

CREATED FOR EDUCATION

Apologetics

Závadka, 16th November 2013

0. INTRODUCTION

- the theory of education implies/presupposes: (1) anthropology & the meaning of life, (2) social theory & the theory of progress/future/eschatology (3) moral philosophy¹
 - We tend to care about Who's going to teach my kids... What profession is he going to choose... = important questions BUT Christian view of education starts at the start: Why am I created in a way that I need to be worked on?
 - We don't know exactly about Adam – what he knew, it seems he knew the language, he named the animals
 - We are born not speaking any language... only gradually we become “human” WHY?
 - Why are we dependent on someone and something to become educated?
 - We do need to ask these questions – marks at school are important, but our child's character is more important

0.1. THE MEANINGS OF THE WORD “EDUCATION”

- from Latin educatus, past participle of educare "*bring up, rear, educate*," which is related to educere "bring out, lead forth," from ex- "out" + ducere "to lead"). Meaning "provide schooling" is first attested 1580s.²
- education: habits (disciplined) + knowledge (informed) + character (moral)
 - habits: e.g. teeth brushing, mechanical, in times of crisis – habits help us
 - knowledge: information level, important but more important:
 - character: using habits and knowledge in accordance with God's plan

0.1.1. HEBREW WORDS

- **chochma** **n.f.** wisdom,
 - understanding
 - general knowledge
 - circumspection, prudence?
 - discipline, education, instruction
 - direction, instruction, the law
 - throw, cast, shoot; teach
 - discipline, chasten, instruct
- = education: a balanced development (not just drill but independent thinking)

0.1.2. GREEK WORDS

- **paideu, w** to train children
- **oivkodome, w** to promote growth in Christian wisdom = a need of adding what's missing, e.g. someone has great character but is uninformed – needs to gain more knowledge)

0.2. THE GOAL OF EDUCATION

- **Rom 8:29** or those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to *the image of His Son*, so that He would be *the firstborn among many brothers*.
 - = we are created to imitate Jesus – not to just mechanically copy Him but to follow Him
 - = to resemble Him in His relationship to God, to people, to have His values – to understand that everything we learn or teach relates to the eternal

¹ the systems of value and custom

² http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=educate&allowed_in_frame=0

= man has been created for the eternal – he’s naturally interested in the ultimate goal of life
 = created to be built up, to grow

- **2Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 = description of Jesus – complete, equipped...

0.3. THE FOUNDATIONS FOR EDUCATION

- **Job 28:28** And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'
 - To fear the Lord = not dread but worship
 - To worship the one true God is the basics of our value system
 - A man naturally tends to create idols for himself
 - For education, we need a living God = to be able to ask Him how to act (e.g. punish or pardon a child in a particular situation)
 = a living God, not a system, in the center of education!
 = need of prayer (pray for child’s reaction to education)

1. THE THEOLOGICAL MEANING OF EDUCATION

The fact that God created us imperfect shows us important human characteristics:

1.1. FREEDOM

- “Co-creation” (**Pr 23:26** My son, **give me your heart**, and let **your** eyes observe my ways.) → your *deepest interest and feelings*; your *most beautiful dreams and plans*
- adjustment to society (anthropology)
 = we have an important role in the world – we co-operate at giving life (to our child)
 - need of gaining child’s heart, his/her joys, dreams... - God’s calling us to give Him our heart, to find what others try to find in drugs, sex etc. in Him
 - in order to gain the child’s heart we need to come down to his/her level = to be close, to communicate “I understand”

1.2. DEPENDENCE

- family; school/teachers; society; social standing; talents; times etc.
- **Pr 1:23** If you turn to me, then I will pour out my spirit on you and teach you my words
- clay vessels (Jeremiah)
 - on one hand: greatness of man = self-confidence, on the other hand – dependence on others = humility – only the Holy Spirit can work both attitudes at once in man’s heart

1.3. TEST

- **Gn 2:17** ...but you must not eat from the **tree** of the **knowledge** of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.
 - the first command was not to gain knowledge without God
 - our first desire is to know – but we need to know through God’s eyes
 - once we use evil to know the world we get blinded by evil
 - need to pray for the moments in my child’s education when he/she is being tested by God to show obedience to Him = I need to react in a right way: encourage, support – if I fail to do it, I need to admit it = need to be able to show that I, the parent, am willing to repent

2. THE THEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION

- practical (the needs), psychological (the methods)

2.1. RESPECT THE CHILD

- **Pr 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2.2. EDUCATION OF...

- **Lk 2:52** And Jesus increased in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor** with God and with people.

2.2.1. BODY

- 1 Tim 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little...
 - Habits, discipline

2.2.2. SOUL

- **1 Thes 5:23** And may your *spirit, soul, and body* be kept sound and blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Emotional intelligence, emotional reactions, intuition

2.2.3. SPIRIT

- John 3:3 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- **1 Cor 2:14** But the natural man does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to know it since it is evaluated spiritually.
 - Ability to feel ashamed of and proud of something wrong or right even when nobody sees me, when I'm alone
 - Education through example – the child observes my reactions (e.g. I'm teaching my child that money is not my highest value, but then I get less money on the paycheck and I get nervous or angry = admit, explain, repent)

2.3. EDUCATION IN...

2.3.1. THE WORD OF GOD

- salvation – values – emotional intelligence
- **Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path

2.3.2. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

- orientation – intelligence
- **1Chron 12:32** From the Issacharites, who *understood the times* and knew **what Israel should do**

2.3.3. SPECIALIZATION IN LIFE

- to make a living
- **2 Thes 3:10-12** In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who walk irresponsibly, not working at all, but interfering with the work *of others*. ¹² Now we command and exhort such people, by the Lord Jesus Christ, that quietly working, they may eat their own bread.

2.4. EDUCATION BY...

2.4.1. RELATIONSHIP

- **1 Cor 8:1** ...but while knowledge puffs up, *love* is what builds up
- **Pr 9:10** The *fear* of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,

2.4.2. EXAMPLE

- **John 13:15** For I have *given you an example* that you also should do just as I have done for you.
- **1Cor 4:16** I urge you, then, *be imitators of me*
- **Titus 2:7** Set an example of good works yourself, with integrity and dignity in your teaching.

2.4.3. COMMANDMENT AND SANCTIONS

- **Pr 22:15** Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but *the rod of discipline* drives it far from him.
- **1 Tim 4:11** *Command and teach* these things
- **Pr 3:1** My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments

2.4.4. EXPLANATION

- **Luke 24:27** *Then* beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them

the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures

3. CONCLUSION

- In Christian education – we need to know *what* man is (biblical anthropology)
- In Christian education – we need to know God's *purpose* in creating man (the Incarnation)
- In Christian education – we need to respect *the personality* of the pupil.