

EDUCATION

Article 12

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage.

The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge.

Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute.

The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

REASON AND REVELATION

Reason

Christianity is not afraid of human reasoning or logic.

God has given humans the ability to perceive, reflect, know facts, and draw conclusion from those facts.

Christianity does not oppose or fear this God-given faculty in humanity.

The problem with man's reasoning is that the fall of humanity (rebellion against God) has corrupted our hearts and minds.

- We can't always see right from wrong.
- We can't always force ourselves to do right.
- Affection for God is obliterated.

The reality of humanity's fallen nature makes knowing God by mere human reason an impossibility!

Therefore, human logic is not worthless,
but it is limited and imperfect.

To know God we need revelation!

Revelation:

Revelation from God comes through His messengers.

How do we know if the messenger is truly His messenger bearing revelation from God?

Two-fold Test:

1. The messenger confirms by miracles that he is a teacher from God. (John 10:25).
2. The message aligns perfectly with past revelation. (False prophets may do miracles, but preach doctrine contrary to what has already been revealed by God. See Mark 13:22.)

Pastors and teachers today do not need to do miracles to gain authority, for they are not revealing new revelation.

Instead, they simply explain the meaning of the revelation (the Bible). When that explanation is done correctly, it is God speaking to those who hear.

Education and reason are helpful, for they allow a person to use the means that God uses to explain revelation: reading, writing, hearing, discussing etc.

However, human reason alone will not cause a “decision for Christ.” Instead, conversion is preceded by reasoning on the facts, but conversion takes place only by a miracle by the Holy Spirit on the human soul.

Additionally, revelation is **superior** to human reason. All ideologies, philosophies, and claims to truth are to be judged by the Word of God; not the other way around!

Religious Education and Churches:

1. Primary training for children is the responsibility of parents (Deut. 6:7 etc.).
2. The central thrust of a church's teaching comes from the pulpit in a corporate setting (2Timothy 4:1-5).
3. Religious education is strengthened through Sunday School and discipleship groups.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility:

1. Academic freedom in a church or Christian school is NOT absolute!
2. A teacher must exercise freedom within the boundaries and purposes of the church or school.

3. Integrity would require a teacher, or even a member of a church, to remove himself/herself from his/her position or church membership, if he/she is not in agreement with the doctrinal distinctives and boundaries of the church or institution.

Conclusion:

1. Do you need to repent of choosing reason as superior to revelation, rather than the other way around?
2. Do you need to recommit to teaching your children and grandchildren the fundamentals of the Christian faith?
3. Do you need to recommit yourself to absorbing the teaching of the Word of God through your local church?

