

Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - *Established 1983*

16827 Sabillasville Road, Sabillasville, MD, 21780; Voice: 301-241-2072

Fax: 301-241-2073; Email: admin@wcfs.edu; Web: www.wcfs.edu



"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

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And They Shall All be Taught of God

Education God's Way, Part two — by Gary L. Cox

Children: Seek God as Your Revealer

Our culture has reduced child-rearing to a self-centered pursuit of the fulfillment for the parent. This is the world's *natural* desire, but wrong. It is important to realize that children are given to us by God, and *He* has a purpose and a plan for our children. One thing that is huge in the world's mindset towards children is control; it wants to control *how* many children to have, *when* to have them and *everything* about raising them according to its values. However, God did not create marriage so that you could have your expectations satisfied by your own planning and goal-setting.

The spiritual reality is that God has given children as a blessing. *Recognize* children as God's gift to you. *Purpose* that they will be raised to love, know and honor God. *Enlarge your tents!* as you learn to embrace God's plan for you as a whole. This is your inheritance, your reward! In the Hebrew, 'reward' refers to a promissory note given for a future payment of a just wage. Children are God's promissory

note of our eternal inheritance. If children *are* a blessing, how do they affect you? In your day to day life, children wonderfully encourage you to look toward eternity! Children bring happy expectations that color everything you do. If you live with a mindset that children are a drain, you will be discouraged and frustrated by that which was designed to bless you!

Outlook affects how you approach everyday life. When you value children, the choices you make will reflect that value: you will cling to, treasure, revere, protect, and preserve the treasures that God has given to you! When you have a difficult day, having the right attitude will remind you that God's purpose is bringing righteousness into your life and your home. It will remind you of God's priority for your children.

Your goal for your children is not for them to become ideal members of society, but eternal members of God's family! will change the way you train your children.

One beautiful thing about the family is that God designed it

to work toward His general objective of bringing a godly seed into the earth. The frustrations that a family experiences are God's big and small tools that continually refine the rough edges of self-centered living. You cannot have a harmonious home without becoming less selfish. Remember, there is something of God's very nature in your marriage; marriage speaks of Christ and the Church.

Marriage and family issues push you to your limits. When you are at your limits, preach the Gospel to yourself and remember God's wonderful design for the family. Keep the Gospel simple and understandable in your family setting. Many a stranger may hear the Gospel through your family's testimony. Be seasoned with salt and make the most of God's greater purpose in your family: raise up a godly seed for generations to come!

Family: Come to God as Your Redeemer

Belonging to your Heavenly Father is the primary relationship of your home. The *Biblical* family setting is in

happy harmony with the Gospel. Biblical family goals are *Gospel* goals. However, the Gospel is *more* important than family because it is the restoration of the father-son relationship to all mankind. What the family reflects more than anything is the heavenly relationship that God desires to have with man. When we are saved by the grace of God, what cry does the Holy Spirit plant in your heart but the thriving, earnest declaration: "*Abba Father*" (Romans 8:15). In Christ you have a relationship with God as your heavenly father. Therefore, belonging to 'Father' is the primary relationship of your home.

Roles. God the Father's image requires that *both* the masculine and the feminine roles be expressed fully in the home to represent Him. Perhaps you are wondering about the *masculine* connotation of 'father', where does 'mother' fit in? When the Bible speaks of earthly fathers, it is the male or masculine role being referred to in principle. However, 'father' incorporates both parents operating as one unit because *together* they

reflect the fullness of Heavenly Father. God made man in His own image, *but* He created them male *and* female. Together, the man *and* the woman *combine* to reflect God's image. Within family, the fatherhood of God is expressed in the singular unit of the parents--*two have become one*. Husband *and* wife are one flesh. That oneness is expressed with masculinity in the husband/father role and with femininity in the wife/mother role. It is vital to understand that the fullness of God's image requires that *both* the masculine and the feminine roles be expressed respectively in the parents, so that the parents *in combined roles* equal "Father" as they represent the image of God.

The Gospel transformation that adopts fallen mankind as the children of God is the guiding light for earthly family training. Every family situation must be seen in context to the Gospel. What the Gospel says speaks to every family relationship. You cannot find a family problem that does not have a simple Gospel solution. This harmony will govern and direct your parenting together in

different roles and reflect the Gospel in the practical plans and decisions of the home. God designed family for His glory and our comfort as His children.

As a redeemed family, you will value what Satan mocks! This world is a stage of competition of values. From where do your values come? You are called to value things that the world does not value because they are so ordinary. The ordinary is despised by the world. Your best defense against Satan is to highly *Treasure God's design for your family!* The plainest parts of life are lovingly and sacrificially embraced at home. The world may see such things as unimportant and having little value. Remember to ask: "What does God value? What does God despise?" The *Word* tells us that God values the faith of those who see His hand and His person in their circumstances; those who value *Him* by faith and not by sight. Choosing values is a central challenge to the whole process of educating and training your child. Which path will you follow?

Becky's Tips

NEW

- New Semester.
- New calendar year.
- New opportunity to dash away from panic driven schedules and activities.

How do we avail ourselves to that new opportunity?

- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and

your household." (Acts 16:31)

- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (II Cor. 5:17)

We know that these verses give us hope for our tasks today and for our eternal fellowship with God.

SHARING MY BURDEN

A burden shared is much lighter. I'm sure you've had that experience with good friends. I count you among my good friends; so please help me with this burden.

It appears to me (hope my vision is wrong) that we believe that because we home school we can integrate the failed methods (and often

materials) of humanistic education with Bible and expect victory for our children.

