

A Biblical Theology of Education
education: the transfer of wisdom

The Book of Education

Every word, example, story teaches and leads to the knowledge of God!

A major purpose of the family and church is to teach.

Proverbs 1:1-10

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God—immediately the scriptures begin teaching (Heb. 11:6)

1:26-27 first teaching (education: transfer of knowledge to be obeyed – transfer of wisdom)

4:22 Tubalcain: an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron

18:19 (NT Mt. 10:25; Lk. 6:40) the pattern for teaching; teaching is commanding (Ezra 7:10)

22:7,8 first recorded human teaching, first recorded father-son talk, Socratic method

Exodus 4:12,15 God will teach Moses what to say; God gives teachers curriculum (Ex. 24:12; Dt. 4:14; Dt. 5:31-33; 6:1-3; Ps. 78:1-8).

18:17-26 first human “teach”: Jobab, father-in-law!, instructed Moses to teach all people so they could make decisions for themselves; (32:12ff – not well taught?) able men to be placed as rulers to judge controversies (Dt. 17:8-1; I Chro. 17:6; Dt. 33:8-11; Ez. 44:21,22; Ps. 2:10)

24:12 I will give thee tables of stone that thou mayest teach them.

35:34 God put in Bezaleel’s and Aholiab’s hearts that they may teach: giftedness, desire, specific area: aptitude; equipped themselves first.

Deut. 1:5-6 Moses explained, taught the law, beginning with God (Dt. 1-34).

1:9-17 Moses quickly needed judges/authorities to teach since people didn’t know commandments well enough (c.f., Ex. 18:20).

4:1ff God’s statutes and judgments are taught to be obeyed (esp. vs. 5,4,10).

v. 5 Learn for doing (v. 14; 5:1.29-33-6:3).

v. 9 Remember and practice yourself (v. 34; 5:31-33) and (then) teach your sons, grandsons; family setting (I K. 15:5; Ps. 86:11).

v. 10 Especially teach ten commandments to your children.

5:31-33 The teacher must first learn and obey himself (I Tim. 4:16).

6:1-25 (11:19-32; Ps. 22:30,31) content: commandments (3,17), God is one (4), love God (5), keep commands in heart (6), God is jealous (15), do right and good (18), remember deliverance from Egypt, wonders (21-25), don’t forget God: fear, serve, swear by (12,13), don’t go after other gods (14), don’t tempt God (16); method: engrave (teach) (7) when opportunity arises (7,20), keep before them (8,9; Josh. 4:21-24; Mk. 4:1; II Tim. 4:2; Lk. 11:27,28); purpose: to do commandments (obedience)

(1,2,3,17), to fear the Lord (2), that days be prolonged (2), may be well with thee that ye may increase mightily (3) and possess land (1,18)

7:1-26 At the core of true teaching is comprehensive separation from false religion and truth.

14:23 Learn by doing (Jdgs. 3:2; 8:16; 119:71; cf. II Pet. 1:12-21).

13:1-18 provision for identifying false teaching (CHM quote); the transfer of wisdom (Ps. 78:4,7)

definition: the act (and process) of transferring knowledge (of God, life attitude and skills, and His creation, of what is; the pursuit of God (Gen. 1:1, Ex. 3:18; Heb. 11:6), the bringing up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, speaking the truth in love (Zech. 8:16,17), to know wisdom (Pro. 1:2-5), transfer of knowledge to be obeyed (Gen. 1:26,27)

key texts: Dt. 6; Ps. 78; II Tim. 2:2; 3:14-17; 4:4; I Pet. 1:1-21; Phil. 2:5; II Pet. 1:2-5; Pro. 1:11; II Tim; the Bible; Dt. 1:5; Ps. 25 (4-12); I Cor. 2:9-13; Col. 1:16-29 (-2:3)

17:8-13 The priests the Levites, and the judge shall teach the sentence of the law (I Chron. 17:6; Ezra 7:25).

