

Challenges to Disciple Children

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Introduction:

Hebrews 13:7 Obey your leaders and submit to them, **for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.** Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

God holds Pastors and Church leaders to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Church. God also holds fathers/ parents to be responsible to protect, disciple, and guide their children (see appendix A). Therefore, it follows that Church leadership must challenge, equip, and guide fathers/ parents to properly disciple their children.

However, since at least the 1970s, high percentages of children from Christian homes have rejected their faith by the time they graduated from high school. Many of those who survived high school lost their faith during their college years. Some parents place hope in “once saved, always saved”, which is true, but God knows the true intentions of the heart. The important question is, “does God honors the prayer of salvation of those who are not sincere?”

Matthew 13:18-23 “Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The parable of the Sower presents serious warnings that the *appearance* of new life does not guarantee the *fruit of genuine faith*. Thankfully, God has designed families to have the greatest opportunity to cultivate the hearts of their children to prepare them to stand against evil and produce abundant fruit. Therefore, Christian families (especially fathers) must embrace their responsibility to properly train their children. But, what does this mean?

Seven challenges are proposed to guard the faith of children and to prepare them to honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first challenge, the cornerstone, is to develop sincere faith. All relationships with God must begin, not with an intellectual or emotional acceptance of the Gospel but with the beginning of a personal relationship with Him. When the Lord Jesus Christ begins to dwell within their heart, it is important to

begin developing a constant awareness and communication with God. The evidence will be an abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second foundation challenge is to be committed to submitting all areas of life under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The evidence will be a pure heart and respect for the authority of God's Word.

The third foundation block is for Believers to understand and embrace their identities in the Lord Jesus Christ. The critical aspect is for Believers to understand and be gripped by God's unconditional love, giving them transforming power that changes their lives.

The fourth foundation block is the importance of knowing God, respecting Him (fear of the Lord), gaining wisdom, and understanding His intent.

The fifth challenge must be built on the four foundations. It is a lifelong challenge to transform the mind, yielding Biblical values, moral excellence, and discernment to identifying good and evil.

The sixth challenge is to worship the Lord Jesus Christ by being living sacrifices. Sacrificing the lust-of-the-flesh, the lust-of-the-eyes, and the pride-of-life offers to God acceptable worship (Roman 12:2).

God's ultimate goal, challenge seven is for Believers is reflect God's love to the World. To love God with whole hearts, to love others, to be salt and light, and to be faithful Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mentoring children's or adults' relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ requires substantial time, prayer, and energy. Therefore, it is vital that Church leadership, recognize and embrace the critical importance of discipleship, especially family discipleship, to lead by example, to challenge, encourage, help equip, and guide fathers to be effective spiritual leaders of their families.

Challenges:

It is proposed that an effective tool of the enemy against the Modern American Church has been progressive education. It is not the goal to study progressive education but a basic understanding will reveal why the challenges are so important to properly prepare children for the culture that God has placed them.

The appearance of progressive education has been polished to appear admirable but the Humanists Manifesto presents the true underlying motives. John Dewey, the author of the Dewey Decimal System, considered the father of progressive education, and his cronies, publicly published the Humanists Manifesto to proclaim their goals to **eliminate all Christian and Biblical influences from America.** (There are three Humanists Manifestos. Manifesto I can be found in Appendix B).

Dewey and his cohorts understood that multiple generations would need to reject the Lord Jesus Christ so they implement self-propagating philosophies that have not only survived but have thrived for over 100 years. Their strategy was/ is to promote their philosophies, beginning with Ivey league Universities down to every teacher. To improve the effectiveness of their efforts, they pushed for "free" public

schools, mandatory school attendance, teacher certifications (per their standards), and “State” approved curriculums.

In the early years, the impact of progressive education was minimal, but over time it has successfully removed Biblical truths and God’s moral standards from a large segment of the American population, bringing devastating consequences for American culture, the American family, and even the modern American Church. Today, there is open antagonism against God, the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ, and many American values. Sadly, there has been little resistance from the modern American Church and there is evidence that the World view of many Christians, Church leaders, and even seminary professors has been greatly affected.

