
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What does the Bible say about Homeschooling children?**

Let me begin by saying I do not believe it is wrong or sinful (in and of itself) to send children to government schools or to private schools. Yet I will say this: **If parents rely upon the government schools or private schools to do all the teaching children receive, then they have neglected their duties as parents.**

- 1) Rearing children and teaching children is a responsibility of parents and this responsibility cannot be shifted to anyone else. Others can help, but parents are responsible for what their children are taught and for what they learn.

When graduation day comes in May, many parents are upset and some even sue the school system because Johnny is graduating and he can't even read or write. Listen friend, the reason Johnny can't read or write is because mom and dad neglected Johnny. They are more responsible than any school system.

Ephesians 6:4

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

If you will listen to what this verse is saying, you will notice that it is the parent's responsibility to train up children. More than that, it is the responsibility of **fathers**. Many fathers are neglecting their duties today. In our society:

- We have young men getting girls pregnant who refuse to have anything to do with the child created by their sinful act. Now the child has to grow up in a one-parent home. Often the grandparents are left holding the bag while the daughter goes out to create more children who will grow up without a father.
- We have other fathers who leave their wives and children behind to live with another woman – leaving their responsibilities to train the children they have brought into the world.

- We have fathers, who stay with their wives and children, but who believe the teaching and training of children is the mother's job and they themselves do not get involved in teaching the children at all.

In the Bible, the father is the spiritual leader of the home. He is the "head of the home" (Eph. 5:23). But with this place of leadership comes responsibility which many men neglect.

2) **Children need to be taught more than any school system can teach.** Even private schools and religious schools cannot teach a child everything that child needs to learn.

Boys need dads to teach them about manhood. They need to be taught about sex. They need to be taught how to control their sex-drive. They need to learn how to work hard to earn a living. They need to be taught skills so they will be able to provide for their own home one day. They need to be taught how to handle money. They need to be taught about God and God's will for them. School systems cannot teach all these things like a father can.

Girls need moms to teach them about womanhood. They need to be taught about sex. They need to be taught how to be modest and lady-like so they will not invite the wrong kind of attention to themselves. They need to learn how to care for a home – how to cook for a family, how to care for children. They need to be taught how to be satisfied with the money that is brought home by their husbands and how to budget the money so the family can live on the wages of the father. School systems cannot teach all these things like a mother can.

In this respect, every home must have a certain amount of "homeschooling" within it.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Although this is an OT passage, the same principle is taught in the NT in such passages as Eph. 6:4 and 2 Tim. 3:15. Children must be taught all day every day.

Listen to me friend: Children are constantly learning and if the parents don't teach them, someone else will – only the "someone else" may not be a good person and the things they

learn may not be good. If parents don't teach their children, there is always someone out there who will teach them. There's always someone out there to teach untaught children:

- How to smoke
- How to drink
- How to get high on drugs
- How to have sex
- How to lie
- How to steal

Don't think that as a parent you can send your children off to some school and they will do all the teaching that needs to be done. Children need to be taught morality and spiritual truths that cannot be taught by anyone but a parent. Neither can parents send their kids off to church on a church bus while they themselves sleep in late on Sunday mornings. When parents do that, they are teaching their kids all right – they are teaching their kids that God isn't really important and that sleep is more important than assembling to worship the Creator.

More could be said. Call back next week when we will discuss the subject of "stay-at-home" moms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.