for me and I learned a lot of my penmanship by copying Scripture. History was always taught with a perspective of the Divine Hand of God upon believers and godly men, blessing them and using them as instruments for His Almighty purposes. From day 1, science was taught as awe and wonder at the feet of a Creator God. Literature was examined in light of the Word of God, swearing exempted from the oral reading of the "classics," and the motives and decisions of the characters were weighed in light of Scriptural Truth. My math book had short biographies in them about the Christian men who discovered the mathematical relationships which they believed God had designed and allowed them to discover. In addition, many books about missionaries were read to me by mother in my early years, sparking a faith and inspiration in the faithfulness of God throughout every age.

I remember these things. I'm grateful for them and I champion the cause of homeschooling; but please do not misunderstand me, I am not saying that those who have been educated in public school have sinned or failed. I'm passionate about education because one of my spiritual gifts is teaching and I've studied some

of the catastrophes that occurred when a government controlled the education—the “life preparation and practical application....and formation of a worldview”—of Soviet Russia, Japan, and Nazi Germany’s reign. As a result, I can get pretty passionate, but let me say right off that wherever you are, have been or have placed your children is between you and God. I’m not trying to force an opinion on you.

Viewing education as life preparation combined with practical education, as well as, the formation of a worldview is the outlook that God gave ancient Israel. Back in Deuteronomy 11:19 God told them to teach their children as they sit down, rise up, and walk along the way. This verse is often championed among homeschooling communities as a basis for what parents are doing. I do believe that God is blessing the 2.5+ million homeschoolers in the U.S. that take this verse seriously. In many home schools, the Bible is used as the ultimate textbook: science, history,—everything is viewed in light of the Old and New Testaments; but there are communities of Wickens and other misled groups that are also among the ranks of homeschooling; however, even among the ungodly, the impact of life preparation and forming a worldview is what is focus on by the parents.

All understanding educators realize the enormous potential in the training of a child (or masses of children) in a certain way. Our early American country fought for some hundred years to keep evolutionists and their teachings out of our schools because of this fact. They saw the negative effects in Europe and the destruction of the Faith there. However, when the evolutionists crept in and began gaining ground in America, well, just look at today and you see the results of telling people they are worthless, just products of chance instead of created in the image of God and loved by a loving and all-consuming fire called God. I once heard or read that one of the major shootings at a college campus occurred because the shooters thought they were killing off the “weaker species.” Another product of evolutionary today is sex-education in second grade and some kindergartens across our land. Biblical teaching on sex is one thing, but the world’s perverted teachings reap rotten fruit: homosexuality, fornication, abortion, unwed teenage mothers, and rape.

In contrast to today, our Founders made use of the New England primer as part of the education in America, it taught the alphabet as follows:

A In Adam’s fall we sinned all.

- B Heaven to find; the Bible mind.
- C Christ crucify'd for sinners dy'd.
- D The Deluge drown'd the Earth around.
- E Elijah hid by ravens fed.
- F The judgment made Felix afraid.
- G As runs the Glass, our life doth pass.
- H My Book and Heart must never part.
- I Job feels the Rod,--yet blesses GOD.
- K Proud Korah's troop was swallowed up.
- L Lot fled to Zoar, saw fiery shower on Sodom pour.
- M Moses was he who Israel's host led thro' the Sea
- N Noah did view the old world & new.
- O Young Obadiah, David, Josiah, all were pious.
- P Peter deny'd His Lord and cry'd.
- Q Queen Ester sues and saves the Jews.

- R Young pious Ruth, left all for Truth.

- S Young Sam'l dear, the Lord did fear.
- T Young Timothy learnt sin to fly.
- U Vashti for Pride was set aside.
- W Whales in the Sea, GOD's Voice obey.
- X Xerxes did die, and so must I.
- Y While youth do cheer death may be near.
- Z Zaccheus he did climb the Tree Our Lord to see.

Our Founders where keenly aware of the dangers of Evolution and fought it with passion. For over a hundred years, the godly's efforts kept evolution from us while it corroded Europe's once great nations.

Our Founding Fathers also believed that a law would only be considered for our nation if it could be found in the Word of God. If the principle wasn't

somewhere in the Bible, they wouldn't even consider it as a law. They believed the Bible is the ultimate source for everything: education, government, etc...

