

Why Christian Education?

Deuteronomy 6:6-15.

September 5, 2010

“These words which I teach you today shall be in your heart.” Deut. 6:6.

I. What is Christian Education?

What is its aim? How does it differ from preaching and from Christian devotional literature?

A. God has spoken; He has revealed Himself.

Here lies the difference between all the religions of the world and Biblical Christianity.

1. All the worlds religions are comprised of man’s thoughts about God. Some even want to claim divine sanction for their thoughts such as Islam does. Nevertheless if we examine their ways we see how they do not rise above the level of the fallen-ness of human nature.

So it is with Mohammed, who is the role model for all of Islam, and whose behavior can not be criticized. Yet the man was a warlord, a mass murderer who personally exterminated an entire colony of Jews; who executed his prisoners of war. He oppressed and suppressed women; was a pedophile and a polygamist. He forced his way of thinking on the nations with the sword.

2. Biblical Christianity rests on God invading human history, and revealing Himself. Often He does so at the expense of the dignity of the human instruments He employed. None are above criticism. (David, Peter, Paul, etc.) The final and perfect revelation came in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was above reproach, and who offered up Himself as the spotless Lamb of God as an atonement for our sins.

3. Biblical Christianity is “supernaturalism.”

Biblical Christianity rests on God invading, not only history, but also your life. It depends on Him doing so with His Word and Spirit, making you a new creature in Christ. “You must be born again!” John 3:3.

B. The aim of Christian Education is to impart the scope of this revelation.

“These words which I command you this day shall be in your hearts.” Deut. 6:6.

To accommodate this, Israel is told to do three things:

1. To talk of these things, stirring up their own memories, and remembering the great things God had done for them; at the same time imparting them to their children in the course of everyday life.

2. They were to wear them on their bodies; on their wrists (which were considered to be part of the hand), and on their forehead.

The Egyptians wore ornamental trinkets with religious inscriptions in this manner, and Israel may well have taken over this custom from them. However now any such trinkets must be holy to the Lord alone.

It speaks to us of the sanctification of the whole of life; their actions (hands) and their thinking (forehead).

Four passages of scripture came to be used for this: Exodus 13:2-10; Exodus 13:11-16; Deut. 6:1-9, and Deut.11:18-21.

3. They were to write them on the doorposts of their homes as well. Again this was an Egyptian custom which may well have become a custom of the Israelites. Here we have the sanctification of these customs. The New Testament counterpart of these customs is to have the truth of God written on our hearts with the pen of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:3. also 1 Peter 3:3,4. The literal fulfillment of these customs is of little value as it is practiced by devout Jews to this very day. The value lies in their looking forward to their New Testament fulfillment.
 4. The fulfillment of these positive directives would help them to safeguard against the ever present danger of forgetting the Lord that had bought them out of Egypt to have them for Himself.
- C. How is the scope of God's revelation best imparted?
- By a systematic teaching of the history of God's covenant people as revealed in the Bible:
1. Creation - Noah – Babel – Abraham – Isaac – Jacob - Joseph.
 2. The Exodus - tabernacle - 40 yrs of wandering.
 3. The conquest of the Promised Land - Joshua
 4. The period of the Judges.
 5. The United Kingdom - Saul, David, Solomon.
 6. The Divided Kingdom – Era of the prophets
 7. The captivity, restoration and 400 silent yrs. More prophets
 8. The life of Christ.
 9. The Acts of the Apostles and their epistles.
 10. The revelation of Jesus reign in glory.

This we do in our Bible School program for our children in their formative years. Do not deny your children this important foundation! Why?

II. Why is Christian Education important?

- A. Those who are ignorant of God's covenant dealings with His people in the past are liable to repeat their errors and fall into the same sins. This is the burden of 1 Corinthians 10:1-12. "These things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." Vs. 6 and "All these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." Vs. 11.
What will become of us if we are willfully ignorant of the history of our people?
- B. Knowing the scope of Biblical revelation, the history of the people of God upon the earth, provides us with an identity. "I am not my own; I have been bought with a price; I belong to God, and to that noble army of God's Covenant people." One great tragedy of our age is that people do not know anymore who they are. Freedom is a terrible curse unless it is wedded to the image of God in man. It creates conditions like those of the book of Judges where every man did what was right in his own eyes.
- C. Knowing the scope of Biblical revelation provides us with a life purpose and direction. What do we live for? What is important in life? From this life purpose flow love and joy; rest and peace; hope and zeal. It is to know and to serve God and His people according to the gifts and graces He has given us. Does your life reflect these truths?