17:19 (18-20) The king is to read in his own copy of the law all the days of his life that he may learn to fear the LORD, and keep, and do; self-teaching.

18:9 tendency to learn from environment – don’t if wrong environment (Josh. 22:24)

20:18

24:9 The Levites taught concerning leprosy; religious/civil leader teaching.

31:9-13 a time to gather all the people to read the entire law that they may hear and learn; read → hear → learn → fear → observe

31:19 Teach (doctrine) through songs (Col. 3:16).

32:10 God instructs.

33:8-11 Levi given Thummim and Unim, was impartial in judgment and was commissioned to teach Jacob and Israel judgments and law

Josh 4:21-24 (22:24) teach when opportunity

2:10 next generation arose which knew not the Lord because hadn’t been taught, presumably by parents, through word or life

Judges 3:2 learn by doing – nations would teach new generations war (Ps. 45:4 thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things)

8:16 Learn by doing through pain; Gideon taught men of Succoth with thorns.

13:8 The angel of the Lord, a man of God, taught Manoah and his wife what they were to do unto Samson that should be born.

Ruth 3:18 Sit still until you know, Naomi to Ruth.

I Sam. 2:29 Do not honor students above the Lord.

3:13 Restrain students (I King. 1:6).

12:23 Teach the good and the right way and cease not to pray.

II Sam. 1:18 Skills (use of bow) are taught even through hard times?

I King 1:6 Restrain students (I Sam. 2:29; 3:13).

8:36 Pray that God would teach the good way wherein to walk

15:5 learning (commandments) for doing

12:2 Teacher helped keep king on right path. Keep yourself under godly instruction.

II King 14:3 Teach by example; Amaziah did as his father Joash.

17:27-41 the king of Assyria had the priest teach Israelites the manner of “the God” of the land → feared the Lord and served their own gods – state church! (cf. II Chron 17:3-9)

I Chron. 17:6 God commanded judges to feed people.

29:9 heart attitude for student with perfect heart they offered willingly

25:1-7 certain ones were instructed in music (15:22; 25:7)

25:8 The teacher and the scholar are distinct; teacher gives understanding, student is taught.

II Chron. 17:3-9 Jehoshaphat sent his princes to teach in the cities of Judah.

3:3 even Solomon (to provide protection?). And with them he sent Levites and was instructed.

15:3 teaching priests taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with... (II King 17:27-41)

Ezra 7:10 Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments – proper preparation for teacher; a teaching priest

7:24 Don't impose tolls on teachers.

7:25 Teach magistrates and judges who don't already know the love of God.

Neh. 8:8-10 (1-18) The Levites taught the people under the teachership (and protection) of the governor Nehemiah and the priest the scribe of Ezra; they taught so the people could understand (vs. 8, 12) and they wanted the people happy (vs. 10-12; cf Rev. 1:4).

12:17 Mattaniah was the principal.

9:20 God gave His good Spirit to instruct.

Job God teaches Job contentment

6:24 The soul who is hungry to be taught cries out, ignorant need taught (21:22; 34:32; 37:14) knowledgeable teach (32:7).

8:10 Man's record of history teach.

12:7,8 Reality teaches.

15:17,18 Teachers declare what they have seen (27:11,12).

21:22 No one can teach God (40:2; I Cor. 2:16).

33:16 God controls man's instruction (cf. Lk. 2:19).

Psalms 11:3 foundations needed for building knowledge

16:7 Reins (mind or heart) instruct at night.

22:30,31 Each generation is responsible for passing on truth (145:4).

25:3,4,8,9,12 God teaches individuals; pray for His teaching, wait for His teaching (Ps. 86:11; 90:12; 119:12, 26, 33, 64, 66, 68, 72, 108, 124,125; 143;10; Is. 54:13; Ps. 32:8; Is. 28:26); God teaches humble/teachable (Ps. 32:8,9).

34:11 God teaches those who listen.

