

# bad or myth Good Perspective



**“Children from Christian families should be missionaries in the public school.”**

Parents are being fooled when they believe this for several major reasons. First, there is neither a Biblical command nor precedent for children to be missionaries. Second, the very purpose of a missionary requires that he be fully trained and prepared to give an explanation of the scriptures and withstand the abuse and rejection that Jesus has promised from the world. A child is by definition an immature human being who is being taught how to live and think so he will be prepared to serve God effectively as a young adult.

To further refute this particular myth, two illustrations are helpful. First, let us examine a military example because the Bible gives us so many analogies of the Christian life to warfare. When have we ever thought that we should send a 6, 10, or 14 year old child to Iraq to disarm roadside bombs or negotiate with terrorists? Or let us ask a less militaristic question of how we use our children. Why do we not have our children driving cars at 10 years old or running for political office when they are 12 years old? Yes, these questions are somewhat

ridiculous because the answers are so obvious! Children must have an opportunity to grow up to an age where they have both physical and mental preparation before we thrust them into such situations.

However, the Bible tells us that there are also spiritual dangers and the consequences of falling into temptations and snares are eternally greater than the physical or mental dangers in life! Christian parents must not ignore the Bible by placing their children into a battle for which they are not prepared. “The devil is like a roaming lion looking to devour someone” (1 Peter 5:8). Additionally, Christian parents may be fooled into thinking that their child has a salt and light effect for Jesus by simply being in a non-Christian environment. Again, this is not based on the Biblical directive addressed to men and women who can be salt and light – mature Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit and are equipped to restrain evil and bring truth. According to the Bible, God uses Christians who can share the clear teaching of His Word to change hearts and be that salt

and light; something that is prohibited in the public school. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

Finally, the Bible contradicts the thinking that a well mannered, sweet child can be a spiritual change agent. In fact, the teaching of the Bible tells us that every child is born with a sinful nature that is bent toward sinning and is not prone to honor and obey God. Rather than a sweet, young person changing those around him for the good, the Bible tells us that it is more likely that those who don’t obey and love God will change that sweet, young person for bad. “Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15:33) “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)

*We need missionaries, but they need to be trained and prepared. Send them to a Premier school.*

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