

# RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Some within our society contend that children are the responsibility to the “state,” at least for the purpose of education. Biblically, however, the task of educating children is never given to human government. We turn to Scripture; to see the authority and alternatives for those who truly desire to be obedient to this Biblical mandate.

The God-ordained authority for Christian education rests within the home. Deuteronomy 6:7 instructs parents to “teach them [God’s laws] diligently unto thy children...”; Proverbs 22:6 commands parents to “Train up a child in the way he should go...” and Ephesians 6:4 says, “Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” God has given the responsibility of educating children to the parents. While some may argue that a parent can pass that responsibility to another, Suitor reminds us that it is “legally impossible to transfer responsibility.”

A parent can authorize someone to assist them in the educational process, but every parent will stand accountable before God regarding the education of his or her children. Many parents, however, do not feel capable of completing the educational process alone. What are their alternatives for assistance?

## **Alternative #1--Public School**

Much has been written regarding the philosophy, the purpose, the personnel, and the programs of the public education system. Secular educators have plainly stated what the public schools are designed to accomplish. One writer in *Learning Magazine* said, “I suggest that morality does not require God and that moral values can be taught in public schools without adding the religious dimensions of some form of higher being.” (*The State of the Christian School Movement*, Deuink).

Education is always based on a person’s or organization’s view and philosophy of man and God. Therefore, it must be acknowledged that *the goal of public education cannot be to make students godly*. From this pastor’s perspective, the public school is not a valid option for the Christian family that is committed to living according to Biblical principles and values. “*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*”(Amos 3:3)

## **Alternative #2--Home Schooling**

Space does not permit a complete examination of this preference. It should, however, be noted as a valid option for those Christian parents who are equipped and prepared to train their children in the atmosphere of their home.

## **Alternative #3--Christian School**

As Carl Herbster, president of American Association of Christian Schools, emphasizes, “The parent who recognizes his duty before God must pursue an educational plan that will instruct his children in Biblical truth and how it applies to learning. This is the basis for the choice of Christian education” (*Parent Update*, Herbster).

God instituted the Church to be involved in the process of equipping saints for the work of the ministry. Part of that task involves assisting parents in educating their children through Sunday School, children and teen ministries, as well as the day school. In the Christian day school each subject is presented from a Biblical perspective, so that all academic facts and knowledge are interpreted as originating with God the Author of all truth. “Education that is Christian is teaching facts that are based on the Truth, the Person of Jesus Christ. This is the distinctive that makes Christian education different.”(*Parent Update*, Herbster).

The responsibility to educate children is parental; the options for dedicated Christian parents are limited to an atmosphere that is Christian. But some may still question the *whys* of Christian Education.