

The Family Is Key

by Patch Blakey

Classical Christian education is the best form of education possible. I do not say that arrogantly, but I do say it forcefully and with confidence. I am acquainted with its results, not only in the quality of men and women that it produced throughout the past 1500 years, but also in seeing the graduates of the numerous ACCS schools I have visited as well as from observing the results of standardized test scores and reading the articles about the many successes of these students from across ACCS.

But is the classical Christian model the primary reason for these successes? I would suggest that as good as the classical Christian model is, there is another element that is even more critical in a student's education. We know that God desires godly offspring (Mal. 2:15). Elsewhere we are told that "children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psa. 127:3). Children are a gift from God to parents. Parents do not own their children; they are entrusted with them by God, as a heritage, something of value to be stewarded with care. The required aim of this stewardship of children is to produce *godly* offspring to the glory of God.

If placing our children in a classical Christian school was all that was required to produce godly offspring, then that would be sufficient. But as good as classical Christian education is, dropping our children off at the front door of the school every day is not enough. Sadly, we have each probably seen the outcome of such a lack of parental nurturing. Thankfully, we have also seen some exceptions. But we should not base our hopes on providential exceptions, but

rather on humble obedience to the Scriptures and confidence in our faithful God (Num. 23:19).

The godly nurture of our children is a full-time undertaking. Moses told the children of Israel that it was a "24/7" tasking. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 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" (Deut. 6:6-7).

This passage demonstrates that parents are engaged in teaching their children about the word of God around the clock, whether they are at home or away, from when they rise up in the morning to when they go to sleep at night. It comes out not only in what parents say, but also in what they do. Parents are always "transmitting," and children are always "receiving."

We should not be surprised to learn that this is so. God created the family, male and female, our first parents, Adam and Eve. One of the God-assigned goals of the family is to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth (Gen. 1:28). But again, the expectation is that the earth is to be replenished with "godly offspring."

We have a number of articles in this issue of *Classis* from administrators and teachers of ACCS schools who have spent years working with parents to help them see the benefit of classical Christian education. These folks have also worked with parents to encourage them to fully embrace their biblical responsibility to educate or enculturate their children in

the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). What these authors have written is not all that can be said on this subject, but it is a very good start. Their articles will, Lord willing, be a source of practical help and encouragement.

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