The challenges presented below are presented to help fathers/ parents prepare their children against these attacks of the forces of darkness. These challenges are important, regardless if children are homeschooled, if they attend private school, or if they attend public school. However, it must be recognized that the more time that children, especially younger children are exposed to non- or anti-Biblical environments, the greater the probability is that they will reject their faith and Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Sincere Faith:

A primary attack is to reject God’s existence. If God does not exist then His moral standards can be ignored.

[Psalms 19:1-6](#) **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Because the Creation reveals the handiwork and power of God, a foundation of progressive education is to challenge God’s existence through the promotion of the postulate of evolution (which cannot be considered a theory). Using poor science, evolution is presented as “fact”, and is woven through K-12 (13 years) curriculums of public education. The impact has been so great that evolution has been promoted through many forms of entertainment and in some cases, even Churches.

During the first half of the 20th Century, the modern American Church offered little resistance against the propagation of the postulate of evolution. Around 1970 organizations like the Institute of Creation Research were formed. These organizations have identified hundreds of questions in every field of science that evolutionists cannot answer. Many of the issues and questions can be found on the ICR website and in their material. However, given the goal of progressive education is to raise doubts and “prove” that God does not exist, public education continues to indoctrinate students with the postulate of evolution, teaching students to reject Creation as being possible.

Their efforts have been so effective that it is not uncommon for individuals with advanced degrees to be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that evolution is a fact. More disturbing is a growing number of Christians and Church leaders who attempt to merge evolution into the Biblical description of Creation. Despite the clear attacks of questioning God's existence and hundreds of Biblical-based books that refute "Biblical evolution", the indoctrination of evolution has affected the worldview of some Christians.

Note: Despite the evidence of creation, students who have been convinced that the Creator God does not exist face significant obstacles to considering and accepting the Gospel.

Therefore, the first challenge for parents is to mentor their children so that they have not only received Jesus Christ as their savior but to guide them to begin developing personal relationships (friendships) with Him. This friendship must extend beyond intellectual and doctrinal understanding.

- *Goal/ Evidence*: An important element of such friendships is to help children develop constant awareness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sharing thoughts, ideas, and questions with Him and then waiting and listening to His promptings.

-*Goal/ Evidence*: The ultimate goal is to develop an abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: [All Honor to the King- Discipleship](#), discusses the importance of making Him Lord and having a constant awareness of God's presence.

2. A pure heart:

A major frustration for John Dewey was the impact that parents had on the value system of their children. Therefore, a major push has been for younger children to begin attending school to minimize parental influence. Many Christian teachers have entered into public education to attempt to positively influence children but the progressive education system is deeply embedded and powerful. Very few understand the extent and depth of the influence that has been developed through the decades. Exposing children to 13 years of humanist philosophies and doctrines promotes disrespect towards parents, the authority of God's Word, and ultimately for God.

[Matthew 6:24](#) "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

It is often observed that when individuals (students) have two masters, as described in Matthew 6:24, they will flip back and forth between loving and hating one, or the other. With the goal to minimize parental influence, public education demands authority over students, subjecting them to conflicts of authority with their parents. While often very subtle, modern public and many private schools challenge the authority of parents. A minor example is how students must perform basic math. Parents will attempt to help their children with methods that they learned in school but many teachers demand that students only follow their prescribed methods. Most teachers unwittingly force children to choose between two authority structures.

Then when God's authority is removed, many students conclude that they must become their own authority, which produces rebellion. Progressive education leverages pride-of-life and students' tendencies to fulfill their selfish wants and desires to motivate them to usurp God's authority to define right and wrong. Statements like, "be true to yourself", "follow your heart", and several others are not common in American culture and support rebellion against God's standards.

[Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.](#)

God's design is for authority to flow down. Children belong to God but He appoints parents to be responsible for them. Children are under the authority of parents, and parents are under the authority of God. If parents delegate portions of the education of their children, the authority must flow down from God, through the parents, through the teachers, to the children. Deviation from God's design of authority carries the risk of rebellion.

Violations of the principles of authority are easy to identify in public school settings but many private and even many Church schools also follow similar practices. The authority of parents has become so common that Church programs, especially youth groups sometimes violate these principles. Students are subtle and present problems or "prayer requests" to leaders. If leaders fail to pursue both sides of issues, they often give sympathy and advice that contradicts the parent's standards and guidelines. If leaders are not very careful, they will help students justify sin and rebellion in their lives.

