

CHAPTER 4

The Education Reformation Manifesto

We believe that providing a Biblical education for our children is a direct application of the Great Commission and we are motivated by the gospel to provide it for the glory of God.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28: 18 – 20)(Emphasis added)

The Great Commission not only includes the preaching of the gospel and baptizing new believers, it also includes making mature disciples by teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded. This is the goal of a truly Biblical education.

We believe that the Great Commission begins in our households, expands to our friends and family, our local community, and then to the rest of the world (Acts 1: 8). A Parents’ primary responsibility regarding the Great Commission is the evangelism and discipleship of their children.

We believe that one of the reasons God created us in Christ was to accomplish good works for His Glory (Ephesians 2: 10). The evangelism and discipleship of our children, which is at the core of a Biblical education, is one of the most important good works that God has commanded us to accomplish.

We believe that God has given us His infallible, authoritative, and sufficient Word to fully equip us for every good work, including how to educate our children.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”(2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17)(Emphasis added)

Since God has given us everything that we need to be fully equipped for every good work and the education of our children is one of these good works, we can be certain that God has provided us with specific instructions on how to educate our children.

The following are some of the Biblical commands and principles given to us by God that directly apply to the education of our children:

We believe education belongs to the family supported by the church, not to the state.¹

Fathers are the ones that are commanded to train and educate their children. (Ephesians 6: 4, Psalm 78:5-8, and Deuteronomy 6: 1 - 7)

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6: 4)(Emphasis added)

God Himself has given fathers not mothers, not schools, not churches and certainly not the state, but fathers this responsibility. As a result, fathers are the ones who will be ultimately held accountable by God for what their children are taught.

God has given mothers the role of being the fathers’ primary helpers in accomplishing the goal of a Biblical education (Genesis 2: 18 – 24, [Proverbs 1:8](#), [Proverbs 6:20](#), [Song of Solomon 8:2](#)). But if fathers are disobedient to God, dead, or otherwise absent, it falls to mothers to accomplish this good work (Acts 16: 1, 2 Timothy 1: 5).

God never intended for Christian families to function in isolation. Families separated from the local church are like sheep separated from the flock; easy prey for the predators of this world. The protection, training, fellowship, accountability, and encouragement that are provided by the body of Christ are essential for our children’s education.

We believe that we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers in the education of our children.

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? (2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 16a)(Emphasis added)

As a result, willingly becoming partners with unbelievers in our God given responsibility to train and educate our children is a violation of this clear Biblical principle.

¹ Exodus Mandate, “[Education belongs to the family, supported by the church, and not to the state](#)”, July 17, 2012

We believe teachers must have a godly character because a student will become like his teacher.

“He (Jesus) also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6: 39 – 40) (Explanation added)

We believe bad company really does corrupt good character.

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Proverbs 13: 20)

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15: 33)

As a result, carefully selecting the student culture that our children will be influenced by is of utmost importance.

We believe that a Biblical education involves strong, character building, personal relationships between a student and his teachers. Since God has ordained parents as a child’s primary teachers, strong parent-child relationships based on living life together and daily discipleship are essential.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6: 5 – 7) (Emphasis added)

We believe that the content of a Biblical education must be Gospel centered (Romans 1: 16) and saturated with the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 1: 7, Proverbs 9: 10), focused on the centrality of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3: 14 – 17), impart a purely Biblical worldview (1 Timothy 6: 20, 1 Corinthians 3: 18 – 20, Romans 12: 2) , and instruct students in apologetics (1 Peter 3: 15, 2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 6), evangelism (Ephesians 4: 11 – 16), Biblical family roles (Ephesians 5: 23 – 6: 4), prayer (1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18), Bible study (Matthew 4: 4), scripture memorization (Psalm 119: 9 – 12), Christian service (1 Peter 4: 9 – 11), involvement in a local church (Hebrews 10: 24 – 25), and career training (1 Timothy 5: 8, 2 Thessalonians 3: 10).

If you agree with the Education Reformation Manifesto, please go to the following website to become a signer of the manifesto:
<http://www.educationreformation.org/>