

What is the first commandment that God gave to mankind? It may not be what you think. It is found in Genesis:

*“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* -- **Genesis 1:28**

God has given us the power to reproduce. It is an amazing privilege! A man and his wife have been given the ability to bring a new person into the world, and then raise that child to become adult who can do the same thing. The Bible tells us that every child is the gift of God.

*“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”* -- **Psalms 127:3**

But this gift also brings enormous responsibility – parents are now responsible for the care and upbringing of their child.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* -- **Proverbs 22:6**

*“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* -- **Ephesians 6:4**

Fortunately, they do not have to do this task alone. In addition to the **family**, there is the **church** and the **school**. Children are best served when all three institutions point them in the same direction.

I believe that there are five basic reasons why sending your child to a good Christian school is the best option for parents.

## 1. Foundation:

Jesus finished his Sermon on the Mount with an illustration of two builders – the wise and the foolish. The wise builder built his house on a solid foundation, while the foolish man did not. When the storms came, the wise builder’s house stood; but the foolish builder’s house fell flat. Jesus used this to describe the person who listens to his Word and obeys, and the person who may hear the Word but does not obey.

Parents need to understand that they are building a child – and it is critical that they lay a good foundation. Only an education that can address the whole child – body, soul (mind and emotions), and spirit is adequate to prepare a child for life.

The Bible says:

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*  
--**Proverbs 1:7**

An education that leaves God and His Word out is certain to fail. Martin Luther said almost 500 years ago, “I am afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them in the heart of the youth.”

The Word of God specifically warns us to *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”* (**Colossians 2:8**)

## 2. Faculty:

Every parent should be concerned with not only what their children are being taught, but also **“who”** is doing the teaching.

*“The disciple [student] is not above his master:[teacher] but every one that is perfect [mature] shall be as his master.”*  
-- **Luke 6:40**

There are two kingdoms – the **Kingdom of Darkness** and the **Kingdom of Light**. It seems strange to expect people who walk in darkness to lead your children to the light, doesn’t it? To think that teachers will not have a major impact on your child’s life is naïve. Godly teachers can use every subject to teach the reality and rule of God. They can share the Gospel, their own personal walk with God, insights from God’s Word, etc. In other words, they can model what it means to be a Christian man or woman.

Take a moment to think of the impact some of your teachers had on you and your life – positively or negatively. Do you see the impact a Christian teacher could have on your son or daughter?

## 3. Friends:

Our children don’t just look to us or their teachers for role models, they look to their friends.

The writer of Proverbs warns against making friends with angry people, violent men, and those who “devise mischief.” He advises his son to “cast out the scorner.” (Proverbs 22:10) His reasoning is simple – people become like their friends. This truth is reinforced in the New Testament:

*“Be not deceived: evil communications  
[companions] corrupt good manners.”*

**--1 Corinthians 15:33**

A solid Christian school helps students develop healthy not harmful friendships – friendships with fellow Christians.

## 4. Future

It has been said that *“a public school prepares a student to make a **living**; but a Christian school prepares a student for **life**.”* I don’t agree. Yes, Christian schools do teach students how to live, but there is no better preparation for “making a living” than a Christian education. Students are taught honesty, a work ethic, discipline, etc. All of these are qualities that employers are looking for in employees. And lastly,

## 5. Faithfulness

Someday every parent will give an account to God. (Romans 14:12) The main requirement is “faithfulness.”

But you most likely will not have to wait for that day to see the results of your child’s education.

John the Apostle put it this way:

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” -- 3 John 1:4*

**On the other hand:**

*“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.”-- Proverbs 17:25*

“A foolish son” is one that rejects the truth and turns his back on God. There is no greater heartbreak for a Christian parent than to see their child lost.

Of course just sending your child to a Christian School does not guarantee they will not turn away from God. Other factors include the truth that everyone must make his or her own decision to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior—God has no grandchildren.

Nor can a Christian School do your job as your child’s parents. You still have the responsibility to care for them and set a right example – you can’t just turn the education of your children over to others!

Having said that, I still remain convinced that sending your children to a quality Christian School is one of the best investments you can make – it pays big dividends.

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” -- 3 John 1:4*

**For More Information Contact:**

---

# The Truth about Christian Education

---



## Five Good Reasons

*For Sending Your Child  
To a Christian School*

---

**Tom Stiles, Executive Director**

**New York Association  
Of Christian Schools**