As stated in the Humanists Manifesto, main goals of progressive education are to promote the rejection of God, His moral standards, and His Word. Sadly, rebellion against God produces rebellion in every area of life. After generations, teenage rebellion has become expected and has spread to every area of American culture. The current blatant example of promoting rebellion is WOKE. Are the forces of darkness concerned with the welfare of minorities or are they only exploiting them further to promote rebellion and lawlessness through fear and hatred?

Some students have personalities that make it difficult for them to be indoctrinated and group-dependent. For many students with "negative" traits, if properly focused, their weaknesses often become tremendous strengths. Sadly, the trend in public schools has been to identify such students as incorrigible and demanded the use of drug therapy. Instead of helping students turn their weaknesses into strengths, drugs make strong-willed students more susceptible to psychological conditioning. Even more damaging is that students are taught that drugs are an acceptable solution for individuals to achieve "success".

Progressive education's goal is to "free" students from the "bondage" of God's standards but through teaching vain philosophies, promoting group dependencies and peer pressure, justification of drug usage, and promotion of rebellion, many students become slaves to sin.

However, God's desire is for all to be free from sin. Contrary to human logic the path to freedom is through submitting to God's standards. This begins with the understanding that God is sovereign and embracing that the Lord Jesus Christ has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. A critical

element of being born again is for individuals to bow to and make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives. As Believers mature, spending time in God's Word and with Him in prayer, their friendship with Him grows.

When Believers develop a constant awareness of the Lord Jesus Christ's presence in their life, they will abide with Him, which results in maintaining a pure heart. The path to freedom is not rebellion but respect.

Therefore, the challenge for parents, especially those who send their children to public school, is to help them commit to Jesus Christ as Lord, learning to submit all areas and desires under Him.

Goal/ Evidence: To abide with the Lord Jesus Christ, resulting in maintaining a pure heart.

Goal/ Evidence: For children/ disciples to understand, and embrace that God's Word is the ultimate source of moral authority and all spiritual truth.

Goal/ Evidence: To understand that the Lord Jesus Christ is sovereign over all and that all authority flows down from Him.

Note: God prescribes the use of the rod to remove foolishness from the heart of children. Given the goal to teach children to reject God's authority and the authority of parents, it is no surprise that progressive education has highly discouraged all "corporal punishment".

3. Identity:

When children are pulled away from the safety of their families and thrust into the sterility of classrooms, it is very easy for them to lose their identities. The loss of the security of their families is often replaced by identifying with their fellow students. Children have various personalities and respond differently, but in general, younger children are more at risk of losing their identity. Family isolation and the loss of individual identities form foundations for "group dependency". The greater the group dependency, the more influence their peer groups have over them.

When children are asked, "who are you", those who do not have a solid grasp of their personal identities struggle. Students who are able to maintain links with their families do better. Such as "I'm Johnny, my mom brings the special treats on Mondays".

A major complication of students' identities is if their fathers are not involved in their lives. Fatherless students tend to have much higher levels of failure in most areas of life. Possibly because they generally have poorer personal identities. Sadly, as progressive education has been successful to remove God's moral standards, there have been increasing percentages of broken homes which has promoted increasing numbers of fatherless children with greater identity challenges.

[Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?](#)

From experience, a significant problem within groups of children is that the leaders of such groups are whoever is deemed to be the "coolest". Those who achieve leadership status, void of God's standards,

are free to define what is “cool”. And given the deceitfulness of the heart and the foolishness in the heart of children, the requirements for “acceptance” are often very arbitrary and sometimes even destructive.

I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.

Group dependency creates powerful motivations to be accepted (a form of desiring to be loved) but the conditions of acceptance can be very demanding. Sadly, students who do not meet the requirements of being acceptable often experience tremendous rejection, driving them to develop psychological issues, deep hatred, and sometimes suicide. In extreme cases, they instigate mass shootings.

Group dependency is very destructive for some individuals but it is much easier to influence groups than independent individuals. Apparently, progressive education accepts the collateral damage of some to help meet its goals.

Therefore, the challenge for Christian parents is to guide their children to develop clear identities of who they are in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Goal/ Evidence: A key element of understanding the identity of Believers is to be gripped by God’s love. Believers may need to initially embrace God’s love by faith but they receive transforming power when they are gripped by His unconditional love, enabling them to reflect God’s love back to Him and to others.