50:16,17 teacher qualifications: respect for Word, clean heart, right spirit, joy, upholding by His Spirit (51:13)

60:1 (intro) Some psalms are teaching psalms.

78:1-8 To engender faith in your children and hope in yourself (Rom. 15:4), review the testimonies (works) and commandments of the Lord – tell Bible stories!

86:11 unite my heart – the unity of all

90:12 time to be given to pursuit of wisdom – teach us – apply our hearts

94:7-12 God knows all (v. 10). The man is blessed whom God teaches (v. 12).

105:22 God imbues teachers with necessary wisdom.

119:12 God teaches (132:12).

119:71 affliction → learning

119:99 more understanding than all my teachers from meditating in word

Proverbs education; the transfer of wisdom

1:2-4 the goals of education; definition of education: to know wisdom

1:5-9 the foundation of education

v. 5 (greatest)skill: hearing (4:1; 8:33; 15:33; 19:20)

attitude: increasing learning, attaining unto wise counsels (4:13; 9:9; 12:1; 15:32)

v. 6 extent/comprehensiveness: not just knowing/memorizing but understanding

v. 7 beginning/chief part/organizing principle: the fear of the Lord, the pursuit of God, fools (“no God”) despise this (5:23; 12:1; 13:1,18; 15:5,32; 16:22; Zeph 3:7; 23:12,23)

v. 8 structure/responsibility for education: family, older/wiser who love teach/discipline young (13:1; 15:5), discipline and law-word

v. 9 fruit of education

2:1-9 student's attitude (1:5)/heart and method, self-education 4:13

4:13 take fast hold

5:12,23 alternative to (the pursuit of God) education

6:23 reproofs of instruction are the way of life – we are to be constantly learning (10:17; 16:22; 24:32; 9:9; Ez. 5:15)

8:10, 11 value of education is greater than gold, poverty otherwise (13:18);

9:9 wise – respect God – and just – straight, honest – are foundational for true scholar
11:30 winning souls is seeing them changed into Christlikeness, won to truth
15:28 righteous studieth to answer
16:21,23 The sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.
19:27 Stop listening to what causes erring.
21:11 When the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
24:32 Consider and learn from circumstances/people around you (Ez. 5:15).

Ecclesiastes 1:13-18 Education is vain without being centered in God (Col. 2:3; Pro. 1:7; Is. 44:9-20).

Song of Solomon 8:2 certain things for parents to teach

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well, education is a moral issue (Jer. 10:2; Ez. 44:23).
2:3 God teaches in His mountain and house.
2:4 War is learned (Mic. 4:3).
8:11 God instructs.
8:15 butter honey shall he eat that he may know; diet affects learning
26:9,10 judgment results in learning – when Thy judgments are in the earth, inhabitants learn righteousness, favor results in learning for the righteous (implied)
28:9-13 Children learn precept upon precept from time of weaning.
28:26 God instructs to discretion.
29:13 Do not teach fear of God by precept of man.
29:23,24 Having children motivates us to grow up and learn doctrine.
40:14 No one instructs God.
54:13 All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; results in peace.
30:20 Thine eyes shall see thy teachers.
44:9-20 Messianic Character of American Education; a picture of man-centered education

Jeremiah 4:22 God's people are foolish and have not known Me
9:20 Teach your daughters wailing, women.
23:24 Glory in understanding and knowing God.
10:2 Learn not the way of the heathen → learn the way of the Lord!
12:16 Heathen are to learn ways of God's people.
17:23 Education has to do with obedience (32:33; 35:13).
31:33,34 Knowledge to come through regenerating work of Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 5:15 Judgments on others educate.
44:23 Priests are to teach the difference between holy and profane.

Daniel 1:4 The world is trying to educate.
11:33 Ones who understand instruct.

Hosea 11:3,4 Teaching and love are linked.

Micah 3:11 The priests teach for hire.
4:3 War is learned.

Habakkuk 2:18,19 idol worshippers – non-theocentric – expect dumb stone to teach; teaches lies

Zephaniah 3:7 The wicked refuse instruction.

