

Choosing The Right Education For Your Child

I. How Can We Know God's Will?

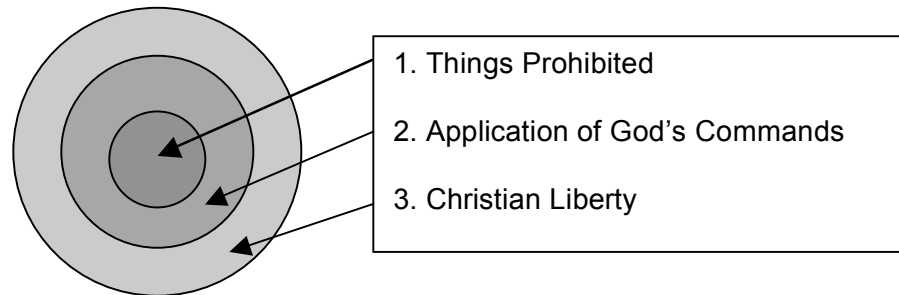
A. The Promise

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." (Psalm 32:8)

"[G]uidance comes when you learn to apply the Word of God to your life in the wisdom provided by the Holy Spirit."¹

B. Two Models

1. The "bull's eye" of God's best
2. Three circles of biblical guidance



C. Guardrail of Providence

"The Bible teaches that (1) God does have one specific plan for your life and (2) the events and choices of your life irresistibly and sovereignly work that plan in every detail."²

"We are all hurtling down the mountain of life with turns and switchbacks constantly confronting us. Yet we can have confidence that God has established the boundaries of our lives. He holds us carefully in his hand despite the dangers we face and the foolish decisions we make. Only in heaven will we know the number of times we bumped into the guardrail of God's plan and were protected for his gracious purpose."³

D. Recommended Reading: Step By Step (James C. Petty)

¹ James C. Petty, Step By Step (Philipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1999), p. 11

² Ibid., 59

³ Ibid., 77

II. Principles For Educational Decision-Making

A. Wise Parents Own The Responsibility For Education

“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 6:6-7)

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

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

B. Wise Parents Seek Counsel

“Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.” (Proverbs 15:22)

C. Wise Parents Insure That Education Is Biblically Based

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of the Lord is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

D. Wise Parents Pursue Parallel Goals In Education

1. Preparing our children for a life of **GODLINESS**
 - a. Personal relationship with Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)
 - b. Growth in grace and knowledge of God (2 Peter 3:18)
 - c. Involvement in the local church (Ephesians 1-4)
2. Preparing our children for a life of **FRUITFULNESS**
 - a. Service (Matthew 20:20-28)
 - b. Stewardship of gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
 - c. Salt and light in the world (Matthew 15:13-16)

E. Wise Parents Realize That One Size Does Not Fit All

1. Differences in children
2. Differences in families
3. Differences in circumstances and seasons

III. Five Educational Models: Pros and Cons

- A. Public School**
- B. Private School – Secular**
- C. Private School -- Christian**
- D. Home School**
- E. “Hybrid” School**

(Handout: “Educational Choices – Five Models”)

IV. Two Educational Resources For CLC Members

- A. Covenant Life School** (K-12 day school)
Contact: Jamie Leach – jleach@covlife.org
- B. Family Schools Program** (home school support program)
Contact: Rita Hoover – rhoover@covlife.org

V. Education In A Gospel-Centered Community

- A. Striving For Unity Amidst Diversity**
 - 1. Mutual encouragement and edification
 - 2. Charitable judgments
 - 3. Humble dialogue