Goal/ Evidence: To cheerfully identify with the Lord Jesus Christ, even when faced with group disapproval and rejection.

4. Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The next major building block is to guide and mentor children to develop wisdom. The essence of “fear” is sincere respect. Such respect can only be accomplished by knowing God. Therefore, wisdom is found on the narrow path of knowing God, discovering His character, and coming to understand His intents.

When Disciples know God and understand His intents, they develop wisdom, allowing them to discern good from evil.

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

When a Believer is born again, they receive the Spirit of Truth but as Hebrews 5:14 instructs, it is very important for them to be trained to discern good from evil. To be able to distinguish truth from lies. As our nation has turned away from God, part of His judgment on America is allowing spirits of deception over our land. Evil is seldom presented in black and white but in many shades of grey. Sadly, increasing

numbers of Christians are not able to distinguish truth. They accept compromises of living together outside of wedlock, support those who promote abortion, gender fluidity, homosexuality, sexual perversions, and many other violations of God's standards. Such compromises are evidence of Believers not possessing wisdom which is evidence that they do not fear or know God.

Romans 1 teaches that when individuals reject God and His truth, He allows them to be overtaken by their selfish wants and desires. As God is not a respecter of any man, apparently spiritually immature Christians are also falling under some of God's judgments.

Therefore, the challenge is to guide children to begin developing knowledge of God, and through His Word to begin to understand His heart. The result will be wisdom and discernment. These are lifelong challenges and are critical for recognizing good from evil.

Goal/ Evidence: To embrace that God loves His children and understand that in His Sovereignty, He designs trials and temptations to develop character and deepen their relationship with Him. The outward evidence is patience and thankfulness in all circumstances.

5. Biblical Values:

If there is doubt about the effectiveness of progressive education to indoctrinate students, the high percentages of children who professed Jesus but were persuaded to reject their faith and God's love should be compelling and very concerning evidence. A further concern is that many Church leaders and seminary professors attempt to justify evolution by compromising the authority of God's Word. And now Darwinian Evolution is crumbling under the latest scientific findings (a topic for a different time). An obvious question is, "why is this group of Christians, who are usually very resistant to compromising fundamental Biblical Doctrines willing to place science above God's Word concerning Creation?"

One possible answer is that most Christians, Church leaders, and Seminary professors have been indoctrinated and possibly psychologically conditioned through many years in public school. Advanced degrees further expose individuals to philosophical and psychological conditioning. A characteristic of such conditioning is that students (victims) are unable to recognize inconsistencies between their indoctrination and what they know the Biblical teaches. As humanistic philosophies and Biblical teachings are incompatible any attempt to harmonize these two opposing World views requires illogical thinking and rejection of the authority of God's Word. A warning flag of conditioning is strong emotional reactions when Humanist philosophies are challenged.

By design, psychologically conditioned makes it difficult for individuals to discern if they have been affected so it is important for all to carefully consider at least these questions:

1. Is there a willingness to compromise the authority of scripture and Biblical principles to avoid potentially offending others?
2. Are there desires to be inclusive and to appease others by justifying the compromise of Biblical standards, sex outside of marriage, divorce and remarriage, and sexual perversions?

3. Are political candidates who have long track records of promoting policies that violate Biblical truths, principles, and moral standards justified and supported?
4. Is there a desire, possibly craving to listen to reports from the liberal media?

Those who answer yes to these questions are at risk of unknowingly being psychologically conditioned. What is the solution to these problems? Regardless of any conditioning, because of the deceitfulness of the human heart, all Believers must strive to reject conformity with world values by renewing their minds.

Romans 12:2 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.

Therefore, an important challenge to protect children and to rescue Believers who have been indoctrinated is to guide them to **renew their minds**. God's method to renew minds is to develop Biblical values and convictions by integrating God's Word into the heart of Believers.

1st Goal/ Evidence: The first step is for Believers to humbly bow to the Lord Jesus Christ and to learn to carefully listen to His promptings.

2nd Goal/ Evidence: The next step is self-discipline (dying to self) to memorize, commit to long-term review (daily for at least 2 months), and effective meditation on God's Word. Intellectually learning God's Word will not transform the mind, but hiding God's Word in the heart and embracing Biblical truths will transform the heart.

