



**Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009: The Family and the Kingdom
(Part II - Education)**

Scripture: Duet 6:4-7, 20-25; Phil 2:9-11

Sermon Notes:

1. Christian education is a theological and cultural necessity, not a luxury or optional extra.
2. In our public schools today, Christianity has not only been disestablished but banished. The tide of de-Christianization has proven irresistible, and education has been secularized.
3. The results are devastating: escalating violence, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, academic failure rates, and illiteracy. Additionally, research indicates that in North America 7 out of 10 young people who regularly attended church during high school quit by age 23.
4. Throughout the world, education always seeks to impart the overarching values of the culture to the student. Religious neutrality in education is a myth.
5. The Christian view of equipping children for life (in terms of the knowledge and character required for true freedom) is radically different from the humanist one.
6. Throughout history we see how the influences of Christianity and humanism on education have led in drastically different directions.
7. In ancient Rome, the growth and triumph of the early church was in large part due to the Christian school and its influence upon the rising generations.
8. In the middle ages, the Reformation (which represented the call to return God's Word) stood in strong opposition to the Renaissance (which represented the call to return to the ancients, such as the Greek thinkers). The Renaissance eventually spawned the Enlightenment, and the intellectual abandonment of Christian doctrine.
9. The negative influence of humanism and the Enlightenment upon education is demonstrated in our modern society. The boomer generation put into practice what they learned in the classroom, and today we have rampant divorce, co-habitation, and promiscuity, and a vast number of single parent families, all

of which has contributed to today's escalating academic failure rates, illiteracy, and delinquency.

10. The call upon the Christian church in our day is the same one taken up by the early church: to redeem and transform a decaying culture through the educational mandate and redeem education for Christ through re-establishing the truly Christian school.
11. For the Christian, the family is the basic institution in human society. The family, not the state, is the trustee and steward of children, who ultimately belong to God. The parents' authority over children is governed by God's Word.
12. One of the basic mistakes in thinking about Christian education is that it is basically identical to any other curriculum but with Bible classes added. This is a serious error. All facts are interpreted by one's worldview and are made to fit into one's paradigm. This is seen in all fields of learning, including math and history (for example, why did Columbus sail across the ocean: economics or faith?).
13. The degree to which the Christian educational view has declined is the degree to which we are seeing the demise and collapse of our Christian culture, law and order, literacy, and the art of true freedom (found in Christ and His Word).

Application Questions:

1. If we affirm the sovereignty of God over all areas of life, can we accept the myth of neutrality – the view that facts can be interpreted apart from God?
2. Can any education be value-neutral? What if the state, and not the church, is overseeing the education? Why not?
3. What is one of the basic and most serious mistakes in thinking about Christian education? What should a truly Christian school look like? What should the curriculum be?
4. As we reclaim the education of our children for Jesus Christ, what positive fruit can we hope for in our families, churches, and nation?
5. Will I choose to make peace with the status quo and accept the ever increasing claims of the state over life, marriage, family, education and property, or will I choose righteousness and make a stand for Christ in these areas?