

# *Spheres of Societal Transformation*

## EDUCATION



### **Background/Meaning**

1. In its most basic meaning, education is the triune God teaching His truth to mankind. (Genesis 1:27-31; Psalms 19:1-9; 94:8, 9; John 1:1-9)
2. Education is the action or process by which a person comes to know and use God's truth and that education is learning to think God's thoughts after Him and to see things as He sees them. (Isaiah 55:8, 9; John 5:19, 20)
3. Education is lifelong and that it incorporates every thought, experience, and activity of man. (Deuteronomy 6:7-12; 11:18-20; Isaiah 29:24; Matthew 9:13; 24:32; Mark 13:28; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 14:31)

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of education is both to reveal God and to bring students into conformity with His revealed will. (Luke 24:27; John 7:17; 14:21, 23, 24)
2. The ultimate goal of education should be to orient human beings Biblically toward the knowledge of God, humanity, and the rest of God's creation, in order to prepare them to take their places in family, Church, and society to the glory of God and in the service of Christ's Kingdom and their fellowman. (2 Kings 22:8-23:26; Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 20:26-28; Acts 16:30-34)

### **Principles**

#### **The Christian World View of Education**

1. The Christian God is the only God.
2. This existing, personal-infinite God created the universe and revealed Himself by it.
3. The supernatural world in which God exists is just as real as the natural world and is susceptible of being known.

4. This personal, infinite God has chosen to bridge the gap between the two worlds and to reveal Himself to human beings in three ways:

- Special revelation in the Bible;
- Personal self-revelation in His Son, Jesus Christ; an
- General self-revelation in material and natural creation.

5. There is no dichotomy between secular and sacred truth. All of created reality has been deliberately and purposefully brought into being by God. Thus, it is dependent on Him for meaning.

## **Nature and Role of God in Education**

1. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and is the Source of all truth. (Genesis 1:1-27; Psalm 55:22; 119:151; 121:1-8)

2. God created, sustains, and will consummate all things through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, education must focus on the Person of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17)

3. The Holy Spirit of God teaches and enlightens every believer in Jesus Christ and leads that person into all truth. (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)

4. The existing personal God has communicated truth to all mankind through personal revelation of Himself in Jesus Christ and through propositional, verbalized revelation of Himself in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. (Genesis 15:1; 17:1; Exodus 3:2-15; Isaiah 6:1-8; Mark 9:7; Luke 3:22; 24:27; John 1:1,2; 12:28; Acts 9:4,5; Hebrews 1:2,3)

## **The Nature of Truth and Reality in Education**

1. Truth is what is known to God about Himself and all of His creation, and that it is absolute, eternal, and objective. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalms 25:10; 57:3; 119:142,151)

2. The existing, personal-infinite God has chosen to reveal truth to us both through special revelation, which is communicated to us by means of the Bible and God's Son, Jesus Christ, and through general revelation, which is communicated to us by means of His rational and non rational creation; and that education should entail the pursuit of learning, which is derived from all of these sources of revelation. (Genesis 1:28; 2:19, 20; Daniel 4:37; John 1:14, 17; 14:6; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 1:1, 2)

3. In God's design all of the particular elements of the universe are united into a meaningful whole; that it is one purpose of education to help learners to find relationships among these elements and, thus, to find their meaning; and that Biblical revelation is the ultimate criterion for this meaning. (Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 19:1)

4. True reality originates with God and is spiritual and eternal, as well as material and temporal, and that the content of education is complete only when it includes all true reality.

## The Content of Education

1. Freedom of inquiry is central to man's innate desire for truth, and that all truth is God's truth. Therefore, we encourage inquiry into all fields of knowledge not forbidden in the Bible. (John 8:31, 32; 2 Corinthians 3:17)
2. Freedom of inquiry and academic freedom have a legitimate place in the pursuit of truth and in the framework of the learning and teaching process. (John 8:32, 36)
3. All curriculum content must be integrated with and interpreted by God's truth as revealed in the Bible. (John 1:9; Romans 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
4. Scientific investigation is a valid and necessary means of studying the universe and of discovering its orderly operation. (Genesis 1:14; Psalms 19:1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8; 104:19; Daniel 2:21; Matthew 16:2, 3; Luke 21:25, 26)
5. God is the Author of all true ethics; that true ethics is based on absolute truth and unchanging principles of right and wrong, as revealed in the Bible; that there are ethical absolutes that apply equally to all people everywhere; and that one purpose of education should be to help students to discover these unchanging Biblical standards of right and wrong and to reflect on the logical consequences of departing from these standards. (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 7:7-11; Matthew 5:17, 18; Romans 1:19, 20)

## Conclusion: Responsibility for Education

### Role of Parents

1. God entrusts children to their parents for their nurture and education; that parents have both a right and a duty to raise their children in a manner consistent with Biblical standards of responsible moral conduct; and that parents have the right, therefore, to educate their own children at home or to delegate the task to schools. (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7; 11:19; Proverbs 6:20, 21; Ephesians 6:4)
2. Parents have both a right and a duty to teach their children about biological
3. Reproduction and sexual health and morality. (Genesis 35:22; 49:4; Leviticus 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; 22:22-30; 23:17; Proverbs 6:20-29)

### Role of schools

1. It is a school's responsibility to assist and to cooperate closely with parents in every aspect of a student's education. (Mark 9:17-27)
2. It is the responsibility of the schools to be sensitive to the wishes and values of parents with respect to the content and methodology of their children's education. (Philippians 3:5, 6)
3. A school is an extension of the home, existing to supplement parents' primary responsibility to educate their children. (Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:4, 5)

### Role of the Church

1. Each congregation of the Church has the responsibility to teach all its members the doctrines of God, of creation, of salvation, of God's Law, and of worship, so that the people of God are fitted for a godly walk and for a living testimony of the saving grace of Christ to those outside the faith. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:28-32)
2. The home, the church, and the school must share cooperatively in the total

3. Design of education and yet remain separate in their respective spheres of jurisdiction. (1 Corinthians 7:20-24)

#### Role of Civil government

1. Education ought to operate in a free market, with each existing form of schooling having equal opportunity to enroll students on the basis of the proven success of that schooling. (Acts 5:35-39)

2. Parents have a right to educate their children at home or in private schools that are free from control by civil government. (Proverbs 4:1-4)

3. All forms of education should receive equal benefit from taxation, whether in money, goods, or services. (Matthew 22:17, 21)

4. Education plays an important role in shaping the ability of people to think and in determining the content of their thoughts, and that education, therefore, ought to be free from control of its methods and content by civil government. (John 9:1-23)

**To be continued...**

*Taken from Transform World Manual*

*Transform World Connections*

*A call to transformation: transformational streams are becoming one fast-flowing river for the healing of the nations.*

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