Goal/ Evidence: To develop and maintain Biblical convictions through a working knowledge of God's Word and empowered by an abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Obedience should not be through the force of external threats or rules but by an internal desire to demonstrate love to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Goal/ Evidence: To develop moral excellence.

Goal/ Evidence: To develop Christ Like character.

Goal/ Evidence: To speak truth within our hearts concerning sin and motives.

Goal/ Evidence: For children/disciples to embrace God's designs, especially that He holds marriage, vows, and sex to be sacred.

Goal/ Evidence: The fruit of a transformed mind is an increased awareness and an abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Worship:

One of the greatest honors that God's Children receive is the ability to worship God. Believers are covered by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ so they have the privilege to enter directly into God's presence.

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

Many invent substitutes to worship God but His delight is when His Children crucify their wants and desires, becoming living sacrifices.

Galatians 2:20 **I have been crucified with Christ.** It is no longer I who live, **but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave himself for me.

The greater the cost of a sacrifice, the greater God values them. Offering lust-of-the-eyes, and pride-of-life pleases God. Because lust-of-the-flesh is so powerful, those sacrifices are especially valued.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the forces of darkness promote moral impurity, especially through progressive education. Under the guise of sex education, too much information is given to students when they are too young. Many are tempted to experiment. And since students in public schools and some private schools spend over a decade with fellow students who embrace the indoctrination that there is no God. Many of their peers encourage philosophies that there is no absolute right and wrong, concern for final judgment, or understanding of genuine sacrificial love. Within such environments, students face tremendous sexual temptations, which become stepping stones to promote rebellion against God's moral standards.

Psalms 14:1 **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.**

By design, progressive education works to remove the fear (respect) of God. The consequence is moral corruption and abominable lifestyles. However, God's law is written on the heart so when temptations yield to sin, the result is guilt. The guilt for non-Christians further motivates them to reject the existence of God and any absolute moral standards.

When students from Christian homes violate their conscience, their knowledge creates greater guilt, forcing them to repent or to pursue their lusts and desires. Sadly, their desire for self-gratification waters the seeds of doubts about God's existence, paving the way to reject their faith. The companion of fools will suffer harm. Group dependencies and years of exposure to those who have rejected the existence of God (bad company) further encourage students to reject their faith.

Many attempt to remove their guilt by becoming outspoken enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, a consequence of rejecting the Creator destroys the possibility of a divine designer. Without a master planner, there is no meaning in life, and no purpose in failures, disasters, or even successes. Life is reduced to only seeking self-gratification, often resulting in lifestyles of sexual gratification and perversions. Legitimate purpose and the high honor to worship God are destroyed.

Instead of God, many worship themselves, some to their own destruction but others strive to pursue riches and fame. It is not uncommon for them to achieve "success" at the expense of others through personal drive and brute force. Those who obtain personal power and authority, often physically and

sexually abuse others. If they are not restrained many will strive for positions where they can determine the life and death of others. Despite outward appearances of success, guilt and the lack of true meaning create tremendous unhappiness within them, feeding their lusts for credulity. Some become inwardly destructive, engaging in substance abuse and various forms of suicide.

It is extremely difficult for children in younger grades to recognize and address the indoctrinations of progressive education. By junior-high years, students who reject God, pursuing their selfish desires are been persuaded to become fools, filled with abominations. Therefore, it is important to prepare children to defend themselves against such temptations and moral attacks. But this is extremely difficult for most children, hard for young adults, and even adults fail.

Therefore, the challenge for fathers/ parents is to help their children to develop and embrace **the high honor and joy of worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ by becoming living sacrifices.**

Goal/ Evidence: A key element of worship is for Believers to understand their righteousness is only the result of being covered by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This righteousness allows Believers to boldly enter into God's presence, deepening their friendship with Him.

Goal/ Evidence: To worship the Lord Jesus Christ by crucifying the lust-of-eyes, putting away greed and selfishness.

Goal/ Evidence: To worship the Lord Jesus Christ by crucifying pride-of-life, honoring the Lord Jesus Christ above bringing praise to self. Important evidence is serving selfishly, only motivated to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Goal/ Evidence: To worship the Lord Jesus Christ by crucifying the lusts-of-the-flesh, maintaining moral excellence.