Zechariah 8:16,17 Speak the truth.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever shall break and teach one of the least of these commandments shall be called least:great.
9:13 go and learn what that meaneth: a time to humbly seek meaning
9:36-38 When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion, sent teachers! (Mk. 6:34).
10:24 A disciple will be as his teacher! (Lk. 6:40).
11:1 Teaching is commanding.
11:28-30 Learn of Christ! Put on yoke was education phrase for Jews (Adams, p. 32).
13:52 There are new things to learn/discover after reading commentaries – being instructed.
28:18-20 We are authorized of God to teach all nations.

Mark 4:1 He taught anywhere (by the seaside).
6:34 motivation for teaching: compassion (Mt. 9:36-38; I Cor. 13:1,2; Col. 2:1-3); teach many things!
7:7 Do not teach for doctrine the commandments of men.

Luke 6:40 The disciple that is perfect shall be as his master (Mt. 10:24; II King 14:3)
6:46-49 Be obedient to teaching.
11:1-13 Ask the Lord to teach you. He taught directly (by example (vs. 2-4), precept (vs. 9,10), by story (vs. 5-8), by reasoning (vs. 11-13, 5-8), and He motivated them by encouraging them in certainty of success (vs. 5-8, 11-13)
11:27,28 He taught as He went, spontaneously (12:13-21 ad infinitum).
12:12 The Holy Ghost teaches (Jn. 14:26; I Cor. 2:9-16; Neh. 9:20).
23:5 Teaching ought to stir up people!

John 3:2 Christ was identified as a teacher (come from God).
9:34 Teaching can get you into trouble (Acts 16:21; 21:28).

14:26 The Holy Ghost will teach you all things. He is called the Comforter in that connection, and it could be said that He teaches so that the student remembers (I Jn. 1:27; Jn. 16:13).
14-17 Jesus the Master Teacher. He taught them truth in preparation for life!
16:13 The Holy Spirit guides into all truth (Acts 1:1).

Acts 1:1 The teacher does and (then) teaches.

4:18 Teach in Jesus' name .
4:20 can teach only what have seen
5:28 Fill your community with doctrine (5:42; 21:28; I Cor. 4:17).
13:1 There exists the office (and gift) of teacher (Rom. 12:7; I Cor. 12:28,29).
14:1 So speak that (a great multitude of) people believe.
18:11 Teach the Word of God (28:21), those things which concern Jesus Christ.
24:25 Reason.
26:24 Much learning doth make thee mad.
28:21 Teach those things which concern Jesus Christ, teaching with confidence (cf Rom. 2:19).

Romans the book of doctrine-teaching

2:18-29 Practice what you teach (v. 21) (I Cor. 4:17).
12:3-8 (v. 7) Teach according to the measure of faith (v. 3), gift (v. 5), grace (v. 5) (I Cor. 4:7; 12:28,29).
15:4 Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.

I Corinthians 2:9-16 The Spirit is indispensable for teaching (4:19,20; Jn. 14:26; 13:13; I Jn. 1:27).

4:6 Humility can be taught and learned.
4:15 Be more than an instructor.
11:14 Nature teaches.
13:1,2 Speak, teach with charity (Mk. 6:34; Col. 2:1-3).
12:28,29 God has set teachers in the church.
14:1-20 Speak, teach so that you can be understood (vs. 9-11, 19, 31).

Galatians 3:24-4:7 the law as our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ; the role of the schoolmaster is to lead students unto Christ.

4:1,2 A child is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father, and differeth nothing from a servant!
6:6 Pay the teacher.

Ephesians 1:10; 4:13 Knowledge is to be unified in Christ (Col. 1:20; 2:33; Eph. 1:10).

4:11 The teacher is a gift to the church.

4:12-16 The purpose of the teacher is to equip for the work of the ministry. To unify all in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and to help produce a perfect (complete) man.

