



## IF God BUILT A School ...what would it look like?

### A question and answer that has eternal implications

Have you ever thought about it? We have tens of thousands of schools that have been built by men in our country, but how many of those schools are similar to a school that God would design? Is it even important to consider the question?

Recently, a conversation took place between two Christians. One Christian was arguing for the need for children from Christian families to attend a Christian school. The other was arguing that the public schools are just as good as the Christian schools and that children from Christian families should be there if that's what their parents want.

The discussion came to an abrupt halt when the Christian school advocate asked the public school advocate one question: If God were to design and build every school in the world, would it look like a Christian school or would it look like a public school? The public school advocate thought for a moment and replied with conviction, "Well, of course it would look like a Christian school!"

Why did the public school advocate answer this way? Two reasons: Every Christian inherently knows God has revealed in Scripture that He intends to glorify Himself by communicating His truth found in the Bible to the world we live in. That is not done in a public school.

The second reason is that any being- even human beings- will not and cannot bring praise to himself while promoting someone other

than himself at the same time. Therefore, God will not and cannot demand that He and all He has taught be revered and obeyed at the same time He is allowing other teachings or gods to be considered as worthy to be revered and obeyed. It is simply impossible for God to be pleased with that scenario.

For Christians, the question, "If God built a school, what would it look like", must be considered and is vital to the health of our children, our families, and our nation. If you are serious about your faith and the spiritual well being of your child, you will carefully read and consider what God has said to all Christian parents.



### How can we know what a school that God built would look like?

There is only one place that the Christian can go for truth- God's Word. This is how God has chosen to reveal all of the information that we need to understand

Him, ourselves, and all of the issues of life.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16).*

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:3).*

### What would be the foundation for the school's teaching philosophy?

The scriptures loudly declare that God wants to glorify Himself in all things. Therefore, the foundation, starting, and finishing point would be that every aspect of teaching in all subjects be done with the goal of glorifying God. Three times in Ephesians 1, God gives us the reason for what He has done:

*He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved (v 6).*

*So that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory (v 12).*

*Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory (v 14).*

*And Jesus prayed: Father, glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again (John 12:28).*

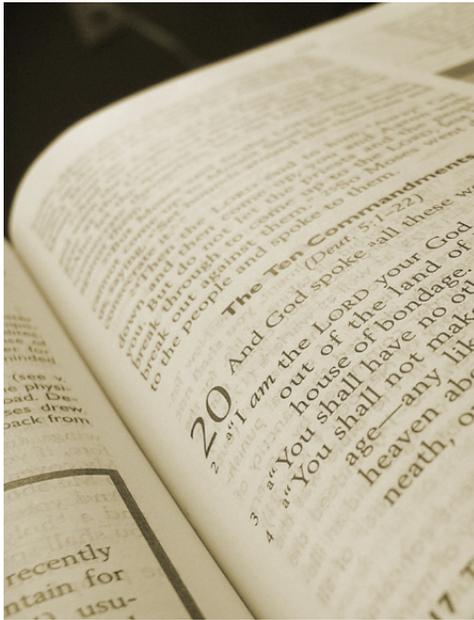
*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished*



the work that you gave me to do (John 17:4).

And Paul wrote: *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

And Peter said: *Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen* (1 Peter 4:11).



## How would God glorify Himself in a school?

God glorifies Himself by teaching His people all about God so they can grow in their love, praises and desire for God. He does this by the work of the Holy Spirit as His Word is taught.

*I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you* (John 16:12-14).

He would use all of His Bible to glorify Himself. For example, the Bible tells us that He uses His Ten Commandments (moral law) to show us a reflection of His holy character; to give us a guide for how we should love God and love our neighbor, and to help us realize how short we fall from obeying it completely, and our dire need for a Savior (Galatians 3:19-24).

## What would that look like on a day to day basis?

The most important subject in the school would be - God! We know that it is His will that His name would be holy throughout the school (Matthew 6:9), and education and training would be in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord* (Ephesians 6:4).

Note that He does not even mention math, science, English, or history. Yes, we must study those subjects, but they are to be taught in a way that gives God the glory that He is due.

Also, using His Word as a guide, children would be taught to discern ungodly, anti Christian teaching and how to think about that topic from God's point of view.

*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ* (Colossians 2:8).

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect* (Romans 12:2).

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105).

They would be trained not only to protect their minds, but how to take every thought captive to Christ. Thousands of discussions would take place over the course of their educational years that

examined the prevailing thoughts of the day and they would be held up to Scripture for analysis.

*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

There would be prayer before school, before classes, before lunch, when children are going through something difficult, for children to come to faith, and on and on.

There would be chapel. A message would be preached and Christ would be lifted up before the children in prayer, praise, and preaching. Yes, children would come together every week and sing praises to the Lord. Hallelujah!

## What would be the length of the school day?

In a way, God's school would never be closed. Here is the command that He gave to His people before they crossed over into the land that they had waited to inherit for forty years:

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise* (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

Clearly, you can see that God's school runs 24/7. However, He doesn't mean to tell us that children have to be taught God's Word 24/7 any more than God means that we should do nothing but pray when He tells us through Paul that we should "pray ceaselessly." What He does mean is that our children's lives are to be saturated with Biblical truth and the great promises of God and that we should be talking to God throughout our day. With children



spending more than 40% of their waking hours at a physical school building, God's design for a school would be a school that would be filled with God all day, every day.

