

Why **LIFE WAY?**

In today's world, parents have "options" when it comes to the education of their children. However, the debate rages as to what are the biblical options for Christian parents. Is home school the answer? Are Christian schools the way to go and are they doing an adequate job of equipping young people with a biblical worldview? May Christian parents send their children to a public school?

These are great questions and they need biblical answers. At Life Way, we believe that education is not neutral and, therefore, must be based on the truths of God's Word in order to assure students know Christ and view the world through the lens of Scripture. Our mission, as a ministry of First Baptist Church Centerton, is to:

*ENTER into a partnership with Christian families in order to
EQUIP young people with a biblical worldview so that they can
ENGAGE the culture in a way that will
EXALT the name of Christ*

This mission is important because of the moral decline we currently see in our nation in 2017. Our homes, churches, and many Christian schools need to refocus and take a look at what God's word says about the training up of the next generation. One passage of scripture in particular informs us that what is done at Life Way and Christian homes and schools across the globe will have eternal implications. The first few chapters in the book of Judges paint a rather sad and frightening picture as to what the future could hold for us. Judges 2:10 says, "There arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which he had done for Israel." How did Israel get into this predicament of losing an entire generation for the Lord? If we look to the chapters before in the book of Joshua, the Israelites experienced great victory and even echoed Joshua's commitment of "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The question is, were the people sincere or was this an empty pledge? Do we give a similar honoring of the Lord with our lips but do our hearts and actions (divorce rates, broken homes, church attendance on decline) show that we are far from Him?

So where did the breakdown occur? How did they lose a generation? It is a consequence of several key decisions that many seem to be currently mirroring today. First, it was a lack of true commitment to God and more of an interest in His blessing apart from their commitment to Him. The people were clinging to the gods of the past and idols in their lives. Second, we see that they did not drive out the sinful influences; they did not drive out the Canaanites and all that they represented. Similarly, many have allowed the secure influences of the culture (through TV, social media, relationships) to impact their lives and the lives of their children. Many have lived a life of compromise instead of conviction. As the Israelites went from "not driving out" to actually adopting their customs and lifestyles (Psalm 106:35), so many have allowed the secular influences of our time to influence their decisions and the training up of their children. Finally, in the last chapter and last verse of Judges, we find that the people of Israel had totally rejected the leadership of the judges and had decided to do whatever they felt was right in their own eyes. They no longer longed for the knowledge of the Lord or a lived a life of commitment to Him. They had made themselves a god, similar to what we find in our culture today.

So this is the world we find ourselves living in. We live in a world of compromise, a world that demands tolerance except for anything Christian, and we live in a world where everyone does what they think is right in their eyes. However, take heart, there is some good news! In Judges 3, we find the people of God calling out to Him, time and time again, and He sends a deliverer. That is what the home, church, and Christian school should be mirroring today: a crying out to the Lord with a repentant heart and commitment to see Him preeminent in all we do! It is with this mindset that Life Way desires to set itself apart for Christ by focusing on a biblical partnership with Christian families.

BIBLICAL PARTNERSHIP

The term partnership means that there is a coming together of two or more parties with a common goal in mind. When Paul wrote to the church of Corinth, his desire was to see that they were “made complete in the same mind.” The partnership that Life Way seeks is a “like-mindedness” when it comes to the purpose of creation, life, eternity, and, therefore, ultimately the desire to see our children come to know Christ, grow in Him, and be used by Him. We believe, that according to the Scriptures, God has created us in His image, for the sole purpose of glorifying Him as we live and manage the world He has created. However, since man sinned and the world has been cursed and in need of salvation, apart from being redeemed by Christ, we can never fulfill His original intent.

This partnership cannot be accomplished unless we have come to know Christ as Savior, are growing in our knowledge of Him, are being empowered by His Spirit, and then are applying what we know to be true in our daily life. Therefore, we must ask ourselves a few questions as we enter into this partnership:

What does a family’s walk or relationship with the Lord look like? Do parents love the Lord? Are parents leading children in Christ, reading His word with them, and praying with them? Are families allowing worldly influences to dominate their homes or are they guarding the doors to their homes and the hearts and minds of their children?

Is each family a member of a bible-believing church?

Are families committed to a Christ-centered training of their children or just interested in a safe, positive learning environment?

