

Keeping Your Children on the Right Track

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“I can’t wait until the kids are in school and I can have my days back!” This statement made one August afternoon by a young mother was said jokingly but it broke my heart. Children are a precious gift given by God. Parents have them for approximately eighteen years before they leave on their own. How those years evaporate and vanish! There are no better teachers for children than their own parents are. Parents teach their children constantly by every action they take. This ability to teach can be applied to Biblical and secular studies.

The responsibility of educating children is on the parents. It is not up to the government or the Church. God has placed that task completely on the parents. He expects them to train their children in complete obedience to Him. Proverbs 22:6 says, **“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”** By the context of the book of Proverbs, the most important subject is the knowledge of God. Homeschooling is the application of Proverbs 22:6.

“I could never teach my child all the subjects they need. I am not qualified.” “My children are in different grades.” “I cannot teach one while having an infant!” Every homeschooling parent hears these statements because of misconceptions that parents cannot adequately teach their own children. Homeschooling families are perceived as a curious people who march unprepared to some insurmountable task as though they were scaling Mount Everest with a fork. Just as a mother holds a toddler’s hands in taking those first few steps, beginning to school at home is developed in stages from simple to complex. Children are designed to learn; parents are designed to teach. Otherwise, Proverbs 22:6 is impossible to accomplish. God gives us nothing impossible to carry out but rather gives advantages. And these are endless.

The Bible is the foundation of educating humanity. When the Bible is absent from education, then education itself becomes meaningless. Homeschooling gives the advantage of learning all subjects with the Bible at the center of everything. How amazing to take a Bible study of God’s creation and adapt the lessons to math, reading, science, and history! How

wonderful to teach the truth regarding science using the Bible! Everyday tasks around the house become lessons both secular and Biblical.

Parents as teachers have the option of choosing curriculum and the methods of teaching each individual child. A successful method for one may not help another. The book series a boy loves could be loathsome to his sister. A math book in which the oldest child excelled may confuse his younger siblings. Your starting plans in education can change as the years go by and as your student develops. Having choices in how to teach and what to teach is invaluable to parents.

Vital is a support group to share ideas and build friendships between families. Parents who choose homeschooling depart from what the world considers normal. They take on the roles of principal, counselor, secretary, and teacher of all subjects. This departure of the common and expected can bring one to feel isolation. Thus a support group for the homeschooling family is invaluable. Thankfully there are such groups since homeschooling has become prevalent worldwide. One such group is a large gathering of Christian families who meet together once a year in the early fall. The history of this group spans twenty years and it is called Roundhouse (www.roundhouse.us).

The home (and homeschooling) can be thought of as a train. The parents are locomotive and crew; the children are the cargo. The tracks are laid down by God; the destination is Heaven. Periodically trains need to stop at a roundhouse. The purpose of a roundhouse is for the maintenance of trains. The turntable in the center of a roundhouse is used to rotate an engine in a different direction. In the same sense, that is what Roundhouse does for homeschooling families. This support group of homeschooling Christian families meets to renew commitment, rebuild friendships, and reap the rewards in educating at home. Parents and children from all parts of the country (and other countries) connect with each other like railroad cars to continue the journey on the track to Heaven. Whether you formally teach your children at home or not you are a teacher. Your children learn from you everyday. Parents have a responsibility (and joy) to make sure their children learn the Truth about God and His Word. How will you train them up?