Interestingly, the same train of thought led our young nation to initiate the Old Deluder Act so that children would learn to read. They did this because they knew that if people couldn't read the Bible that they would easily be deceived by Satan, thus the purpose of the Act was for every **citizen of the country to be able to read the Bible.**

Our Founders understood history and how it repeats itself. They would study Israel and the Old Testament in detail as well as the history up to their time. They understood the dangers of not heeding the examples of history, for as the Scripture in Ecclesiastes says, "there is nothing new under the sun;" in other words, history repeats itself.

Education is essential to training a child. Every great teacher knows this and knows the tremendous power that they hold as they influence their students. In ancient Israel, the children were homeschooled: the boys were taught life skills and a trade by their father and girls were trained for their future as wives and mothers by their mothers.

As Kevin Swanson points out in his book **Upgrade: 10 Secrets to the Best Education for Your Child**, which I heartily recommend, that whatever education that parents choose for their children should ideally build character, have quality one-on-one instruction, protect the child, respect individuality, be rooted in relationships, focus on doing the basics well, have life integration, maintain the honor and integrity of learning, build on the right foundation, and maintain the principle of wise, sequential progression. Pastor Swanson goes on to mention in this book as well as his speaking engagements at homeschool conferences about his search of the Bible for what God said about education. The conclusion of the search was Proverbs. Proverbs teaches so many things and provides the model of a father instructing his son. There's relationship there, there is truth, wisdom, knowledge, scientific fact, "proverbs" of advice, etc...

In education, it is essential to teach the Bible because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. If you take care to teach that, God's blessing is sure to follow and He will provide the direction to a student on where

He has called them, what He has created them for and more. Parents, you are the ones that God has set as the primary teachers of your children. The choices you make do have an impact. Young people, you will one day be parents and have children of your own. My question to you no matter what educational path you choose for your children is, will it prepare your children for real life and form the right worldview? Our Founders and Ancient Israel are the best examples I can find of the power of education as I defined it today, I know a lot of info was packed into this one article, but I pray that the nuggets of history impact you where the Lord wants them to.

God bless.

“To train a man mentally without training him spiritually is to make him a menace to society.”—Theodore Roosevelt

“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next.”—Abraham Lincoln

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Jonathan Edwards and other “Founding Fathers

Jonathan Edwards, the preacher credited with helping start the Great Awakening and famous for his sermon *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, was taught by his father who was a pastor, Edwards was “homeschooled.” Edwards was a scholar from an early age. At 7, he was studying mathematics, Greek, Hebrew and Latin. At 13, he went to Yale where he studied more mathematics and ancient languages in addition to his own personal reading and writing endeavors. Edwards, like many Founding Fathers, did not enter Yale at a “young age.” Back then our nation believed similarly to Israel that a child became a man or woman around the age of 12 or 13. Many of our Founders entered college between the ages of 13 and 17. After all, high school didn’t exist and many were married by the age of 16.

George Washington was taught by his mother and, as a matter of fact, it was his mother who told him not to join the worldly British military which proved to be very important to Washington’s later position as the General of the entire Continental Army.

John Quincy Adams was another “homeschooled” Founding Father who accomplished a lot at a young age. At 10, he went with his father as an ambassador to France; at 11, he became an official secretary to his father by congressional appointment; at 14, he was made the secretary of the American ambassador to Russia, and at 16, Washington said that he was “the most valuable character we have abroad.”

Almost all of our accomplished Founding Fathers were heavily educated at home whether or not their parents were their only teachers. The recent statistics say that homeschooled students are more likely to be involved in politics and their churches (Canadian survey)—This was true about our Founding Fathers who modeled their educational approaches after the Israel; and I can’t help but believe in face of all the facts that God is blessing homeschooling for a reason: and I believe it is because the Bible is often revered and taught as the only absolute source of truth.

(resources: A Beka 11th Grade U.S. History and Drive Thru History: America with Dave Stotts)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As

obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

1 Peter 1:13-2:3 (KJV)

Aim Higher (Progress, not Perfection)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.” 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 (KJV)

We will all be rewarded for the deeds we do. God is not asking us for perfection, but every time we reach out with the right motive and help and love others we will reap lasting rewards. Don't get weighed down about your past failures, but aim for the lasting rewards Christ offers. It's not wrong to expect the Lord to keep His promises and reward good deeds, so aim higher, with a pure motive and a heart of love. Remember: where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Education, What is God's take on it?

