

Christian Education and the Church

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Christian schools are essential for the future of the church of Jesus Christ. Without them the cause and kingdom of Jesus Christ as it is represented by the church will continue to decline. Those who love the church that Christ bought with His own blood, ought, therefore to love Christian education also.

Church and school depend on each other because parentally controlled Christian education is part of the calling that parents have to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord. Only when parents fulfil that calling to the utmost of their power can the church prosper.

The Christian school as an extension of the Christian home is one of the most powerful influences we have for producing Christian young men and women. God Himself promises that He will bless the godly instruction of the children, but the church alone cannot do the job. At best it has the children for only a few hours a week, and that is not enough to counteract all the other things that influence our children, especially if they are in the care of unbelievers and exposed to ungodly influences for the greater part of each day.

Believing, then, that Israel was the church of the Old Testament, we ought to take the words of Psalm 128:6 to heart. That Psalm speaks of a godly home and family (of which the Christian school is an extension) and ends with a wonderful promise concerning both ourselves and the church: "Thou shalt see thy children's children, *and peace upon Israel* (the church)."

Children who are taught in the unbelieving world and by the unbelieving world will seldom be a blessing to the church of Jesus Christ. Even if in time to come they do turn to the Lord, they will be beginners in the faith, having learned little or nothing of Christian doctrine and of the Christian life. And how few of them do turn from the ways of the world! How could it be otherwise when they were raised in and by the world for the better part of every day!.

Can we allow such a situation to continue to the ruin of the church and the loss of our Protestant Reformation heritage? May God grant us stirred-up spirits to do the work of training our children every day and all day in the fear of the Lord!