5:21-6:4 The structure in which in loco parentis operates

6:4 Fathers are to bring up children in nurture (chastening, discipline, correction) and admonition (exhortations – mind; cf I Cor. 10:11)

Philippians 1:9-11 goals of education

2:5 goal of education

Colossians – philosophy of education

1:20-29 teach (Christ in you) every man in all wisdom to present each perfect in Christ! energized by the Spirit: the goal, energy, content/door?, encouragement, method

1:9-12 goals of education

1:16-20 source and unity of knowledge, redemptive purpose of education (Ps. 11:3 – foundations; 86:11 unite!)

2:1-3 a teacher's motivation

2:3 The goldmine (locus) of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 1:20; Eph. 4:13; 1:11)

2:8-10, 20 Beware of false philosophy which is exposed in its inconsistency with Christ.

3:16 Teach in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs (Dt. 31:19).

I Thessalonians 2:1-20 the integrity of the teacher (vs. 3,4), spirit (vs. 7-11), goal (v. 12), work (vocation/life (vs. 19,20)

I Timothy the book of instruction for teachers

1:3 Change some that they teach no other doctrine, limit curriculum (6:3-5).

1:7 Teachers should understand what and why they teach.

1:20 Satan teaches those who won't otherwise learn.

2:7 Paul was ordained a preacher, apostle, teacher; Paul taught in the realm of faith and truth.

2:11,12 Some things women not to teach.

3:2 Elders, models for all, are to be apt to teach.

4:11 Teaching and commanding go together.

4:12-16 teacher qualifications (v. 12); teacher preparation (vs. 13-16)

5:13 idleness teaches

6:2 Curriculum, teaching and exhorting go together.

II Timothy 2:2 pattern for education, teacher qualifications (Titus 1:9; 2:4)

2:15 Study for God's approval.

2:24 All servants of the Lord are to be apt to teach (cf I Tim. 3:2; Heb. 5:12).

3:7 ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

3:14-4:4 Continue in what you have learned as you are assured they are scriptural, knowing intent of teacher (v. 14); children to be educated in scriptures from youth (v. 5); scriptures are the curriculum (v. 16);

maturity is the goal (v. 17); do education as unto the Lord (4:1); preach the Word, Word is core curriculum, point (4:2); be ready to teach at all times (cf Heb. 3:13; Deut. 6:7); reprove, rebuke, exhort in that order; educate while you have open door (4:3).

admonish? (Rom. 15:14; I Thes. 5:12; II Thes. 3:15)

Titus 1:5-9 teacher qualifications

1:9 A student should be able to use what he has been taught to convince others (Heb. 5:12-14).
2:1 Sound doctrine leads to becoming behavior.
2:4 Older women are to teach younger.
2:11-15 Grace (an older woman?) teaches.
3:14 Good works can be learned.

Hebrews 3:13 Exhort one another daily.

5:12 All are to be teachers, begin teaching with first principles, with milk.
5:12-14 Teach to use.
8:11,12 The Spirit within teaches.
11:6 Here is given the basis of epistemology

James 1:19-25 Be swift to hear, slow to speak, quick to do practice.

3:2 Teachers have higher standard of accountability.

II Peter 1:2-4 God is known through His Word. The scriptures are the curriculum, the text; they contain all things that pertain to life and godliness (1:12-21).

1:5-9 The curriculum builds.
1:10,11 Diligence is needed in education; goal of education is an abundant entrance into the kingdom.
1:12-21 Scriptures are more sure than experience to educate.
3:16 Unlearned and unstable wrest (turn away from, pervert) curriculum.

I John 1:27 The Holy Spirit abides in saved and teacher (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; I Cor. 2:9-17).

5:20 The Son of God has given us an understanding.

II John Truth is extremely important.

1:1 Love in the truth.
1:4 Walk in the truth.
1:9-11 Separate over the truth, the doctrine of Christ.

III John 1:3,4 Truth is to be walked in.

Jude 1:3 Earnestly contend for the faith.

Revelation 1:3