Does Life Way have the conviction that they are “in this with the parents” and desire to see each child know Christ and grow in Him, first and foremost? Is Life Way hiring teachers who understand what a biblical worldview is and how important it is? Does Life Way compromise in any area or are we committed to laying a solid foundation for each student to stand on in Christ?

In order for this to truly be a like-minded relationship, the above must be addressed. Parents must realize that they are responsible for the education of their children. They must realize that there is no neutral education system and every school and every teacher will pass on his or her belief system to their students. There is only One Way, One Truth, and One Life!

For its part, Life Way must realize that we will be held accountable if we cause a little one to stumble, if we mishandle the truth, or if we lead others astray by word or actions. Once we have this partnership

established and solidified, Life Way must continue to make sure that Christ is preeminent in every area of the school and that we are developing in each child a biblical worldview!

BIBLE-BASED/CHRIST-CENTERED FOCUS

As stated before, there is no neutrality when it comes to the relaying of ideas in the world of education. We are either for Him or against Him. We either speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth or we pick and choose what is true to us and what parts we would rather not abide by.

Life Way desires to see every student equipped with a biblical worldview. If we break this down, biblical means just that, the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and it guides us in everything we do. A worldview is the lens that view and filter information through as we live in this world. Therefore, a biblical worldview means that we see life through the lens of the truth of God's Word and live accordingly. We examine every claim and proclamation with God's word. As state in 2 Corinthians 10:5, "we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ."

We must do this with all diligence! This takes painstaking effort. In Christ, we have the ability to do this. The question is, do we have the desire to do this? We tend to give ourselves to athletics, academics, and entertainment, and we do it with all diligence. The question is, do we want Christ above all and in all? When it comes to the educational program of Life Way, here are a few questions we must ask ourselves:

At the heart of every lesson, is it our goal to see students know Christ and grow in Him?

Do we teach the same way that we would in a secular school or do we point out false ideas and shine light in the darkness that would get us dismissed at other schools?

Do we discipline with a desire to see repentance and reconciliation in the lives of students?

Have we allowed secular influences to sway us and have we gone as far as proclaiming lies as truths?

Have we lost focus on Christ-likeness in efforts to prepare students for college and career?

Have we reached the pinnacle of biblical knowledge or is there a humble desire to know nothing else but Jesus Christ?

Is it our desire to see every staff member, family, and student become salt and light? Do we understand that in order for that to happen, we must know Him and give our lives completely to Him?

Do we have a plan to see each student become complete or mature in Christ?

As we see, to make the claim to be a Christ-centered, biblically-based school means more than just slapping the word Christian on the title. It demands a single minded focus on Him that will guide everything else that is done at the school. Now that the home and school are united in these efforts, what do we need to do?

BIBLICAL GOALS

Life Way is committed to this biblical partnership and bible-based educational system so that we can achieve the biblical goal of seeing each student engage the culture with the truth of God's Word and thereby exalt the name of Christ. A commitment to train up the next generation in Christ is likely to bring opposition and friction. Paul states in I Corinthians 1 that the world will not understand. They do not have true knowledge or the Spirit of God and, therefore, cannot understand things we do in accordance with His Word. Knowing this, we must come together as ONE BODY. What must this one body do so that there is a chance of taking back the culture for Christ? We must:

Encourage one another

Hold each other accountable while speaking the truth in love

Lay down memorial stones as we witness God doing things in our midst

Teach to see transformation and not just a relaying of information

Communicate consistently in love and in a peaceful spirit

There is an old saying that the "Proof is in the Pudding" which means that what you put into it is likely what you will get out of it. Eleven men took the gospel beyond Jerusalem and lived lives that were set apart for Christ. Acts 4 says that the world recognized that "these men had been with Jesus." There was a noticeable difference from those that were with Christ and those not. Daniel is another example of someone that when he "purposed in his heart" to follow God, there was a visible difference and a blessed life.

That is why Life Way Christian School exists! Our desire is to be completely Christ-centered and we exist only for His glory. Now, it is time to examine our lives and make sure that our actions match our desires. If not, we repent, and once again state that "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." If we are currently living a set-apart life for him, we encourage others and we keep on keeping on, until he returns. To echo the words of Paul in Ephesians, we must continue to "make the most of every opportunity, for the days are evil."

Onward Warriors!