



CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

April 23, 2025

Greetings, Christ the King Church,

Our mission is to make disciples who glorify God in all of life for all of Stillwater. To accomplish that mission, we've adopted several priorities that orient our efforts. One of them is to love God's good design for men, women, and families. We encourage husbands and fathers to faithfully shepherd their households especially by bringing up their children with a Christian enculturation. We believe that a thoroughly Christian education is crucial for each child's discipleship.

The Bible commands fathers to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). The implications of this command are staggering. Paul is not telling parents to teach children merely to read their Bible and pray every day. Like a Spartan child was enculturated into the disciplines of mind, body, and social customs common to the city, *Christian parents must enculturate their children to glorify God in all of life*. Latent in the command to enculturate our children is the imperative of having a Christian culture to raise them in—a Christian culture with God-glorifying social customs, holidays, family traditions, standards for orderliness, and a cultivated curiosity, wonder, and awe for God. After all, [there cannot be enculturation without a culture](#).

Enculturation is the responsibility of every father. Fathers rule their families, the smallest unit of civilization, by establishing a family culture. This culture includes virtues, hierarchy, music, friendship, dancing, clothing, exercise, and of course education. A culture cannot pass from one generation to another without education.

- We study reading in order to study God's word and the great thoughts of our ancestors.
- We study writing to clarify, correct, and contribute to our culture and to give our praise a poetic voice.
- We study history to marvel at the story God is authoring for our world.
- We study physics, biology, and mathematics in order to faithfully understand and rule the world God gave us.
- We study music in order to express the melody God puts in our hearts (Eph 5:19).
- We study business in order to love our neighbor and provide for our own household.

In Deuteronomy 6, God gives parents the duty of diligently teaching their children *everywhere*. God's commands are so all-encompassing that they apply to everything your hands touch and your eyes see (Deut 6:7). Education is about teaching how all things hold together in Jesus (Col 1:17). *Education teaches children how God's word applies to all of life*.

God wants to see children thoroughly catechized by what he has revealed in both his word and his world—children with sharp minds, new hearts, skilled hands, and clear eyes. Education is the catapult with which we wage war by launching skilled builders and brave soldiers into the future to tear down every evil ideology (2 Cor 10:5) and to construct the city of God. Through education we pass on our wisdom, knowledge, skill, and virtue so that one day soon our children outpace us. They'll raise our grandchildren, preach in our churches, run our businesses, and lead our nation. Where they lead is largely in our hands: "Train up a child in the way he should go; / even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov 22:6).

Formal education is crucial to the task of making our children disciples who glorify God in all of life. God and his glory is the great reason for education. God wrote a book so rich and made a world so treasure-laden that after we've been trained in his ways for decades we've barely breached the outer limits of his majesty. Education is not merely learning facts from the basic fields of knowledge. It is learning to see Christ as preeminent in all things (Col 1:18). Education without Jesus is like day without daylight.

The great lie about education in our age is that schools can provide a neutral education—an education that respects all gods and religions and that teaches “just the facts.” When education tries to be neutral, it begins with the greatest lie of all: history, math, science, literature, and everything else taught in school have so little to do with God that you can remove him altogether and continue on merrily. That's not neutral concerning God; it's hostile. So-called “neutral education” is founded on secularism's first principle: God is fine for your personal life, but he doesn't matter for the world.

There is no neutrality (Matt 12:30) and certainly no neutral education. At their best (which is still very bad indeed), neutral education is what government schools in Minnesota aimed for. But now most Minnesota schools have moved far past an education that is blasphemously ambivalent toward God. Now they openly scoff at God and abhor his truth. Secularism is the state religion, and the schools are their seminaries. They disciple their students in the doctrines of naturalistic evolution, Marxist revolutionary history, moral relativism, gender fluidity, and aesthetic anarchy. They do this with such appallingly low standards that they produce many students without the intellectual capability to question their indoctrination. Government schools produce disciples of secularism who despise God's word and world by offering themselves at the altar of self-expression.

Since there is no neutral education, it is not a question whether education will enculturate your children. It will. The question is, “*Which culture will your children be trained in when they go to school?*”

God tasked fathers to train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This means teaching your children to glorify God in all of life. Government education radically undercuts this central duty by convincing children that God is irrelevant to most of the world and by filling their minds with blasphemous false teaching. Therefore, *your pastors exhort you to keep your kids out of government schools and to provide them with a thoroughly Christian education.*

Fathers must use wisdom and their knowledge of their family to find partners in their task to teach children that all things hold together in Christ (Col 1:17). In addition to homeschooling, here are two Christian school options we heartily commend to you:

- [Valor Classical Academy](#): We left meetings with Valor's headmaster and board members excited about their vision and convinced they are very like-minded. Some of us plan to send our children there this fall. Valor's leadership is in the process of adding Andy to their board of directors.
- [Logos Online School](#): The Nasellis and Doddses have enrolled their older children in Logos Online School for the past several years, and both families have been very pleased with this classical Christian education.

We understand that many Christians in the broader Christian culture disagree with our convictions on education. As such, you may have questions or concerns with our exhortation for Christian enculturation. If so, please do not hesitate to contact us to talk further about it.

Build and fight,

Andy Naselli

Tom Dodds

Dustin Williams

Nathan Colestock