7. Love:

When Jesus was asked, "what is the greatest commandment?" His answer/ command is recorded in the book of Matthew:

Matthew 22:37-40 And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Sincere faith (challenge 1), abiding with God with a pure heart (challenge 2), being gripped with the identity of the Lord Jesus Christ (challenge 3), knowing God, having the mind of Christ (challenge 4), being transformed, embracing Biblical values, as is evidenced by Godly character (challenge 5), and worshiping God as living sacrifices (challenge 6) are all necessary elements of loving God with all of our hearts, soul, and minds.

It is God's design and desire for His Children to be shining lights of His love to the World.

Therefore, the challenge for fathers/ parents is to teach their children to intentionally demonstrate love to God and to the World.

Goal/ Evidence: To have genuine fellowship with other Believers as a result of walking in the light.

Goal/ Evidence: To be salt and light to the world.

Goals/ Evidence: To pursue God's guidance to be faithful Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Final Comments:

Seven challenges are proposed to help fathers/ parents meet their responsibilities to properly raise and train their children.

The first challenge, the cornerstone, is to develop sincere faith. All relationships with God must begin, not with an intellectual or emotional acceptance of the Gospel but with the beginning of a personal relationship with Him. When the Lord Jesus Christ begins to dwell within their heart, they should begin to develop continual communications with God, leading to an abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second foundation block is the challenge to be committed to submitting all areas of life under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The evidence will be a pure heart and respect for the authority of God's Word.

The third foundation block is for Believers to understand and embrace their identities in the Lord Jesus Christ. New Believers may need to accept God's love by faith but the fourth foundation block is for Believers to understand and be gripped by God's unconditional love. Believers who are gripped by God's love possess transforming power that changes their lives.

The fourth foundation block is the importance of knowing God, respecting Him (fear of the Lord), gaining wisdom, and understanding His intent.

Upon the four foundations, a structure must be constructed with Biblical values and moral excellence, the result of a transformed mind (challenge #5). Wisdom and discernment are lifelong challenges and are critical to identifying good and evil.

These structures are fit for Believers to dwell within them as living sacrifices, where the lust-of-the-flesh, the lust-of-the-eyes, and the pride-of-life are continually offered to God.

At the top of the structure, which should be the outward appearance of the life of Believers, is a reflector that shines God's love to the World. To love God with their whole hearts, to love others, to be salt and light, and to be faithful Representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Homeschool families deserve respect for making extra sacrifices to protect and prepare their children. However, it is just as important for their children to meet the above challenges. A significant danger for homeschooled students is that under the rules and the protection of their families, it is easy for them to

appear to have solid relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ, but when they leave the external disciplines of their families, the faith of some have sadly been dashed upon the rocks.

Private Church schools allow children more time to mature so there is a higher possibility of success but meeting curriculum requirements does not transform hearts. Therefore, the above challenges are just as important, which can not be delegated.

If parents choose public education for their children, they must understand that there is a high probability that their children will lose their faith and face eternal judgment, therefore it is extremely important for fathers/ parents to constantly work to help their children effectively meet the challenges.

Regardless if children attend public, private, or are homeschooled, it is critical that parents understand the importance of adequately preparing their children for the emotional, social, and spiritual challenges they will face.

As God holds parents, especially fathers, to protect, disciple, and guide their children, and as Pastors and Church leaders are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Church. Church leadership must challenge, equip, and guide fathers/ parents to properly disciple their children.

Note: The [Discipleship Meditation System- A Handbook for Mentors](#) is available to assist fathers/ parents (and mentors) to Believers meet the challenges above.

Appendix A, the responsibility of fathers to disciple their children:

Children belong to God:

Psalms 127:3 "Behold, **children are a gift of the LORD**; The fruit of the womb is a reward."

Psalms 24:1 A Psalm of David. The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world **and those who dwell therein.**

Isaiah. 8:18 Here am I and the **children whom the LORD has given me!**

Genesis 33:5 And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who *are* these with you?" So he said, "**The children whom God has graciously given your servant.**"

Ezekiel. 16: 20-21 "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. *Were your acts* of harlotry a small matter, "**that you have slain My children** and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through *the fire?*

Parents are responsible for Children:

Deuteronomy 6:7,8 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, **fathers**, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "**You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.** "And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, "that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the **instruction of your father**, And do not forsake the **law of your mother;**

Proverbs 22:6 **Train up a child** in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. (This verse strongly implies that parents are to be the primary teachers.)

