

Home Schooling Our Kids

Home schooling has seen a rise in popularity over the past several years. There are many pros and cons which can be argued for this educational arrangement. Some have very strong opinions both ways on the question of whether or not this is best for our kids. Home schools are generally strong on emphasizing fundamentals like grammar, math and science upon which a student's knowledge is built. Some home schools also incorporate Bible instruction on an academic level.

Home schooling has been around for as long as parents have brought children into the world. Public education is a relatively modern mechanism. Spiritually speaking, home schooling is still an essential for the development of our kids. A knowledge of the Scriptures, provided by parents, will give our kids a base from which to make many important life decisions. It really does not matter where one obtains his or her skills to make a living, but it is essential that our kids learn how to make a life under the instruction of godly parents in the home. Moses instructed Israelite parents to teach their children diligently to love the Lord their God. It was to be done in the home, in the field, along the road, when they were awake and when they laid down (Deut. 6:5-7). New Testament fathers were enjoined with responsibility to bring up their children in the Lord's discipline and instruction (Eph. 6:4). This admonition is strengthened when parents, extended family, and friends all join together to promote the spiritual welfare of our children.

We fear that Biblical illiteracy is on the rise in our time. Too many church Bible classes are nothing but fun and games. Too many parents and grandparents do not know the fundamental teachings of the Bible. They have failed to study and learn for themselves. The truths of Scripture have not become their way of life.

Parents— this is not an educational option! You must be actively home schooling your children in the Bible. A regular diet of Bible teaching must be served at the family table. Read directly from the text with your kids. Meditate together on what the text means. Pray together. Encourage memorization of Bible passages. Every home should be a school of Bible knowledge. Church Bible classes are only an aid to daily home schooling. Think of the church's Bible classes as a school lunch program. Do kids need more than just a meal at lunch time? Yes, and for certain, they need more Bible than just Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes.

- by Mark W. White

You Can – But You Can't

You can ignore God's warnings; you can refuse his blessings; you can reject all his wondrous love, but you can't go to heaven doing so.

You can believe any doctrine you choose; you can belong to the church of your choice; you can worship God as you please, but you can't please God doing so (2 Jno. 9; Mt. 15:9,13; Rom. 10:1).

It seems that Satan has done a remarkable job of convincing the people that their religion is a matter of their choice, not God's; that it is a matter of their being pleased,

- by Grover Stevens

“I Don't See Anything Wrong With That”

How many times have we heard this reply when we question some belief or practice which may be without Bible authority? The saddest thing about the statement is that many times it is really true. So many individuals have so little knowledge and understanding of the Bible when they are confronted with some false teaching or practice they really do not have the ability to see anything wrong with the sinful doctrine or practice. We all need our “senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14). The only way we can have this ability is to put forth the necessary effort to learn and understand the truth. If we know what is right we will be able to recognize that which is contrary to it as being wrong and sinful.

- by James Hahn

Choosing Friends

Someone once observed: "Fate made your relatives; choice makes your friends." Those whom you choose to be your closest friends indicate what your attitude is toward spiritual things. It is a psychological fact that we are drawn to those who share our interests. Devoted Christians will want to associate with the spiritual and godly; those who are not interested in spiritual matters will select the ungodly as their friends. Beware when your best friends are those who are not interested in the Lord's church (your associates tell on you). Further, "*Evil companionships corrupt good morals*" (I Corinthians 15:58).

- by James E. Cooper

Think You Can Convert Him/Her After You Are Married?

The American Institute for Church Growth conducted a survey of 10,000 men and women in various religious denominations. One of the questions asked how many had married a mate from a different religious background. 62% of respondents reported marrying someone of a different 'faith.' The survey then proceeded to ask that 62% about what happened later in their marriages. Here are the results:

WOMEN:

- 49% - converted to their husband's religion
- 40% - no change in religion by either husband or wife
- 8% - **converted their husbands**
- 3% - both changed to an entirely different religion

MEN:

- 25% - converted to their wife's religion
- 43% - no change in religion by either husband or wife
- 39% - **converted their wives**
- 3% - both changed to an entirely different religion

There are many potential lessons from these statistics, but one really stands out. It is obvious that those who marry a spouse - thinking that they can convert their mate later - are usually wrong. While women are more likely to change to their husband's religion, it still happens less than half of the time.

We especially want to emphasize this point for our young people who are of 'dating' age. Keep your eyes wide open. If the person you are considering for marriage is not interested in learning the truth and committing to Christ while you are dating, the chances are very high that they will **not** do so after you are married. Be careful about imagining that **your** case will be different. The statistics don't lie.

Few choices you will ever make can rank in importance with your choice of a wife or husband. And, nothing can help to produce a successful marriage like a common faith in the Lord. Think!

- by Greg Gwin