

## God-Centered Homeschooling: What Does this Look Like?

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33*

*“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,  
but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4*

### *What does “God-centered homeschooling” mean?*

#### • **God’s truth defines our worldview.**

- Do we believe what God says about creation and science?
- Do we believe what God says about mankind’s origin and purpose?
- Do we believe what God says about history?
- Do we interpret extra-Biblical history in light of His truth?
- Do we believe we are amenable to God’s law?

#### • **God’s word takes priority.**

- Is it the most important subject we teach?
- Do we neglect teaching the word of God? This is easy to do because...
  - we have so many subjects, so little time
  - we think we have a fallback: sermons, Bible classes, Bible Bowl
  - we have no immediate accountability as with other subjects

#### • **We walk in God’s will daily.**

- “Christian” is more than just a label for our brand of homeschooling
- “Bible” is more than just a subject
- God’s word determines how we treat each other, and people outside our family
- We talk with our children—outside of school!—about how Biblical principles apply to them.  
(If they embrace submission to God and parents, their attitude about their education will be good.)

#### • **We do not define ourselves primarily as homeschoolers; we are Christians!**

- Does homeschooling saturate our conversation?
- Does homeschooling determine who we associate with?
- Does homeschooling dominate our lives?

## *How can we do it well?*

- We teach every subject with love and patience. (Don't squelch their natural desire to learn!)
- We recognize which academic and life skills are most important for their future as adult Christians. (It's not a tragedy if they don't love or excel at everything!)
- We treat learning seriously without making it a miserable experience. (Study how Jesus taught!)
- We make some things interesting without training them to think everything has to be fun.
- We are more concerned with them "doing" obedience and righteousness well than with them "doing" math and essays well.
- We teach diligence.
- We make the environment positive and pleasant for Bible study.
- At least some times, study or have spiritual talks in a cozy/relaxed setting
- Make sure your own demeanor is not rushed, stressed, or halfhearted
- We train them to ask, "What does this Bible account or passage say to me, about me, or for me?"
  - This is not a subjectivist approach. The Bible is objectively true, but we must always seek to understand *how it applies* to us as individuals.
  - Your name is not in the Bible. You infer (correctly) that its commands and principles apply to you, and how they apply. Children need to be trained to do this! Don't assume they always get it.
  - Do "What would I have done?" exercises with Bible accounts.
  - Talk about possible future events and : What will do you if...?
- We show that we apply God's word to ourselves.
  - Admit your sins—your children see many of them! (How much more will James 5:16 mean to your children if they actually see Mom and Dad apologizing to the kids and to each other?)
  - Reveal some of your own thought processes re/ obedience, service, growth, worry, etc. (Don't assume they know all of these things!)
- Both of us have time for our children.
  - Homeschooling time is not all they need from you.
  - Dad shows your children that he values their learning when he actually teaches and studies with them.
  - Children need to have lots of conversation about God, life, experiences, etc. with BOTH parents.
  - Pray together.
  - Play together.
- We continually pray for wisdom and look for ways to make our family life and our homeschool experience glorify God.