

PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Bible

That God by His Holy Word reveals Himself; renews man's understanding of God, of man himself, of his fellow man, and of the world; directs man in all his relationships and activities; and therefore guides His people also in the education of their children.

Creation

That in their education children must come to learn that the world, and man's calling in it, can rightly be understood only in their relation to the Triune God who by His creation, restoration, and governance directs all things to the coming of His Kingdom, and the glorification of His name.

Sin

That because man's sin, which brought upon all mankind the curse of God, alienates him from his Creator, his neighbor, and the world; distorts his view of the true meaning and purpose of life; and misdirects human culture; man's sin also corrupts the education of children.

Jesus Christ

That through Jesus Christ, Who is both God and man, and Who, by His virgin birth, perfect life, bodily resurrection, present rule and intercession, became our Savior, there is renewal of our educational enterprise because He is the Redeemer of, and the Light and the Way for, our human life in all its range and variety. Only through Him and the work of His Spirit are we guided in the truth and recommitted to our original calling.

Schools

That the purpose of Christian schools is to educate children for a life of obedience to their calling in this world as image-bearers of God; that this calling is to know God's Word and His creation, to consecrate the whole of human life to God, to love their fellow man, and to be stewards in their God-given cultural task.

Parents

That the primary responsibility for education rests upon parents to whom children are entrusted by God, and that Christian parents should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship which God established with believers and their children. They should seek to discharge this obligation through school associations and school boards which engage the services of Christian teachers in Christian schools.

Teachers

That Christian teachers, both in obedience to God and in cooperation with parents, have a unique pedagogical responsibility while educating the child in school.

Pupils

That Christian schools must take into account the variety of abilities, needs, and responsibilities of young persons; that the endowments and calling of young persons as God's image-bearers and their defects and inadequacies as sinners require that such learning goals and such curricula will be selected as will best prepare them to live as obedient Christians; and that only with constant attention to such pedagogical concerns will education be truly Christian.

Community

That because God's covenant embraces not only parents and their children but also the whole Christian community to which they belong, and because Christian education contributes directly to the advancement of God's kingdom, it is the obligation not only of the parents but also of this Christian community to establish and maintain Christian schools; to pray for, work for, and give generously in their support.

Educational Freedom

That Christian schools, organized and administered in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions for day schools, should be fully recognized in society as free to function according to these principles.