

Adventist Education

A Biblical Imperative

12 Biblical Reasons For Educating Your Child in an Adventist School



Our children are on loan to us from God (Psalm 127:3) and He will ask us for His heritage when He returns (Jer. 13:20) Parenting is a sacred responsibility. We cannot do with our children what we please, for their Maker has the right to determine how the little ones He made should be cared for and educated. The education of our children must begin with heaven as the ultimate goal. "True education is an initiation into the principles of heaven." (Ed, 307) There is nothing more important that parents can do than to educate their children to love and honor God. Our children need every possible advantage to help them make the right and the most important choice in life – to accept Christ as their Savior.

In everyone's life there is something that is more important than anything else. What is the value of priority in your life as a parent?

- 1. What are the Bible-endorsed settings for educating children?** There are only two Biblical options for educating our children – Home school and Church school. God began the first home school when He communed with Adam and Eve daily in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8,9) God confirmed home school education when He commanded His people through Moses to teach their children the word of God daily in their homes (Deut. 6:4-9) The first official church school was established under Samuel when God gave him instruction to establish the school of the prophets (2 Kings 2)
- 2. Why did God give us children?** God gave us children so that they would become godly offspring (Mal. 2:15). Non-Christian educators cannot help our children to become godly. This is a role that only godly families and godly teachers can fulfill.
- 3. What is God's plan for our children?** God's plan is that all our children will be saved (Isaiah 49:25) The most important thing about our children is that they be saved in God's kingdom. If a great education in a great school does not enhance our children's relationship with Christ, it will profit them nothing in the end.
- 4. On what kind of foundation should our Children's character and education be built?** Higher education begins at the foundation. Without a good foundation, no building can withstand the storms of life (Matthew 7:24-27) The foundational years (age 1 to 12) of our children's education are more important than the later years, for the building will be no stronger than its foundation. Parents who give their children a weak foundation in education – one that is not built on the Word of God, will discover that it is impossible to build the foundation when the walls of the building are already up. Is it any wonder that the education of many lead them to live lives that please self and dishonor God?
- 5. What is the super-curriculum for our children?** God is not only the source of all truth, knowledge, and wisdom, He is the truth. God's desire is to reveal the truth about His character of love to all of His children. Only people who know God personally and about His love for mankind can adequately teach our children about their Creator. ***"All your children shall be taught of the Lord, and great will be your children's peace"*** (Isaiah 54:13). Godly teachers are God's messengers on earth to teach His children about His love and grace.
- 6. What are the dimensions of development that our children should be experience during their education?** ***"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with man"*** (Luke 2:52) "True education is the harmonious development of the mental, physical, spiritual...powers." Any education that is not elevating the spiritual aspect of development is teaching everything about the things that mean nothing and nothing about the things that mean everything." All four dimensions must be developed harmoniously and not as separate entities at different times. Jesus was home schooled and did not even attend the schools of the Rabbis which were teaching false philosophy at the time. The lesson: Not all "church" school is good school.
- 7. What is the most important and enduring lesson in the education of children?** ***"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"*** (Prov. 1:7) The fear of God (reverential awe and respect) is the greatest wisdom that any child can ever attain. All other wisdom/knowledge will profit our children nothing if it does not lead them to fear/honor/serve God. Teachers who do not honor God cannot teach students to honor Him. In the area of knowledge acquisition, recent Cognitive Genesis research has shown that students in Adventist schools in the United States out-perform their peers in public schools in every academic discipline.

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8. **What should be the learning environment of our children?** *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers.” (Psalm 1:1)* When our children are educated by those who ignore the principles of righteousness or make mockery of God and His Word; by those who live ungodly lifestyles and flaunt their disdain of spiritual things, our children learn to do the likewise. As it is wisely said, “It is not what is taught, but what is caught.” When doubt about God's Word is sown in the minds of the young, they will undoubtedly grow up to be skeptics. Any environment that does not allow God's word to be the foundation of all wisdom and knowledge will eventually prove to be a detriment and not an enhancement for our children.
9. **Who should be the teachers of our children?** **Teachers who, “delight in the law of the Lord...and meditate on His law day and night” (Psalm 1:2)** Children are like sponges. They soak up the lifestyle of the people who spend time with them daily. Converted teachers, who know God personally and serve Him sincerely, should work with Christian parents to help in the formation of the character of children. “If children are with those whose conversation is upon unimportant earthly things, their minds will come to the same level. If they hear the principles slurred, belittled, these will fasten in their minds and mold their characters.” (Adventist Home, 461)
10. **What should our children not learn?** Every nation needs its public schools, but these schools are not for the children of God. The schools of the nations teach the ways of the nations based upon a secular values and worldview. God was specific in His instructions to the children of Israel, for He knew that the way of the nations leads away from God: **“Do not learn the way of the nations” (Jer. 10:1)** Good education is not measured by the acquisition of great knowledge or accomplishments. It is measured by its understanding of walking in the “way” of the Lord. Israel, as a nation, paid dearly for learning the way of the nations – they abandoned God and His commands, worshiped idols, and ultimately ended up into captivity.
11. **When should our children become followers of Christ?** The formative years (prime time) of our children are the most important years. **“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...” (Ecc. 12:1)** The malleable years of our children's lives must be spent with people who are constantly pointing them in the way of Christ.
12. **What is the big prize at the end of the journey of educating our children – the ultimate goal of education?** Heaven is the ultimate goal of living and gaining an education. Nothing that a person gains in this life can be exchanged for his soul. **“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)** If parents and their children are not saved in the kingdom of God, then any earthly accomplishments, including the best education from the best schools, will have been an exercise in futility – vanity! **“What will a man give in exchange for his soul? [or the soul of his child]?” (Matt. 16:26)**

Conclusion

An Adventist education (even in a perfect setting) does not guarantee the salvation of our children, but it greatly increases the probability that they will choose, love, and honor Christ and follow Him into the kingdom of heaven. Adam and Eve had a perfect school, a perfect Teacher, and perfect bodies, and yet they made bad choices. Our children may also make poor choices after receiving a godly education.

Parental success is not measured by personal wealth, status, accomplishments or the best Ivy League education for their children. It is measured by the successful entrance of their children into the joys of eternal life with Jesus their Savior and Friend. When parents have done their part to provide their Children with a Bible-endorsed education, which is backed up by parental Godly example, then they have done their part and the Holy Spirit will certainly do His.

Adventist education may cost much, but did it not cost Christ much more to pay for the salvation of His heritage? If parents reason that they cannot afford an Adventist education, will they also reason that they cannot afford the cost of losing their children to the kingdom of Satan? The only things that parents can take with them into the next world are two: their character, and their children. Everything else will be left behind for the flames. An Adventist education may cost much, *but the loss of eternal life will cost infinitely more!*



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