Parents are responsible to train and discipline their children:

Proverbs 22:12-14 Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. **Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.**

Proverbs 13:24 **He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.**

God will judge parents for not properly training their children:

Samuel 3:11-14 Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. "In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, **because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.** "And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

Some may argue this application of God's word, however, there are no Biblical exceptions for the responsibility that fathers have towards properly raising their children.

God has appointed the fathers/ parents to instruct their children:

Genesis 18:19 "For I have known him, in order that he may **command his children and his household after him**, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Deuteronomy 4:9 "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,**

Exodus 10:2 "and that **you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son** the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I *am* the LORD."

Joel 1:3 **Tell your children** about it, *Let* your children **tell their children**, And **their children another generation.**

We are not to allow the ungodly to be peers or teachers of our children:

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the **companion of fools will be destroyed.**

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed *is* the man **Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus says the LORD: "**Do not learn the way of the Gentiles**; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

Luke 6:40 "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained **will be like his teacher**.

Collations 2:8 **Beware lest anyone cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

True knowledge and wisdom only come through God's word:

Proverbs 1:7 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge**, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Psalms 111:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

Deuteronomy 7:12 "Then it shall come to pass, because **you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them**, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**' "

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All **Scripture is** given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Conclusion:

Since children belong to God and parents have been given the responsibility to train and discipline them.

And, since there are no Biblical exceptions for anyone other than the parents to raise their children.

And, there is a Biblical precedent of God harshly judging a father for not properly training and disciplining his children.

And, children should not have ungodly influences through ungodly "companions" or teachers.

And, since true knowledge and wisdom only come through God's Word.

Therefore, God has given the responsibility of raising, disciplining, and training children to only the parents, primarily to fathers.

No doubt, many will look for loopholes in this conclusion. Two possible examples are Moses and Samuel. Both were raised by families other than their natural-born parents (after they were three years

old). Both of these cases were extremely unique situations. However, these examples do not diminish the responsibilities that God has given to fathers for their children.

Appendix B, Humanist Manifesto I:

FIRST: Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.

SECOND: Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.

THIRD: Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.

FOURTH: Humanism recognizes that man's religious culture and civilization, as clearly depicted by anthropology and history, are the product of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural environment and with his social heritage. The individual born into a particular culture is largely molded by that culture.

FIFTH: Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values. Humanism does not deny the possibility of realities as yet undiscovered, but it does insist that the way to determine the existence and value of any and all realities is using intelligent inquiry and the assessment of their relations to human needs. Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method.

SIXTH: We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought".

SEVENTH: Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant. Nothing human is alien to the religious. It includes labor, art, science, philosophy, love, friendship, recreation--all that is in its degree expressive of intelligently satisfying human living. The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.

EIGHTH: Religious Humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist's social passion.

NINTH: In the place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.

TENTH: It follows that there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.

ELEVENTH: Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability. Reasonable and manly attitudes will be fostered by education and supported by custom. We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.

TWELFTH: Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists aim to foster the creative in man and to encourage achievements that add to the satisfactions of life.

THIRTEENTH: Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world.

FOURTEENTH: The humanists are firmly convinced that existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.

FIFTEENTH AND LAST: We assert that humanism will: (a) affirm life rather than deny it; (b) seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from them; and (c) endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all, not merely for the few. By this positive morale and intention humanism will be guided, and from this perspective and alignment, the techniques and efforts of humanism will flow.

Appendix C, an example of the temptations that children and teens face today:

A young man worked closely with his parents and they felt that he was adequately prepared to transition into public high school. Within the first couple of weeks, a girl invited him to get off the bus to have sex with her, since her parents were not at home. Thankfully, the young man resisted. It was helpful for him to resist temptation because he knew that his father would be holding him accountable and asking him direct questions. Part of his success is that he was willing to submit to his father's authority.

This example is the result of progressive education's goals and long-term efforts to destroy Biblical moral values in America.