

## Christianity and Education

### Introduction

- A. To be a Christian is to be committed to a certain group of beliefs. Some of these areas of belief are very clear among us. There are other areas where we need more clarity as to the correct position that should be taken. The concept of education and its relationship to Christianity is one of those facets of life and thought where more clarity is needed.
- B. There is hardly a more important area of life than that related to the total scope of education. We begin to learn almost at birth, if not before, and the process is continuous throughout life.
- C. The thought before us here, however, has to do with education in the more formal sense. How are we to integrate education with faith?

### I. Education: Its Basis or Rationale.

#### A. Related Scriptures.

For with Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light.  
Psalm 36:9

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me. John 14:6

In Whom (Jesus Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.  
Colossians 2:3

#### B. Propositions.

Proposition #1. Only through the revelation of God, the truth, can the world and life be adequately known.

Proposition #2. Truth is one.

Proposition #3. There is no neutrality in education. God's existence, creation, and revelation make a difference in every area of life and thought.

Proposition #4. Facts are not self-interpretive. They become clear only when placed into an explanatory system of thought. This "system" largely determines what the facts will "mean" or how they will be interpreted.

Proposition #5. The revelation of God and the Christian world and life view are all-inclusive.

## II. Education: Its Presentation or Content.

### A. Explanation.

One inescapable aspect of education is that it is an interpretive-explanation of life and reality.

What the teacher presents as "truth" is that which has been selected, grouped and evaluated according to the teacher's background, cultural character, nationality, spiritual commitment and predilection. The facts, values, concepts and perspectives which are presented, and even "life" itself must go through this constitutive "sieve" in order to reach the student. Perhaps even more serious is that the teacher stands at the end of a long history of being so influenced. Life and reality have been explained and interpreted for the teacher and this is passed on with some personal changes in content.

### B. Illustrations.

In history one cannot present all events and people. The very selecting, grouping and evaluating which must be done is an interpretation of history.

In psychology it is possible to study man within the context of at least the Structuralist, Functionalist, Psychoanalyst, Behaviorist, or Gestalt school of thought. Each of these have a distinct way of evaluating man. These various schools are an interpretation of man and life.

### C. Evaluation.

The Christian cannot be neutral when it comes to education. We believe that God has revealed Himself and the Truth through His Word and creation. It is therefore necessary to have a "Christian education" in which the correct explanatory-interpretation of life and reality would be taught. The content of education must be tested by the principles of Scripture.

## III. Education: Its Reception or Application.

### A. The Viewpoint of the Administrator and Teacher.

1. There must be concern for the total person now.
2. There must be concern for this total person and his future so he or she may fulfill the Call of God and glorify God.

### B. The Viewpoint of the Student.

1. There must be the reception of truth as a total person.
2. There must be an understanding and integration of truth.
3. There must be an application of truth to all facets of life.

Conclusion: Education is a solemn obligation, for Myself and for others.

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