The day of teaching about God would continue at home and in the church.

Teachers would be partnering with parents and churches in how their children were being raised to the glory of God.

### **Would God's design for a school include time given for the students to learn that there are other religions that please God or there are other ways to heaven? Is He concerned about what children are exposed to?**

These verses will help us answer those questions.

Speaking of the nations that the Israelites were going to be in the midst of:

*You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 6:14-15).*

*You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:1-6).*

*Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).*

*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters (Matthew 12:30).*

As we consider these verses from the Old and New Testament, you can see that God gives no place to false gods or temptations amongst His people. He does not allow for any other religion to be a possible way



for people to have a relationship with Him. Teaching such things in His school would not only be abhorrent to Him, but dangerous to His people.

However, we want to be quick to make note that while God's people are not to be conformed to the thinking and ways of the unbelieving world around them, God commands His people to reflect the love, patience and kindness of God to every person that God has made. In this way, He brings glory and praise to Himself as He uses ordinary people to bring about extraordinary change through the modeling and teaching of Biblical truth.

### **What about character education?**

The model for a child's character would be the Lord Jesus Christ. Although there would be men and women who might be commended for their faithfulness to Jesus, no human being would be more greatly admired and modeled than the King of kings. It is Jesus whom we are to

be conformed to. God would tell us that to do anything else is idolatry. Character education must be based on God's character because it is the only true and worthy character.

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:29).*

### **Would God design a school where He is not exalted; where He is not cherished; where He is not the foundation for all truth and happiness?**

No. If He did, He would violate His own character and therefore, not be God. There is nothing that God could give us that is more precious than Jesus. Therefore, we need to understand that the most loving and caring thing that God could ever do for people would be to build schools that point children to Christ.

*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32).*

God is a jealous God for His glory and He will give His glory to no other. He is of the highest value, the most beautiful, and the most awesome. He demands that He be worshipped and revered by His creatures. God demands that He be glorified in teaching science, history, literature, art, music and even math. Therefore, the glory given to people like Darwin, systems of thinking commonly called humanism, and many other philosophies that are taught in the secular education system must be abhorrent to God.

The greatest thing God could do for His fallen creation is to provide a way of salvation. The cross and resurrection of Christ is the event that all eternity



will praise. It is literally life eternal for desperate sinners (all of us). The secular school has banned the message that God has killed His Son to save sinners.

What an affront to God! Can God be pleased with a system that ignores the gospel?

### What may happen if God's people ignored God's instructions for education?

Human beings were created for the glory of God. We were created to commune with God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Choosing to educate children in public schools does not change the nature of a person. Children will learn to worship something; they will formulate a grid of thinking about all of life; they will have a worldview of some kind.

God has given clear instructions to Christian families for how they are to raise their children. Superficial training (maybe one hour in one day rather than 24/7) can only lead to a superficial or a false faith.



Pastors throughout America are struggling with the last ten years of studies that show that as many as 80% of our "Christian" children stop attending church once they leave the homes of their parents. These children either have a superficial, paper thin faith, or they never had a true faith in Christ at all.

### Why won't God answer our prayers?

Many Christians pray that God will grow the faith of their child who attends public school, but the vast majority of children are leaving the faith. Why doesn't God answer those prayers? Well, it may be because they are prayers that are not in His will.

For example, if a man who views pornography prays that God would help him to treat his wife in a more Godly way, yet he refuses to stop viewing pornography, will God answer that prayer?

So, if we continue to send our children to be educated in a place that is not for God and does not teach all that Jesus has commanded, how can we expect that God will work in the hearts and minds of our children? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), but not just the initial faith- it is also for the deepening and growing of a person's faith.

Think about how gracious God has been to His people's children and the promise that He has made to teach them if we parent and educate according to His Word:

*If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne (Psalm 132:12).*

How can we expect God to be pleased with our parenting and bless our families if we choose to ignore His instructions for parents? What an insult it is to the all wise God of all creation!

The battle for the souls of young people cannot be fought effectively where God's Word is not foundational or preeminent. It is fought with the sword of the Spirit in the home and church of a young person- where the truth of God's Word is heard- and the school that proclaims the greatness of God and all of the teachings of the Bible.

### Does God desire to give life to children?

God has a special place in His mind for children. He has instructed that we should not hinder children from coming to Him. We must realize that the secular school hinders children from Christ with its teachings. Teaching cannot be neutral in its views on God and man. God is either exalted or He is ignored. The school system's teaching is either for Him or against Him.

### Final thoughts

God has given Christian parents sufficient information in the Bible to make it incredibly clear what kind of school would be pleasing to Him.

Oh, that Christian parents would make whatever adjustments they need to make in their lives in order that they could Christian homeschool or Christian school their children for God's glory!

May the Lord give you the ability and fortitude to place your children in a school that would be like the school that God would design and build.

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