



# The Baptist Faith & Message

## Article 12: Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the preeminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Education is the process or result of leading one out of ignorance and incompleteness into knowledge and a well-rounded self. Neither "educate" nor "education" appear in the Bible. But words such as "edify, teach, instruct" appear in abundance.

Although Jesus is presented as a preacher, he is never called a preacher in the NT, but rather repeatedly called teacher or Rabbi. Jesus placed a high value on teaching, on educating. His followers were called disciples, or learners. His great commission was to make disciples and to teach them. Therefore, education is a vital aspect of the life of the church.

### **I. The BURDEN Of Christian Education**

*An adequate system of Christian education is necessary*

#### **A. The Primary TEACHER**

*"So that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments."  
Deuteronomy 6:2*

The primary teacher is mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa.

Most of us want the government to do what we fail to do ourselves.

*One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. Ps 145:4*

#### **B. The Primary TOPIC**

*The commands of God*

We'll teach our son to throw a ball but not how to lift a prayer.

We'll teach our daughters to cook but not how to care.

We teach our kids to have a clean room but not a clean heart.

The most important thing I can do for my children is to lead them to Christ and to teach them to have a love for the Lord.

#### **C. The Primary TIME**

*"You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Deut. 6:7*

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child...”  
VBS, children’s choirs

## **II. The BLESSINGS Of Christian Education**

*a complete spiritual program*

### **A. A PROLONGED Life**

*“That your days may be prolonged.” Deuteronomy 6:2*

### **B. A PRODUCTIVE Life**

*“...give you great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill...”  
Deuteronomy 6:10-11*

## **III. The BASICS Of Christian Education**

*Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence.*

All truth is God’s truth.

When you learn truth you’re learning about God and v.v.

When God is not welcome in a school we should not be surprised that knowledge decreases.

### **A. The HEART of Christian education**

*In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

You don’t get any deeper than learning about Jesus.

I’d rather my children learn the Master than learn math.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

### **B. The HUNGER for Christian education**

*The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge.*

A new-born soul is hungry and thirsty to learn more about the things of God. When somebody really gets saved I don’t think you have to beg them to come to church or Sunday School.

### **C. The HELP for Christian education**

*...co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches*

Nationally and internationally – LVBC helps support 6 SBC seminaries

State-wide – LVBC helps support 2 state Baptist colleges – C.N. and Union

Tens of thousands of dollars are poured into VBS, SS, D.T.

We need to consider ways to impact our local schools with the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ – Elem, MS, HS. Host football team for home games, provide gym for BB team practices. Provide facilities for Xian schools which share our heart and vision, provide space for homeschoolers to meet for co-op classes, etc.

#### **IV. The BOUNDARIES Of Christian Education**

*there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility*  
*BFM – In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the preeminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.*

This phrase primarily exists because of encroaching liberalism in our Baptists colleges and seminaries.

Academic freedom is not absolute freedom. No freedom is absolute.

Church sign – “The only rule is that there are no rules.”

Freedom without rules is anarchy, not democracy.  
Liberty without boundaries is chaos.

Freedom of speech is limited by slander.  
Freedom of assembly is limited by trespassing laws.  
Freedom of religion is limited to beliefs, not practices.  
Freedom of press is limited by libel.

Even the “inalienable rights” of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are limited when it comes to criminals.

##### **A. The Preeminence of the SAVIOR**

*limited by the preeminence of Jesus Christ*

Every thing must point to and glorify Christ.

If Jesus is the “boss” then we must obey.  
If Jesus is the “master” then we simply serve

##### **B. The Power of the SCRIPTURES**

*limited by...the authoritative nature of the Scriptures*

Can I teach whatever I want to teach? No!  
Can a SS teacher teach whatever they want? No!  
Can a Baptist college professor...No!

In other words, “Not in our name and not on our nickel.”

Belmont University - \$58 million from TBC. Original agreement was all members of the board of Trustees were to be Southern Baptist. In 2005 Belmont present plan to remove control of TBC where only 60% of trustees were to be Baptist. TBC sued Belmont and settled out of court for \$11,000,000 paid over next 40 years.

### **C. The Purpose of the SCHOOL**

*limited by...the distinct purpose for which the school exists*

In the case of seminaries and colleges, they should serve the churches of our convention. Therefore, they should teach what SBC believe.

A liberal Catholic divinity school should produce liberal Catholics...a conservative Methodist school...

a Pentecostal school...a conservative SBC school