Over and over we try to rationalize these humanistic methods. We turn to many helpful resources. We believe that we have a good answer but it is always temporary. Now add Engagement Learning to this picture.

Engagement Learning seeks to dig out the humanistic root in education. We begin with Bible as the root and allow teaching shoots to grow from that. As I see it, for most homeschoolers that I've met, the root is humanism and Bible is one of its shoots. Please feel free to discuss this. Thank you for sharing my burden!

FINISHING WELL

Look around and see what writing assignments, art, books to read, house organizing were started but not finished. These next few months are good times to finish these projects. While digging out things that need to be finished, remind one another of WHY finishing well is important.

Some things appear to be finished but not finished well,

like a failed baked cake. Take these "failure" opportunities to show the advantage, power and love of the Christian way.

- God makes good from even failed adventures.
- Failure in me (in my sin) was thrown the Hope life-line (Jesus Christ).
- Thinking skill- what might be the cause of the failure and what might I change next time?

WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

Pause several times through your day to ask, "What learning opportunity am I giving my child in this minute?" You will be surprised at the great learning that is going on:

- in free, play time
- in kitchen chores
- in read-aloud
- in organizing an area
- in folding laundry
- in real-life math

...And in many other moments of your day. However learning rarely occurs while angry, stressed or rushing! Think on this!

RESEARCH

Research is a valuable teaching tool for ALL ages. Very young children can wonder about something in the grass or something in a read-aloud book. They can watch you search for information to help them with their understanding. They can report their findings by drawing a picture that they copy a caption for. Older students can formulate a question. Then search in 3 or more places for information on their question. They can present their findings by:

- drawing
- copy what you wrote that they spoke
- written report with footnotes
- oral report giving credits
- outlining and summarizing.

Have a blessed and surrendered 2015!

Love,

Becky

STUDENT DEVELOPER

New Year's Resolutions

By Zachary Jones, WCFS 11th Grader

What are three things we can do to improve a school year? Although there are many different answers, we will look at several different resolutions that can have an impact on our schoolwork for 2015. It's interesting to note that less than

10% percent of New Year's resolutions made are kept. One of the reasons so few are completed is that many resolutions aren't good ones to begin with. One of the keys to completing any New Year's resolutions is making meaningful

ones that will have a beneficial impact on our life. By looking at three resolutions of how we spend our time, not falling behind in work, and working hard, we will see how these resolutions can guide us to a better year in school for 2015.

Using our time wisely is the first way to stay on top of our schoolwork. By working at the proper time instead of being lazy and frittering it away, we will have more free time in the long run. If, during our school day, we resolve to keep our minds focused on the tasks before us, we will have plenty of time for relaxing afterwards. On the contrary, if we tell ourselves that we have plenty of time to finish our work, we will keep putting off our work until it is too late. Furthermore, when something comes up that we'd like to do, we won't be able to do it because we would have already spent our free time. This year with God's help, we can resolve to make better use of the time that he's given us.

Along the lines of the previous resolution is not falling behind in school. Speaking from experience, I can affirm that it is never worth it to get behind in work. Once behind, we will tend to keep work will keep pushing off our work until there is a mountain load of things to be done. This is how people end up having to redo grades. By setting small goals each day that are based on our long term goal, we will be able to stay on track.

For 2015, we can resolve to stay on top of our work. Sometimes we must make sacrifices in order to keep up with our work but it is definitely worth it.

Lastly, we can resolve to not only get our things done, but to do them well. Often we may actually get our things done, but we still do it in a lazy fashion. Instead of doing our best, we may just hurry through it and do the bare minimum. The Bible tells us in Colossians 3 that in whatever we do, work at it with all our hearts as unto the Lord rather than for men. Well if we're working for the God of all creation, shouldn't we do our best? If we had an assignment for a king, we wouldn't just do a sloppy job, we would do our best and maybe extra in order to please him. It should be the same way with all of our work. We should determine not only to do it, but to do our best in it. By resolving this year to do the best we can in our work, we will not only get our things done, but done well and our grade will reflect that.

As we saw through time management, keeping up in work, and working hard, New Year's resolutions can be

difficult, but they will yield immense results and never be regretted. How we spend our valuable time will have an effect on many things this year, and spending wisely is one of the best things we can resolve to do. For those of us who are starting 2015 behind in the count, we can determine to dig ourselves out of the pit we've fallen in and finish the upcoming year back on track, and for those who are already starting with a clean slate, we can resolve to stay on top and not fall down the slippery slope of laziness. Finally, if we resolve to work heartily unto the Lord, we will not only reap a personal benefit, but we can benefit those around us. For all of us wishing to make New Year's resolution, keep these things in mind and have a very happy New Year!

NOTE TO ALL WCFS STUDENTS:

Would you like to submit one of your works to be printed in the WCFS Student Developer? A poem, essay, report or other writing are all appropriate to be entered. Please send your article(s) to admin@wcfs.edu. All print worthy articles will be published, space permitting, in the month following your submittal.

Frozen World

By Madeline Peyton
10/31/14

*One frigid, freezing morning
I peek through the frosty window pane.
All is silent, as I sit sipping my hot chocolate,
wrapped in a soft blanket.
The still-sleeping world lies fixed like a broken clock, frozen in time.
Crystallized trees brandish
magnificent, transparent icicle swords.
Snowy hills with deep footprint trenches tell of an intrepid traveler.
Ignoring the beckoning of this icy scene,
I curl into my cozy cocoon.*



