

## **“Immersion Education”**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

### **THE SHEMA: PRIORITY AND PRACTICE**

1. **v.4: Declaration of God’s uniqueness and priority.** *Shema* (Heb. “hear”)
2. **v.5: Command to love God with totality of life.** Cf. **Mark 12:28-31**
3. **v.6: Command to ‘own’ these words from God.** ...make them yours; Internal: they shall be on your heart
4. **v.7-9: Immerse your children and your world in these words from God.** **“Teach & Talk”**  
→ Immersion education. Be immersed in truth.

### **THE PROBLEM: A FAULTY FOUNDATION**

1. **BIBLICALLY it is wrong to separate education from God.** Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 14:1
2. **PHILOSOPHICALLY it is impossible to have ‘religion-neutral’ education.** Colossians 2:6-8
  - There are core values and foundations that permeate public school education (& some Xn schools):
    - Relativism: there are no objective standards of morality. E.g., speaking ‘my truth’
    - Positivism: truth/reality are only what can be verified by the scientific method. “tabula rasa” or blank slate
    - Secularism: a ‘God-absent’ worldview. Closely aligned with naturalism & humanism.
 → Colossians 2:8: See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
3. **PRACTICALLY it is untenable and unsustainable to continue on our current path.**
  - So called ‘god-less’ education results in confusion, chaos, and destruction. We are seeing the results...
4. **HISTORICALLY it is a departure from long-practiced (and successful) methods in Christianity.**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION USING THE ‘PRINCIPLE APPROACH’**

#### **1. What is the Principle Approach?**

- Applying Biblical truths (“principles”) as the foundation of every subject, students are taught to think and reason from “leading ideas.”
- Presuppositions: Biblical principles of God’s moral and natural laws govern the universe and our lives.
  - Education is the responsibility of the family (not the government).
  - God’s WORD is the primary textbook to understand God’s WORLD. God is sovereignly at work in history.

#### **2. Methods**

- **Research** – Beginning with the Word of God, search for the foundational truths about a subject.
- **Reason** – Consider, reflect, think Biblically on the gathered research. There is a right/wrong way to think.
- **Relate** – Connect with the material in a meaningful way. “Why is this important? So what?”

Francis Schaeffer: “In our modern forms of specialized education there is a tendency to lose the whole in the parts, & in this sense we can say that our generation produces few truly educated men. True education means thinking by association across the various disciplines, and not just being highly qualified in one field....”

- **Record** – The student makes a written record of their research, reasoning, and relating.

#### **3. Growing the whole child...holistically: Character is the primary goal of education.**

- Character matters. This includes faith, virtue, behavior, language, integrity and honesty.
- Government of self (mind, will, emotions) under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Holistic: Christian education involves the whole person. True learning, growth and wisdom begins in the heart. It is a tragic mistake to separate God from education.
  - Proverbs 4:23: Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow the issues of life.

At the February 8, 2022 Session meeting, the Christian School Exploratory Team presented their recommendations to both the Elders and Deacons. The Elders approved these recommendations unanimously...

**Summary: The Team recommends...**

- a Principle Approach school (called Liberty Christian Academy) be formed independent of Covenant Life Church.
  - current goal is to begin classes in August 2022 with grades K-3
  - The Team envisions the school eventually attracting families from both inside and outside of CLC as well as receiving support from other churches in the community.
- this independent school report to a School Board which will be formed within the next 1-3 months. Sr. Pastor Ken Aldrich will be the liaison between the school and the CLC Session.
- space be provided at the Covenant Life building for the school to begin and get on its feet.
  - probably will need 2-4 classrooms and an office to start, including use of the playground/family gathering area
  - depending on enrollment, the school would use the building for at least a few years
- Covenant Life Church support the school through individual and corporate prayer, since part of the mission is to support the needs of Christian families in Sarasota County.
- Covenant Life Church will financially support the school.
- Covenant Life Church support the school in other ways such as:
  - provide information about the school, including a link on the church website
  - allow School Board, parent meetings, and other special events at the CLC building (in cooperation with and consideration of other ministries and events)
  - allow reasonable use of office supplies and support (copier, paper, phones, etc.)

Team members: Pete Conner (Chair of the Team), Ken Aldrich, Martha Bickford, Diane Bourlier, Pat Byers, Jean Goetze, Cindy Hancock, Gary Heffner, Doug & Pat Reichenbach, Natalie Sainchuk, Dan Smithwick, Brittani Story

Questions? Suggestions?

- Talk to a School Team Member
- Available today in the Lobby
- Next Sunday, (April 3) Q & A time in the Community Room during the Discipleship Class time

We ask for your... Prayers.  
Maturity.  
Wisdom.  
Support.

To financially support the school...

- Checks can be made out to Covenant Life Church (w/ 'school' or 'Liberty Christian Academy' on memo line)
- Checks made out to Liberty Christian Academy