Scriptures relating to the Biblical definition of Education (please read): Deut. 11:19-21; Prov. 22:6 ; Prov. 1:7-8 ; 1 Cor. 3:8-15 ; and more. . . .

Webster's 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines Education as:

"The bringing up, as of a child ; instruction ; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future station. To give children a good *education* in manners, arts and science, is important ; to give them a religious *education* is indispensable ; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties."

Do you understand that definition? If not, read it again. Parents, you have a unique and influential role in your children's lives, please do not neglect it.

As we study Scripture, we find that the role of parents contains much more than just discipline duties; instead it involves discipleship, counseling and character training. If you study the Old Testament and Jewish Culture, you will begin to understand how God has placed such enormous tasks for the formation of a child's life on his parents. You will also discover that when parents neglected their duty to their children that whole nations suffered; and often, their children forgot the God of their parents.

. . . . Yet, after all the sadness and failure we find in Israel's history recorded in the Old Testament, we can gaze with joy upon the great experiment that took place on the eastern shores of North America some four hundred years ago. A nation that put God first was born! Parents left Europe and the polluted churches there to teach their children how to live according to the Word of God! (If that doesn't excite you, I don't know what will) As we continue gazing back at our true American history, we find many brilliant men who did great things and had great Christian character. Were they perfect? By no means! However, our Founders had two things that are not widely applied today: 1) *a foundation*

for their lives in the Scriptures and 2) dedicated parents who trained them to the best of their ability in the way that they were each specifically to go (Prov. 22:6). Parents instilled in them the Christian character, true action faith and perseverance to do what God had called each of them to do. I do not want to idolize Homeschooling in this article; but, to be honest, homeschooling is exactly what the Founding Fathers and our Jewish ancestors in the Faith utilized daily.

A few other points:

I will not spend much time on this, but modern education has problems, right? It is controlled by the government, God is banned from the classrooms, it is a social sphere instead of a learning center, it is the place of indoctrination in humanism and the focus of Christ-like character training is gone.

We must return to the Way, the Truth and the Life.

God must again be the center of a child's education.

And teaching a child to do his best as unto God must be emphasized if we want to see a generation of young people receiving a quality education.

Let me expound on this one important point as well: Biblically, a child becomes a young adult around the age of twelve or thirteen. This truth was held true in the Jewish culture and in our Founders culture. Today, however, the "teenage era" has taken the old way's place. In this "teenage era," young people and adults now mistakenly believe that they are to go through a time of in-between life, where they are part child and part adult. In spite of this, Paul and Jesus both declared that when they were children when they were children, but when they became men, they put aside their childish ways and embraced manhood. Children need to be expected to be young men and women and likewise trained to be so. This is certainly part of their education.

Education is not meant to simply instill facts or figures, but rather to instill character, Christian principles, personal excellence, and application of Truth. This is not done, and never will be by the government; only involved parents of Faith can do so. Please pray about your children's

education for this upcoming year, Where does God want them to be? How can you step up to the plate and fulfill your role as a parent? To the young adults, how can you prepare to train your future children? Please ask God's advice for this next school year. What does His heart desire for your children?

Lastly, let me encourage you to go deeper. I have summarized many things, but there is much more out there on what true, Biblical education means and is. Please read some of it and, specifically, study the book of Proverbs—so much wisdom is contained in its thirty-one chapters which will give all the parents reading multiple lessons to teach. . . . and learn. And young men and women, you can study it on your own as well. Proverbs has changed my life, let God use it to change yours as well.

What can you pass on to the next generation about Christ? And how will you define Education?

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Mathewt 28:19-20 (KJV)

Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is 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.

~Noah Webster

About the Author

Ryan M Marks is the author of a [number of books](#) including [Hope for When the Storm Hits](#), [1 Timothy](#), [Multiple Streams of Income](#), the 3 volume [Thoughts devotional series](#), and [A Collection of Thoughts on God, Relationships and True Love](#). In addition, Ryan serves as the Founder and Director of [Focusing on the Mark Ministries](#), a DBA of his company [Marks Enterprises, LLC](#) and Chief Editor of [Devo Blast](#).