

Who Should Educate Our Children?

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The most powerful argument for Christian education is the fact that it gives Christian parents full control of the education of their children. This is according to God's own command to parents. To them, and to them alone belongs the responsibility for bringing up their children.

This is clear from such Bible passages as Genesis 18:19, where God says of Abraham, "For I know him, that *he* will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord;" Deuteronomy 6:7, "And *thou* shalt teach them (God's commandments) diligently unto they children;" and Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye *fathers* . . . bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Nor will it do to argue that this only applies to the religious education of our children. All the education of our children ought to be religious, and our calling to bring them up religiously does not end for six or seven hours when they leave for school in the morning.

There is not the least suggestion in the Bible that the civil government has any responsibility to educate our children. When we give our children to the government to be educated we are abdicating our responsibilities as parents.

Nor does the Church have this responsibility, though it does help us fulfil our responsibilities. Parochial, that is, church-controlled, schools are not the answer either. Parentally controlled schools, in which the teachers and the curriculum are all chosen by the Christian parents who send their children to the schools are the only thing that will allow us to fulfil our responsibilities.

But are not we denying parental education if we have hired teachers for the education of our children? Not if the teachers are Christian men and women chosen by the parents and answerable to the parents. Then the teachers can and do stand in the place of the parents, as they ought to do.

We believe, therefore, not only in the Christian education, but in parentally controlled education. We believe that this is God's command for parents, a command that they may not disobey. May God move the hearts of many parents to take up once again their calling to bring up their own children.